

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th 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. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A., (Econ.); 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); Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Hon. L. L. SISNETT; and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

Dr. CHELTENHAM entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 10th June, 1980.

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

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is just one observation. I believe, it must be a printing error, but on Page 2, about the middle of page 2, just before the caption,

“ORDERS OF THE DAY”, the reading is: “The House observe”. I believe that the “d” would be missing from “observe”. It should have been in the past; “The House observed one Minute’s silence” and I would suggest that the appropriate correction be made to the Minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Clerk will be advised to make the necessary correction. If there are no other observations by Hon. Members, let those Minutes stand confirmed. *(Pause)*. Those Minutes are confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay:

A Report on the National Registration Programme.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1980.

Statement showing the Net Customs and Excise Receipts for one month ended 30th April, 1980.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay:

First Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Port Authority for the year 1979.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice, that with the approval of Your Honour, Sir, the Government intends to withdraw the Bill to amend the Offshore Banking Act, notice of which was given previously and which, I believe, was read a first time and to substitute a new series of Amendments.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Hon. House is seeking the leave of this Hon. House to withdraw a Bill to amend the Offshore Banking Act which has been given a first reading in this Hon. House.

The question that leave of the Hon. House be granted to withdraw the Bill to amend the Offshore Banking Act which had been given a First Reading was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

A Bill to authorise the issue and payment in Barbados of Savings Bonds.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to authorise the issue and payment in Barbados of Savings Bonds be now read a first time.

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

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

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, since we last met, the father of the Hon. Member for St. John has passed away and I think that it is fitting that our Proceedings should be punctuated with a tribute to the Late Bishop Reginald Barrow. The inexorable hand of fate plucked Bishop Barrow away from us and plunged us into mourning and deep sorrow.

I had the privilege of knowing him, but in the evening of his years, but what struck me, even then, was his zest for living, his restless and enquiring mind, and his unfailing courtesy.

He was certainly a Citizen of Barbados, of the Caribbean, and of the world, for he was born in St. Vincent, educated in Barbados, he worked in the US Virgin Islands, studied in Canada and lived in the United States.

12.30 p.m.

As if that multi-faceted experience was not enough, in collaboration with his wives he bequeathed to the world some five outstanding children who in their own right have outstripped their contemporaries in their chosen fields of endeavour. His greatest gift of course as the *raison d'être* for this tribute, is that he bequeathed to this country and to this Parliament one of the most outstanding politicians and statesmen in the history of this country — I refer to the hon. member for St. John, the Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister and political leader of one of the two great mass political parties in this country.

The late Bishop Barrow also served as a master of the Alleyne School in the field of education. Perhaps the words of Walt Whitman may bring some solace, and I quote:—

“He has not gone, he is just away
With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand
He has wandered into an unknown land
And left us wondering how very fair that land may be
Since he tarries there.”

I extend deepest condolences on behalf of this side, and indeed I am certain I speak on behalf of all of us, to the hon. member for St. John and to the other members of the grief-stricken family, and I move that an appropriate Message of Sympathy be sent to them.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Government to associate myself with the remarks made by the hon. member to join in supporting his Resolution that the usual expression of sympathy be conveyed from this Honourable House to the hon. member for St. John and his family on the occasion of the death of his father.

I myself had the privilege of knowing the hon. member's father having met him here in Barbados within the last ten years, and I listened yesterday to a very eloquent tribute paid to him by a former member of this Chamber and member of the Other Chamber who had a very long acquaintance with him. It is very clear that the late Bishop Barrow lived a very long and eventful life, and perhaps one of the things that is noteworthy about him is the fact that he had the privilege of serving not only in the island of his birth but also in many other territories in the Caribbean. He belonged to that generation of Caribbean people who were able to move freely within the Caribbean to offer their services to whichever territory wanted them and hindered and unimpeded by such modern requirements as work permits and things of that kind. His career will no doubt serve as an inspiration to many of the younger people in the Caribbean area, and I am sure that all hon. members in this Chamber support the Resolution before this House.

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, like other hon. members who have just spoken, I would wish to pay tribute to the late Bishop Reginald Barrow. Many years ago I happened to be in Brooklyn and I was asked to have lunch with an old Barbadian family that had settled in New York for some time. As I entered the House I was met by the host and hostess. As they took me into the living room, there was a gentleman sitting over in the far corner, and before the host or hostess had an opportunity to introduce me to their guests, I looked at him and said “you have got to be Uncle Reggie”.

Mr. TAITT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

That luncheon I will never forget. Before the lunch, during the lunch and long after the lunch we talked, we chatted about many things. He gave me advice as to the problems that could arise and beset a young man who would be living in North America for years to come. I welcomed that advice, I thanked him for his counsel. I could see in him a man who was indeed a fighter and who was prepared to take up the gauntlet for any cause where in his opinion justice was not being done.

I admired his intellect which I found was razor sharp and indeed with this there was a sense of humour which I believe I shall always remember as long as I live. I mentioned earlier as I spoke about "Uncle Reggie". This no doubt would make you realise the very close association which this gentleman had had with my family in St. George and with the people of St. George, because it was St. George, I believe, that I first came to live when he was a boy. His family lived in an area, I think, where the Vicarage of St. Augustine now is and later by the Lodge just about Charles Rowe Bridge, and I understand that as a young boy at school he was brilliant. This extended into his activity at Codrington College and I believe one of the first jobs he held was as Curate of St. George. I believe he was too young to be ordained into the priesthood even though he had passed the examination and was duly qualified.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that he has travelled throughout the island of Barbados and throughout the islands, but wherever he went, be it at the Alleyne School where he taught, or the parish church of St. Lucy, St. Vincent, St. Croix, the United States, the remarkable thing about this man was that he left his mark of excellence. I myself, Mr. Speaker, am very happy to be counted among his friends and I am even happier when I consider that I have had the opportunity to talk with him on many occasions during the past few years. Of course as you realise, Mr. Speaker the duties that are thrust upon us as men in public life leave us very little time to sit and engage in conversation with people with whom we would like to have conversation, but I felt very happy in my mind that my wife who happens to be a very dear friend of his was able to take my kids to visit him on many occasions, and I should hope that for the next 90 years at least the memory of this man will remain among us and indeed among the people of Barbados.

Like all human beings, Mr. Speaker, the Bishop must have erred from time to time; it is only human, but I would like to make this little comment: if he has erred I am sure it was justified or could be excused, because there was a man among all the men I have known, men of eminence, who made it a point to be of help to everyone who sought his help.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

He only had to feel that you needed information, you needed some advice and there it was forthcoming. I have friends overseas young men in Universities who are doing Black Studies, History of the Black People, men doing their Ph.Ds who have asked me for information and I found that every time I went to Bishop Barrow he was willing and ready to help. He must have been a good researcher; but he did not confine it only to those who were seeking high academic honours; it was obvious that any young man, any boy or girl taking 'O' Levels or any lesser exam could go to him and benefit from his advice. These are matters, Sir, which we should take note of, and as I said, if he erred he has got to be forgiven and to those who question any of his errors, I would ask them only to remember that God works in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to add my own very modest contribution to the tributes being paid to the late Reginald Barrow, father of the Rt. Honourable and Learned member for St. John.
12.40 p.m.

I first met Mr. Barrow in 1971 when I was directed by my parents to negotiate for the purchase of a property which is now their residence in 2nd Avenue, Belleville. The then Mr. Barrow was the tenant, and as I understood it, the caretaker for that property, the owner of which was out of the Island, and he assisted me greatly in those negotiations acting then on behalf of the owner and we were able to bring those negotiations to a swift and satisfactory conclusion. In the course of those negotiations we used to have very long discussions, because as I learnt later he had a large interest in the development of young people and he was always interested in my ambitions and where I thought I was going and how I viewed life, and so on.

Over the years we used to meet at least twice a year at the Apostolic Baptist Church in Silver Sands where he would be in attendance, and after the meetings,

many of which lasted for five hours and more, we would retire to what is called in that Church the Secret Room, and there we would dine and wine and engage in wide ranging conversations, sometimes for one and two hours, and it was only a few months ago that we had our last meeting, and though I recognised that he was showing all the signs of very advanced years and he had slowed quite considerably, he still retained his great charm, his lively interest in every thing about him, and also his desire to help in passing on advice if indeed he could.

He was a man who was very widely read, Mr. Speaker, and when I recognised the large and broad interests of his son, the Rt. Hon. member for St. John, I have no difficulty in appreciating where from he got that gift, if I may so put it. In addition to that he had a large storehouse of knowledge and experiences born out of a very eventful life which he lived, and he was very ready to share with you his experiences of working and living in the United States, his experiences in fighting prejudice for 50 years or more in Barbados when indeed it was a struggle for a young man to qualify in the field of Divinity and to get a Church at which to work. All of those experiences, Mr. Speaker, he put generously at the availability of those who were interested in them, and that was one of his great strengths.

I happen to know too that he possessed a very great gift of articulation, he was a very inspiring speaker and preacher and I had the opportunity of hearing him at the Apostolic Church on a few occasions. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, he was a man of a very large physical presence, and all told I think he made a great impression on all those who came in contact with him. Death is always a very painful experience for surviving relatives when their loved ones go, but I think that the Barrow family can take consolation in the fact that his was a long and eventful life lived in large measure in the service of his fellow men and also, Mr. Speaker, a very useful life and I think that that in itself is much more than we can ask of many people who pass this way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I would wish to be associated with those remarks of condolence expressed by hon. members. I had known Bishop Reginald Barrow for more than 20 years. As a matter of fact, I can say that he gave me considerable inspiration in the literary field and we laboured together for many years particularly in the field of journalism.

Bishop Barrow did something for education in this country. I recall that it was 20 years ago when he suggested to me in New York that I should introduce black literature into the bookshops in Barbados, but I was somewhat hesitant because the feeling was that the time was not yet ripe; but he and I had served for a number of years on the Governing Body of the Metropolitan High School, a membership which he held until

his death. I am sure his work amongst the youth who attended the Modern High School as well is very well known amongst the entire community.

He was a man very forthright, he always wanted to project something on behalf of the downtrodden people and he sought every avenue, every way, every means whereby the under-privileged could be assisted and be projected as if to feel that at least he could light some place for himself in the sun.

I am sure that all hon. members share the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for St. Michael South in that he left a treasure in the number of children whom he reared.

With those few remarks I must now ask hon. members to stand with me for one minute in silence as we pay our last respects to Reginald Barrow, father of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition of this House.

(Hon. members stood in their places in silence for one minute.)
12.50 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the Instant Order of the Day, Order No. 4.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) ORDER, 1980

Item No. 4 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1980.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Resolution is to approve the appropriate adjustments in the posts set out in the Schedule. Item 2(h), Management Accounting is moved to "B" and in Item 15, the Electoral Department, the office of Chief Electoral Officer is moved from "F" to "D". This is part of the regrading exercise that continuously is going on in the Civil Service where regradings take place throughout the year after thorough examination of the requests that are made from the appropriate Departments.

Of course, the Minister of Finance having approved of the recommendation of the Chief Establishment Officer, it has to be embodied in an amendment to the Civil Establishment Order once it relates to permanent posts.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, one brief contribution I would like to make here. The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for the Registration exercise of this country. The people of Barbados wish to know and are deeply concerned as to whether in the next General Elections they would be able to vote with their current ID Cards, the ones they now hold, or whether the new Registration that is taking place under the Statistics Act whether some amendment should be made to make that the new register for voters.

I do not wish to confuse the issue in anyway by even adding another single word. What the people of Barbados would like to know and I hope that the hon. member for Christ Church South Central can enlighten the people of Barbados in this matter, a simple question, will they be able to vote with the present ID Cards as they have at the moment? A simple question and a simple answer required.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to know about that important matter. Several people have queried me concerning the matter and I must admit that I am not in a position to give them the necessary information which they require.

Mr. Speaker, it is known that several senior citizens of this country are already on the old list and many of them while they will make a strenuous effort to vote for the candidate of their choice, they are not in a position to go to the various centres to have their pictures taken and therefore, this is a matter which the Government must take into consideration.

We do not want to have confusion when an Election is called and to find people going here and being told "well your name is not on the List." Therefore, it is my opinion, Sir, that the time has come when the Government should declare its policy fully to let the people of this country be aware of what is happening or what they should expect.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, Sir, throughout the Caribbean you will get various Parties to state that an Election is being rigged and all of those things are being said and when the vote is cast and the results are known, you get all kinds of confusion and in some cases chaos.

I am sure that you too, Sir, will agree with me in stating that the Government must clear the air with this important matter. This is Parliament and we are all Parliamentarians. While it is true, Sir, that the Party which carries the majority governs the country, the Opposition should be respected and should be kept abreast of the time by bringing it up to date with all the changes and happenings in this Island. This, Mr. Speaker, can create happiness in the minds of the Opposition and

the people if we are given the necessary information and we are told what the Government intends to do.

From my exercise I would say, Sir, that this particular issue is not one which should be dealt with in camera which should only be known by a few. It is the people that matter. It is the people who put us there. It is the people who can take us out. They can take us out, therefore, let the people know in the early what they can depend on.

1.00 p.m.

I implore the Government to consider this matter as one of paramount importance and to divulge all the facts, not only to this Hon. House, but to the people of Barbados.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the Hon. Member for St. Philip South and as I understand a question posed to the Acting Prime Minister which relates to the problem, or, he said it is confusion in the minds of the people of Barbados which relates to whether or not they can use the present Identification Card, or, if they have to vote in the coming election by way of the cards which they would have or, the statistical surveys and enumerations, etc.

As far as I understand and as far as I know, the Act has not been changed. There are no amendments to it and if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Barbados chooses to call an Election tomorrow, I have with me here an Identification Card and there is no single man, or woman, who is going to stop me from going into a booth and casting my vote on the premise of this card.

What is wrong however, with the Hon. Members of the Opposition, is that they are confused and because they are confused, they seem to think that the people of Barbados are also confused. It is you all who are confused, the people of Barbados are not confused, the people are well aware of the fact that when an Election is called, they are going into the booth and cast their vote for the Party of their choice.

But, it is the mouthings that you get night after night, in the Boscobel area, abusing Mr. Speaker publicly — the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central, the chief offender — the most obscene and abusive language that can be heard on any platform from any speaker in the Commonwealth, I heard it on a tape and read the extracts, I listened to a tape. I only came here yesterday evening and I listened to a tape of a meeting at Silver Hill. I regret sometimes that the Acting Leader, or the Deputy Leader, or the First Secretary of the Opposition associates himself with that type of nonsense. After hearing him and hearing the others, I really cannot understand how that person can go on the same platform. The

things which you say make me think that you can get some sense out of them. To hear the others, and then to hear you. It is not really fair for you to go on the platform with him but, you are a party man, you have to be loyal to your party, you are hopeful, you have to see them through the shadow of darkness. That is the problem Sir, there is no problem of any voting.

I hear on the platform from the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central how they are going to fix up the boundary of St. James and how they are going to align one part, so that he and the Hon. Member for St. Michael North Central are both going to get confused as to who should run. He is confused in his mind and because he is confused, he seems to think that the people of Barbados are also confused. They are not, they have recognised what this Government has done, is doing, and will continue to do. They are well aware of the fact that if Agreements have already been signed by an outgoing Government then, the Government coming into power would have to carry them on. Why did you all not dig up the Deep Water Harbour, or, dig down the Hospital? That is what you all should have done. But the nonsense you talk at night and the amount of verbal attacks which you have to make on the conduct of Mr. Speaker, rather than praising him and saluting him as a black man, as I heard Bishop Reginald Barrow was praised today, a man who came from humble origin and became a Speaker in a Parliament in the Commonwealth. You go on public platforms and examine his past, as if you have a past to examine, you have a present to examine, political murderer like you. That is where you are confused, not the people of Barbados.

Sir, as I am still a member of the Cabinet, I believe that I will get early notice, an early tinkling as to when there is going to be an Election. I am not saying that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is going to tell me; and you will get a little idea, you Sir, Mr. Speaker, will know when you see certain shuffles, you will understand that something is due. But, all that is on, is the excitement, the construction of the country, the Government progress, all of their plans which are now coming off the drawing board shining, so you are getting nervous, do not get nervous and beat the Spaniards to it. What are you getting nervous about? An Election?

The first week I came into Parliament, when I became a Government Minister, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was asking for an immediate Budget and an Election, one week after we came in, the Acting Leader of the Opposition called for a Budget, after he had joined in castigating you for the high Office, along with the other Hon. Member from St. Lucy and former Leader of the Opposition. Birds of a feather flock together, you have collective responsibility, so do not play that you are stepping out. Rather than castigate the present speaker,

you started talking about you want an Election. One week after we came in you wanted a Budget and from that day, until today, you have been calling for an Election. What is wrong with the confusion on the other side Sir, is that they have been so corrupt in issues of this nature, that they know the tricks in the book and you believe that you are going to play them. You do not use old tricks with old fowls, you use new tricks which you do not know about, and the only trick which we have to use is one which is productive, productivity, that is all. Seeing the people at work, seeing the houses being built, schools going up, young men and women with money in their pockets, a Government which you cannot point your finger at, those are the things that are wrong. That is why you are confused, it is not the people in Barbados who are confused.

1.10 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, it is utter stupidity for the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to get up and ask a question of that nature when he should be aware that there has been no change in the Act. Nothing came before Parliament. I recall very well the Prime Minister saying that he was hopeful that a person would have one identification card that would serve him from the cradle to the grave. That is what I understood. Rather than having a National Insurance card, an Identification Card, an old age pension card, there would be one card and that card would serve that individual from the cradle to the grave. If the Prime Minister chooses tomorrow to call an election without an amendment to the very Act, I am going and vote with this because this is my identification card; this is what I am going to vote with; so the people of Barbados cannot be confused; they are not confused; the Opposition has always been confused and we will continue to confuse you all. That is the whole problem, Sir.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to perhaps allay some of the fears of some of the members in relation to the registration of handicapped persons. I have quite a few handicapped persons in my constituency and I have been constantly asking the registration office to give me some information as to how these persons are going to be registered, but to allay the fears of members on both sides, I am satisfied that the electoral office is doing all within its power to have such handicapped and incapacitated persons entered on the national electoral list. What will eventually happen I am told is that that department will acquire a mobile unit which they will be taking around to the various districts on a house to house basis to have these incapacitated persons registered; so all hon. members can feel assured that these incapacitated and handicapped persons who are not able to get out and register will be duly registered in the process of time. I would like to believe that that programme will get started towards the end of the month.

Another question asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was in relation to those persons who will be eligible to vote at the next elections. I am satisfied having queried the Chief Electoral Officer that the system will be such as to incorporate persons who are already registered, and those who are not yet registered. In other words, if you are registered and have not as yet received your new identification card, they will appear on the national list under the old registration number, so this, I am submitting, Mr. Speaker, should not cause too much concern among members of the House. The list will have the new registration in case you are registered, but in case you are not registered, I am told that the old registration number will also appear.

I would like to suggest to people, because I understand the actual daily number of people registering is very low — they are quite fewer than 50 persons per day, that in the national interest since the purpose of the registration is multi-faceted, to encourage all those Barbadians who are not yet registered to go to the nearest centre and have their registration completed as soon as possible.

As regards the elections, all hon. members should be satisfied that elections are due. As to when, well your guess is as good as mine, but I would like to allay the fears on the other side, and ask them to encourage their constituents to go out and have the registration process completed; and in the case of handicapped people they will be taken care of towards the end of this month by the mobile unit which the Government has acquired for that purpose.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a very brief contribution to the debate on this Resolution. First of all I should like to say that I appreciate the fact that it seems that the Chief Electoral Officer will as a result of this adjustment be moving into a higher salary scale, and that seems to suggest that we will have the benefit of his competence and his integrity during an election which will come over the next few months or is it weeks or years?

Now, Sir, I think that that is evidently desirable because I have heard comments from the other side and I know definitely that we on this side have been satisfied that for as long as he has been connected with elections he is a man of high integrity and except for any activity which might go on outside the office of the electoral office, we can feel assured that an election held under his auspices gives us a fair chance. In that connection and because generally speaking I have come to accept the word given on the floor of this Honourable House by the Leader of the House, I would say that whenever he has given his word on the floor of this House, certainly in those matters in which he is competent, it has turned out in the way he has said. I would like the hon. Leader of the House to give us the assurance that the electoral

machinery that we have come to know in Barbados will not be changed radically in the sense of the army or the security department taking over the responsibility that has been traditionally that of the police.

Mr. Speaker, a number of persons in my constituency have raised this question with me. They have said that they have reasons to believe that there are a number of functions now performed by the police which very slowly are being taken over by the army. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know, but certainly the recent exercise regarding the fire in Bridgetown suggests that the army may come in where even they are not invited.

Mr. SPEAKER: With due respect to the hon. member, I am sure he will agree with me that what he has just tried to raise has absolutely nothing to do with upgrading the salary of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, the point I am trying to make is that the integrity of the officer whose salary is being raised is bound up with the manner in which he, the Chief Electoral Officer, has conducted elections in this country, and I am seeking an assurance from the Leader of the House that arising out of the fact that this gentleman will continue to preside over the elections that he will preside over those elections in the manner to which you, Mr. Speaker, and I and all of us have become accustomed. That is all I am seeking to find out.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are now seeking to put his integrity in doubt, and that is what I am trying to avoid having done.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour wishes. I merely wish to state in connection with this Resolution that it is very important that the people of Barbados come to understand and accept that (a) there is going to be an election; (b) that for such election, if called, they would be able to use the identity cards which they now have if they have not got the new identity cards; they would wish to know whether these cards can be used, whether they can be interposed or whether they can be exchanged; and (c) they will wish to know that those elections will take place in the context and the circumstances and the spirit generally speaking in which elections have taken place in Barbados.

1.20 p.m.

On the second point, Mr. Speaker, I see that we are going to have now a Chief Management Accountant. Now I have no doubt that there is good and sufficient reason for this terminology, but I should like to find out from the Hon. Leader of the House whether this Chief Management Accountant is different from a Chief Accountant and whether this Management Accountant in the Service is the beginning of a new breed of personnel which we can

expect to find in the various Ministries and Departments. I have been trying to find exactly where it is being inserted into the Statutory Instrument, but it seems as if he is going to form part of the management analysis team for the entire Service. Do I take it that we are going to have a Chief Budget Analyst, a Chief Management Accountant, a Chief Accountant, all these in the Ministry of Finance? It would seem to me that if there is at least no overlapping of responsibility there will certainly be overlapping of concern. In the Ministry of Finance, as I understand it, the Chief Budget Analyst is a Head of Department, the Chief Management Accountant, it would seem to me, is going to be a staff specialist or is he going to be a Head of Department as well?

What I am trying to find out, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister introducing this Resolution was not very broad in his definition and I would appreciate his outlining what is the new approach to management which the changing of this particular post will herald for us, or if it is merely an attempt to ensure that a qualified person does not leave a post and this is being done by attaching a new title which brings with it a new salary. If in fact the Chief Management Accountant is merely going to be a functionary in the Ministry of Finance forming part of the analytical team in that Ministry, then it seems to me that we can expect over the next few months to see a Chief Management Accountant in the Ministry of Communications and Works, one in the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, because those Ministries are so broad and so wide that we are bound to have an Analyst in any area and we will soon get a Chief Management Accountant, and no doubt the same thing would apply to a Ministry like the Ministry of Agriculture where they have three or four or five different sub-departments, some of which are headed by a political boss who is not a Minister.

There is a measure of confusion in the management system which are being practised in Barbados in the Government Service at the moment, and that will be dealt with on another occasion in another debate, but I should merely appreciate, rather than the bit of information which the Minister gave, I should merely appreciate his outlining in some little detail how this Resolution as it applies to the Chief Management Accountant is going to assist in the improvement of the management of the public sector in Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that on this side we are not opposing the adjustments as proposed in this Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1980. We certainly welcome them particularly in respect of upgrading of the post of Chief Electoral Officer. There is no doubt that elections are at the heart of the democratic

process in Barbados, and we would like to think that it is at the heart of the political systems of all Caribbean and other territories. Of course when these systems go away, when people believe that the systems are not being administered fairly and freely, many problems, many difficulties can arise and a whole political system can become vindictive, it can become oppressive and it can lead to civil strife. Happily in Barbados we have been spared so far that type of development, although we on this side believe that there are signs which are ominous and which we would not like to see developed, but in other countries of the Caribbean and beyond we can see where the electoral system, because the people have no confidence in that system, civil strife, disaffection, consternation and all of those signs and systems which lead to a deterioration in the political system tend to result.

In Jamaica there is a big problem of getting the electoral system right, acceptable and in place in order that fair and free elections may be held. When I say fair elections I am referring to elections that are fair — you can always have elections that are feared — and that is the problem in other countries. It is the job of the Chief Electoral Officer to ensure that we have an efficient system, a system that people accept and one that people believe is fair, and so when on this side a question is asked whether in the voting procedures old I.D. cards would be permissible as far as voting is concerned, it is not that we are trying to create any confusion, it is that our constituents ask us that question, and I think it is fair enough to raise the question. Some of the constituents are concerned about this matter, some of them are concerned about the posting out of the I.D. cards, because some of them have had photographs taken some time ago and have not yet received the I.D. cards. I do not think we should generate the type of heat over this matter because out of a simple request for information from the member for St. Michael South Central, from the member for St. Philip South, the member for St. Michael.....

Mr. SPEAKER: And it is at this point I just want to tell the hon. member for St. Michael South that that is the only unfair thing that has taken place here this morning. Our Standing Orders strictly forbid the hon. member for St. Michael South Central raising the question as to whether you can use the old I.D. card or the new I.D. card, the hon. member for St. Philip South getting up and raising the same point, the hon. member for St. Michael South West getting up and raising the same point, and I repeat, the Standing Order strictly forbid that each hon. member of this House get up and raise the same question on the old I.D. or the new I.D. I have had enough of this. If an hon. member has new ground to break he might rise and carry on his point, but not each member getting up and rehashing statements of former members.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Right, Mr. Speaker, I respect your ruling, and the question that I am specifically asking relates to the posting out by the Chief Electoral Office of the I.D. cards of those persons who have already gone through the process of being registered and of having their photographs taken, and I am wondering if the member replying for the Government, the Acting Prime Minister, would supply information as to the progress being made on the despatch of these I.D. cards to those persons who have so far not received them.

The member for St. James did refer to a call which I made for a supplementary budget to deal with certain difficulties in the economy of this country, and he felt that this was wrong at the time.
1.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make this point and make it abundantly clear. The Opposition, the Democratic Labour Party Opposition of this country never refused to accept the results of the 1976 General Elections as certified by the Chief Electoral Officer, the Chief Registration Officer and the Chief Returning Officer. We abided by those decisions.

Mr. SPEAKER: There must be no heckling from the Government Benches. Actions speak louder than words.

Mr. SANDIFORD: And our actions were, Mr. Speaker, that we came into this Chamber, that we sat in our places, that we have participated in the debate, that we have asked questions, that we have set down Motions for debate, we have been present for divisions. We have been debating. Sometimes we have debated very hard. Sometimes we have had to leave this Chamber. Sometimes the Government has run away from debates with us but that is the cut and thrust of debate and I cannot understand how intelligent persons can get up and say that the Democratic Labour Party Opposition have not accepted those results.

The very fact that we are right here now, Sir, asking questions, seeking answers, and pressing on behalf of our constituents out there because they want to know and I want to lay that one to rest once and for all. Whether it is said from the pulpit in here, whether it is said from some Headquarters on Roebuck Street presided over by the member for St. Michael West or whether it is said from any other type of podium or platform, pulpit or whatever, we want to reject any suggestion that we did not accept the results of the 1976 General Elections.

As far as the call earlier on for a Supplementary Budget was concerned, that was in the interest of this country and the statistics proved it because in that last quarter of 1976, the economic indicators were clear

that something was wrong in the economy under the management of the new Government that came into power. The Balance of Payment particulars showed up that international reserves were falling dramatically. If you want confirmation of that look in the statistics put out by the Central Bank of Barbados and this was spelling no good for this country so where as a patriotic citizen of this country I got up and made a call for a Supplementary Budget. It has been proven that I was correct on that.

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems as if the hon. member is now making his reply to the Annual Budget.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am just replying to my friend and representative, the member for St. James, who made certain accusations against me. That is all, Mr. Speaker. That Budget was properly replied to by the Opposition and effectively at that time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Hon. Leader of the House winds up, I just want to make an observation. During this morning session it has been agreed, on more than one occasion, that when a member from the Government backbench is addressing the Chair, hon. members from the front bench, I believe, without any intention to be offensive or anything of the sort, are not giving enough thought to it. They have been moving between the member who is standing and addressing the Chair and the Chair. It is improper. Members moving from their places or returning to their places must on no occasion pass between the member who is addressing the Chair and the Chair and I want hon. members to bear this in mind at all times.

In the same way, if members of the Opposition are addressing the Chair, no person has any right passing between the person who is addressing the Chair and the Chair. In other words, this passage way must be left free and nobody must be seen in that area. In the same way, when a backbencher is addressing the Chair, I want hon. members if they are moving, do not move between the Chair and the person who is addressing the Chair. That is just a little reminder. That is all it is intended to be.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, luckily today, earlier in the session, I was able to lay a full and comprehensive Report on the Table of this House on the progress of the National Registration Programme. That Report was laid in keeping with the Government's intention that all matters relating to the new National Registration Programme would be given the fullest degree of publicity and we are confident that 99.999% of the public of Barbados believes that the Chief Registration Officer, the Chief Electoral Officer, whose duty it is to carry out this Programme, would carry it out in

the same manner as which he carried out his duties in the past without a question of integrity.

This Report shows very clearly that up to the date of its printing, 224,000 in Barbados applied to be registered. Of that number, 113,000 people have so far been photographed. Hon. members will recall that when the National Registration Programme was first indicated, it was made clear that the object of the National Registration Programme was to have everybody in Barbados registered and assigned a national identity number and photograph.

It was also made abundantly clear that it was the desire of Government that we would have one system of National Identity Cards in Barbados which could be used for a multiplicity of purposes, a National Health Service, Identification for commercial purposes and identification for electoral purposes.

From the outset, for some reasons best known to themselves, a few hon. members on that side sought to confuse the public of Barbados and to give the impression that the object of the National Registration Programme was an attempt by Government in order to interfere with the electoral process. On more than one occasion the Prime Minister and other members of this side have repeatedly pointed out that the object of the exercise is to bring order into the multiplicity of the system.

We have repeatedly pointed out that your eligibility to vote arises from the Representation of the Peoples Act. The Representation of the Peoples Act by Section 12 cast the duty on the Electoral Officer and by Section 13 the Chief Registration Officer is to publish the Electoral List.
1.40 p.m.

It has also been pointed out that a person who is on the Electoral List cannot be removed by the Chief Electoral Officer, or the Chief Registration Officer, except in the circumstances set out in section 9. Section 9 is very clear. Once a person is on the Electoral Register in Barbados, the Chief Electoral Officer, or Registration Officer cannot remove his name, except he has died, an objection to his Registration has been allowed, he has been absent from Barbados for five years, or, he has become disqualified by Section 8 which sets out the terms of disqualification.

Now, no Bill, no Act has been passed in this Legislature to amend this Law and yet, out of nothing but mischief, there are some people who are going around the country saying that Government intends to deprive people of the right to vote. Now, that is recklessness, irresponsibility of a very high order, when they know that once you are on the Register, your name cannot be

removed, except in the circumstances set out in Section 9 of the Law which was passed during the time when the Democratic Labour Party was in power and there have been no amendments to the Law. Also, that same Law sets out very clearly that once you have achieved voting age in Barbados, it is the duty of the Chief Registration Officer to put your name on the List and he is also obligated, by the Law, to publish in January of each year, a Register of the Electorate in each constituency and that is being complied with.

Now, Sir, it is very significant that in accordance with the Report that I have laid here today, the Chief Registration Officer can tell in Appendix C that 134,000 persons were registered for the Elections in 1976. At the present moment, there are more than that registered and the projections for the elections in 19 whenever there are, '80 or '81, is likely to be somewhere in the vicinity of over 150,000.

Now, Sir, if a list is published now, every January, there is nothing to prevent any Hon. Member of this Hon. House from getting anybody in his constituency registered, who, he feels is not on the List. The Chief Registration Officer is bound to register him, so this question of depriving people of their right to vote, cannot be any kind of reasonable examination. Now, it is the Government's wish, desire, hope, that the balance of people between the 113,000 people who have been photographed, and the 224,000 who have applied for enumeration, would come forward and get their ID Cards because I think that it is a waste of money to have an ID Card for the National Health Service and an ID Card for voting.

Now, I have also made careful checks and it has been pointed out that there is a group of people in Barbados, mainly, those people who were not 18 in 1976, who, in any event, have to be photographed because they were not photographed before. We also have people who will become 18 this year and next year who also have to be photographed. We also have people who were photographed before, who, by the lapse of time, their physiognomy has changed slightly. In short, Sir, it was always contemplated from the very outset, that the population would be periodically re-photographed so as to bring it up-to-date. I remember when the photographs were introduced.

I hear this nonsense about Elections in a custom fashion and coming from the Democratic Labour Party side. Who can forget, that it was just before the Bye-election, in the City of Bridgetown that photographing was first introduced in this country, when the late E. D. Mottley died, and the Bye-election was being held in the City of Bridgetown by the Democratic Labour Party. I am telling you, I was in the Hon. House between 1966 and 1971. The late Louis Lynch. (*Asides*) That is correct. That was when Elliot Mottley ran.

Now, Sir, who can also forget that less than six weeks (*Asides*) prior to the 1971 Elections, the Democratic Labour Party brought a Bill to amend the boundaries for that very Election? I will always remember it, but, my experience of those things is that it does not profit you in the end because the greatest dictator, the greatest political vagabond always has his day. Amin had his and many others will soon have theirs.

Now, Sir, the Law, at the present moment says that if an Election is called, the present Identity Cards that are in existence will be the ones to be used. As to whether the Law will be amended or not, is dependent upon how many people are photographed so that we can have one National Identity Card. It is as simple as that.

I have been told, as set out in the Report, that a Draft Electoral List will be published around June and will contain the old Identity Number for those who had, because some people do not have an Identity Number because if they were under 16 at the time it was introduced in 1964, and they have not subsequently registered, they will not have one. It will have the new number so that everybody will be able to see.
1.50 p.m.

We do not want to deprive anybody of their right to the national health service; we do not want to deprive anybody of their right to vote. You see, we believe that the majority will vote for us. We believe that, so if you believe that the majority will vote, I invite hon. members to join in a campaign and encourage everybody who is not registered to come forward and register. And we need it. I will tell you why, Sir. At the present moment only an average of 30 are coming forward a day. Remember 224,000 have been registered. We have a check on this too; we keep a constant check on this. Only 30 come forward a day. We beg everybody if they have any doubt in their minds that they have been enumerated to come and be enumerated. We do not want you to lose the benefits of the national health service. We beg you to go. We also beg the Opposition to encourage people to go. We beg you to get out there. You say your supporters are not registered; beg them. We also want them photographed; go and be photographed. In this year and age of the Eighties we cannot afford to waste paper, to waste our effort that we should have two identity cards. We would like one to last from the cradle to the grave.

It is also very clear that the discrepancy between what is supposed to be the population of Barbados and the number who have come forward, and we could only be talking about a maximum of 30,000 people is in the age group under 16. For some reason or other when the enumerator went around people felt that if they had little babies or young children that they did not have to register them. That is where the discrepancy is, but we would appeal to everybody to carry their young babies

and carry all the children because they too must be able to have evidence of identity for the purpose of their eligibility under the national health service. We expect, Sir, that 40,000 identification cards will soon be going out to the people. We anticipate that monthly we can send out 40,000 identification cards. We have just increased the staff to seven so that we can get them out.

Now, Sir, I made it my business to check the progress of this registration scheme with the original scheme, and I am told that more people were registered within the time span of nine or ten months and more were photographed than when it was previously introduced. In short, progress is being made and the Barbadians are becoming a little bit more accustomed to this thing. We look forward to having 224,000 people photographed. The Government has spent a lot of money in setting up photographic centres all over Barbados and advertising them. Do you mean that if Government was thinking of interfering with the electoral or registration purposes that they would have advertised for people to come forward to register? It does not bear examination. There are no grounds, no evidence, nothing at all to suggest that the Government does not want people to register. We want them registered. We are a Government that believes in the use of statistical truths; it is indispensable in the Eighties for proper planning and we are proper planners.

Now arrangements are being made for infirm people in hospitals, homes and the elderly to be re-photographed. Arrangements are being made because they are the very ones who are likely to be in need of the national health service, so they must be photographed and given a new identity number. Also, it is a nettle that we must deal with. What has happened since 1976 is that the discrepancies between various constituencies in numbers have widened. Let us take a look. St. Michael North West in 1976 had 7,694 registered voters. The projected number of voters in June, 1980 is 9,498. Let us take St. James. In 1976 it had 6,928 and in June of 1980 it has 8,834. Now, Sir, we have constituencies like St. Joseph which has 4,549 voters.

Now, Mr. Speaker, democratic governments all over the world have got periodically to grapple with the question of re-alignment of constituencies in order to take into account population shift and no one can deny that. It happens all over the world. As a matter of fact, a little research here in Barbados will show that no one has been more vocal in espousing this principle that you must have relative clarity in relation to constituencies than the hon. member for St. John. We have a resolution that he moved. Not only him. We have also the fact that the Democratic Labour Party set up a parliamentary committee to look into the boundaries and to make representations. A part of that parliamentary committee's report was that periodically the boundaries had to be

looked at to ensure that the discrepancy between the largest constituency and the smallest constituency was not too great. We have all of this, so there is nothing novel, new revolutionary or anything, about the concept that if you want to have relative equality that you must set up some kind of norm for the difference between the smallest and the largest constituency. So, Mr. Speaker, I really hope that this is the last we will hear from the other side of any suggestion that we are trying to tamper or interfere with these matters. We want to give them all the notice. Victory is sweeter when you beat them when they know they are going to be beaten before hand.

By June this year a draft electoral list will be published. You will have from June to January next year to get on all the people whom you feel are not on. Indeed 99 per cent of the people are on already. You can get all that time because the Chief Electoral Officer in January has to published the registrations for 1981. Now if it happens that there is an election between now and 1981 January the list had been published in January this year already; so you had better keep checking that one; I am checking mine. So I do not see there is any reason for any fear. Beg the people to get on because you do not want them to lose the benefit of the national health service.

Now, Sir, I also would like to reply to the question raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, the question of the Chief Management Accountant. The Chief Management Accountant is in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and he works partly in the Budget Analysis section and partly in the Public Investment Unit in dealing with such matters as checking the economic rate of return as opposed to the financial rate of return for feasibility studies which one has to have in order to induce the inter-American Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the E.D.F. They are now demanding an investment pre-feasibility study to see not only the financial rate of return, but the economic rate of return.

2.00 p.m.

He, of course, concentrates on the financial rate of return, but the Manager of the Public Investment Unit and the Economist do the economic rate of return. It is a new ball game that we are in now, and Barbados is in a very peculiar position, because more and more international institutions are forcing us into hard money rather than grant money because they say our *per capita* is too high. As a matter of fact, I am very disturbed over the fact that recently they had a meeting in Geneva in which developing Third World countries have put forward a proposal that there should be a definite rule of criteria for international organisations to set out a *per capita* income and say that countries who are above that are

not eligible for any grants at all. This is a very serious thing, because we have argued that you can have a high *per capita* income in a country but you still have very, very poor people in the country who cannot stand the economic rates. We have to fight that battle all the time.

Now, I would like to see that in addition to this question of analysing the budgetary side, the return of the revenue per GDP, the financial return on projected projects, that the Chief Management Accountant will also be giving advice to Accountants, Financial Controllers and others on cost savings in relation to such things as purchases, bulk buying, services and things of that kind. Now, that is an area that needs to be explored. Many administrations in this era of inflation have had to set up special units to advise other Government Departments on how to effect savings in purchases of Government.

Now, we are looking at the whole accounting service in the Government. It is obvious that Government is short of this type of people. As a matter of fact, the whole of Barbados is short of this type of people. If you pick up the newspaper any day now you will see that Coopers & Lybrand, Ken Hewitt, Mark Mitchell, Pannell Fitzpatrick, all of them are advertising not only for qualified people but for people to come and train. It is estimated that we are short of over 300 Accountants in Barbados. The Government views this matter so seriously that the Minister of Education and I and the University Grants Committee argued strongly to get a B.Sc. Accounting course at Cave Hill, and I believe it started last September, and we have tried to expand the scope of the work done at BIMAP, we are trying to encourage BIMAP in association with the Canadian CTA, I believe it is, to come in and try to train more, because we cannot recruit people to do this.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the motion I want to get the record put straight. At today's sitting the Acting Prime Minister, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, laid the Report on the National Registration Programme. He has since proceeded to debate that same Report without a motion to that effect. I permitted this because of the fact that the questions raised, firstly by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and subsequently by all hon. members on the side of the Opposition, with respect to registration, it would have been absolutely impossible for the hon. member to have replied in the way he did without making specific reference from time to time to the contents of the Report which was laid today.

The questions were so germane to the contents of the Report, that is the reason why I permitted the hon.

Acting Prime Minister to debate in some measure the contents of the Report which was laid today and to debate it without a motion to that effect. It is for that reason, and that reason alone, so I hope I will not hear at a later stage that a precedent was created, and it having been created, somebody else is entitled to do this and to do that. What is important is this, that when the Acting Prime Minister was laying his Report, he was then entitled to make any comment pertaining to that Report he was laying as he so felt like doing.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I had given the Hon. Minister for Communications and Works an undertaking earlier today that I would give him permission to introduce a measure that was not ready at the appropriate time.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg the leave of the House to make a statement on the Port Authority's Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I laid on the table of this Honourable House a statement of the Annual Accounts of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1979. Accompanying the statement is a Report of the Board of Directors.

The Port Authority was established by an Act of Parliament which was passed in 1975. After it was amended in 1978 the Act was proclaimed on the 1st January, 1979.

On the coming into force of the Act all property, other than land and buildings, belonging to the Crown and used exclusively for the purpose of the Port Department and Port Contractors (Barbados) Limited was transferred to and vested in the Port Authority and all liabilities of the Port Department and Port Contractors (Barbados) Limited at the coming into force of the Act were assumed and assured by the Authority.

Under the terms of the lease the Authority will reimburse the Crown for the debt servicing assumed by the Crown in connection with the I.A.D.B. Loan Contract dated 21-02-75 for a loan of US\$9 100 000 for expansion of the harbour and construction of the shallow draft facility. The Authority will also assume liability to the Crown for long term loans made by the Crown for the construction of the Deep Water Harbour which was completed in 1961.

The Authority has during the year handled 525 065 tonnes of cargo, including regional cargo, but excluding bulk petroleum products. The Authority has also berthed 189 cruise ships and 727 cargo ships.

The net operating profit on the first year of operation was \$2 800 886 and this is encouraging. If this trend is maintained the Authority should have no difficulty of repaying its outstanding debts of \$27 552 704 as they become due.

It has not been possible to conclude arrangements for the operation of the shallow draft facility. This is currently the subject of negotiations between the Authority and the Barbados Workers' Union and I hope that a speedy conclusion can be reached to enable the facility to be put into operation.

2.10 p.m.

"It is anticipated that special charges will be fixed for cargo handling facilities in order to avoid a rise in the cost of the commodity transported by the Inter-Territorial Vessel. The Port Authority revenue will not therefore increase significantly when the facility is put into operation."

Mr. SPEAKER: The Standing Orders of this Honourable House were not suspended this morning. We should have risen at 2.00 o'clock and if business causes us, we could have continued until 2.10 p.m., but I promised the Hon. Minister that I would have accommodated his Statement which he was just able to deliver and we have gone on after 2.10 p.m.

If it is the expressed wish of this Honourable House that we rise at an hour later than 2.45 p.m. I am willing to entertain the Motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that hon. members are aware of the circumstances by which we exceeded the time expired and I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m., Sir.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I just wish to make one point with regard to the Motion. It seems to me that this clock, which is the clock by which we work, once we start to work, is in need of some synchronising. I hope that in accordance with this Resolution that steps will be taken to see that this clock is keeping the correct time.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will return, if the Motion is passed, by the same clock by which we go out. We appreciate the point raised by the hon. member.

The question that the House be suspended until 3.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER, suspended the House accordingly.

2.15 p.m.

On Resumption -

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. It is now Question Time. I am advised there are no Replies to Questions so we will now go into Private Members' Business.

There is one Item standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central on the Order Paper whom I do not now see in his place. Government Business then is the instant Order of the Day.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHURCH STREET IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL

Item No. 5 was called - To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Church Street, St. Michael for the provision of offices for the Central Bank of Barbados.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this is one of those acquisitions which the Government is setting out to get Parliamentary approval in the Church Village area in St. Michael where the Central Bank is hoping to start construction of their new building, Sir. All of the necessary notices have been published in the news media. The people who are involved in the acquisition have all accepted this. They have been notified accordingly. There has been a public relations job carried out between my Ministry and the persons concerned, Sir, and it involves some 9,730.45 square metres or thereabouts, Sir, and I will say that the largest piece of land belongs to Mr. George Chapman who is deceased.

There is not much I can add to this since my Ministry is just responsible for the execution of such acquisitions. Whatever information may be necessary in relation to the building and construction of the Central Bank Building would have to come from the Minister who is actually responsible. My simple function is just to seek Parliamentary approval for the acquisition.

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to second that.

Mr. SANDIFORD: This Resolution that is before us is for acquisition of several parcels of land and the purpose as indicated, is that of providing offices for the Central Bank of Barbados.

I do not really want to speak on that particular aspect of it, the provision of offices for the Central Bank. No doubt a case has been made out for permanent premises or new premises for that Institution which was established by the Democratic Labour Party for the

proper and efficient management of the financial resources and the public finances of this country.

I am concerned, however, with the acquisition of this comparatively vast area of land which involves several business houses which have served this country for several decades. I was pleased to hear the Minister indicate that his Ministry has carried on public relations programmes in respect of the acquisition of these premises and without further and better particulars I assume — that is a phrase of a distinguished Attorney — I assume that that related to discussions with the present owners or occupiers of premises to be acquired in terms of alternative business locations or some appropriate satisfaction as far as continuation of the business is mainly concerned.

I am asking the Minister whether he would be kind enough to give us some additional information in respect of this Resolution that is before us. Exactly or approximately how much money is involved in this contemplated acquisition?

3.10 p.m.

In view of the many financial constraints which this country and which the several Government Departments face at the present time, would he say that this is a priority, in the face of those constraints? Is he offering alternative business accommodation, business premises for the persons who will be dislocated and have there been any difficulties in the negotiations, or, is it all plain, smooth sailing, amicable relationships among those who are involved?

I really do not wish to go into that any more. These are just general questions in the public interest which I asked about this. I would like to know what is involved in this, what is the cost of these acquisitions, or the approximate cost of these acquisitions, exactly what is involved. Is this merely for the premises of the Central Bank, or will there be offices for let, or exactly what is involved in this particular project here because it does appear to me to relate to a considerable change in the physical configuration of that part of Bridgetown and I think that this Hon. House and the people at large, would like to get some further and better particulars of the matter.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the provision of premises for the Central Bank is a matter which has been under investigation since 1974. Hon. Members who are familiar with the various departments would be aware of the fact that the Central Bank is housed in the Treasury Building to the left of us here and the Exchange Control Department of the Central Bank has accommodation in the Barnes Building next to the river. So that, we are in a position, where the Bank is housed not in one unit, but, a number of various areas.

The Government itself owns a parcel of land in Cathedral Square, and some time ago, it acquired land from a company which used to trade as Redman & Taylor which had a firm opposite the law offices Fields, Barrow, Phillips, Moore, Greaves and others. I do not know whether there was any connection with the acquisition of that land, but I must say that the law offices are very prominently situated in relation to the projected site.

When we came into power, with that having been acquired, we felt that it would be very wrong to have a partial redevelopment of the area. We looked at the Housing conditions of the residents to the east of the Cathedral Square, bearing in mind, that the Government had previously acquired the Redman & Taylor Building, the Government owned via the Sanitation Authority, an area abutting and bounding on that. There was a road which is separated by Monroe Building, Barbados Oil Field workers and Cheeseman Bottling Cleaning. I believe that before there was recycling of bottles, we, in Barbados, led the way in that direction. There were eight species of a company who were recycling bottles here, washing bottles, and recycling bottles, in Barbados.

When we did an analysis of the housing conditions at the back of Crumpton Street, it was felt that bearing in mind the fact that we took the decision that Harrison College should be extended, that the Ministry of Agriculture should be moved to allow the expansion of Harrison, that the Central Bank, instead of building a multi-storey building alone, it should be part and parcel of a general redevelopment of the whole of that area and the Planning Priorities Committee, at one of its first meetings which we attended, requested a national body which succeeded the Central Planning Committee, which existed in the Democratic Labour Party, in that, instead of having a 40 member Committee, we now have three Hon. Ministers of Cabinet, who are the Hon. Minister of Finance, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry, of course and the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

When we are dealing with planning, in relation to education, we invite them to attend. Environment is always present, it is related. A Plan was therefore expanded to include, not only the Central Bank, but also, the provision of a multi-purpose hall, the integration of a cultural complex which would span, not only Queen's Park, but also, into that square and we directed that the planners would consider the redevelopment of the whole of the East side, abounding by Crumpton Street and that area. We had the benefit of expert advice from UNESCO, who were dealing with the planning of the Cultural Society.

Of course, the Central Bank itself, is interested in the Central Bank building. They are not interested, except, in relation to their buildings, which has to be the most prominent building in the area of course. But, nevertheless, the planning has taken place against a background of a central building, sort of dominating the complex, a cultural, multi-purpose hall for various things, and a redevelopment of the square. That is the origin of it.

Now, one of the dominant characteristics of the area was that, we had a number of houses there which was in a substandard condition and this is the second area in which we would try to carry our redevelopment, with a view to improving housing conditions. Many of the houses in that area will be offered alternate accommodations and the Resolutions are also connected, because there are a number of other Resolutions coming subsequently of which Hon. Members will be told, in which we are going to exchange a piece of land at the Passage Road area, for a piece of land at the Harbour so as to be able to expand St. Cecelia to provide accommodation for the relocation of houses.
3.20 p.m.

One of the things that you have in Barbados is that if you have to carry out a re-development scheme in Bridgetown or St. Michael you are confronted with the problem that the area is built up, so you have to provide alternative accommodation. So that is the inter-connection. All these Resolutions relate to a comprehensive scheme. All these Resolutions relate to a comprehensive scheme for that area abutting and bounding on the Cathedral Square, Roebuck Street, and there is a side road. I do not know the name of the side road, but I believe that "Rus In Urbe", a house there, will not be destroyed as far as I understand it. There is a side road by the Strakers' residence right at the corner before Rollock's drugstore, and that basically is the boundary, and we will have a complete redevelopment in that area.

The model of the Central Bank over whom of course we only have nominal control in that they are in the fortunate position in which they can finance themselves — they do not have to come and borrow money, they are makers of money — has been on display for some period of time. The Government's contribution will be in the creation of facilities other than the Central Bank building and the hall. We have persuaded the Central Bank that many Central Bankers and banks have a contribution to make and their contribution in this respect is the building of the multi-purpose hall. They were not interested in the other areas; but we wish to have a mall in which there will be a craft centre, shops and various things. I want to assure the hon. member that any business people there who carry on a business which is compatible with the re-development will be offered the first opportunity. I am not so sure there is one business that will necessarily be compatible. I believe

there is a business there which provides relief for people who have gone to the Great Beyond, and I am not so sure that that complex may necessarily be compatible with cultural complex. I understand that already the proprietors of that business have anticipated developments and have acquired land on the other side of the road to cater to their things, but whatever the position is, the businesses which are there will certainly be either offered alternative arrangements in the new complex or there will be compensation for their land value.

There is only one point which I am not sure has been straightened out yet, and that is the question of the large wall around Crumpton Street. I believe something has to be done with that. If you notice that Crumpton Street wall after you pass the entrance to the former Ministry of Agriculture, that juts out and goes right down. I believe that something will have to be done with that wall but of course before you can do anything with a re-development by narrowing the angle of that wall, one has to come up against such questions as the National Trust with the question of trees. The environmentalists will raise their question. All of them will raise questions, but we feel that the scheme is a comprehensive re-development and is being carried out with a minimum of dislocation and with the maximum of consultation with the people who will be affected in the area, and we are sure that their living conditions will be improved and that the area will be enhanced. We are not destroying the old lodge, we are not destroying the old cathedral, we are not destroying anything in the area; we are creating rather than destroying.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, one of the more important aspects of the Church Street re-development will be the construction of a cultural complex in that part of Bridgetown. Now the Government is committed to the type of work in Bridgetown that would enhance the environment of the central city and bring a type of restful and visual comfort to the people who frequent this particular area of Barbados. We are interested in preserving the Queens Park area and indeed enlarging on it to provide a great amount of greenery to give this type of environmental enhancement to which I referred, and we hope also in providing a cultural complex in Church Village that we will be providing the type of facilities that would enhance the individual and national life of Barbados.

We propose, Mr. Speaker, to build this complex which will be in the general area of the Central Bank and we will be providing in consonance with the National Trust we have been carrying out in the development of culture generally a number of facilities which I will take this opportunity to spell out. As far back as December, 1977, the Cabinet considered the type of plan that I am talking about now in relation to that area, and they agreed at that time that they should set up an auditorium

in the Church Village area that would cater to the performing arts.

Now we hope that the auditorium will be constructed within the Central Bank complex and will provide seating capacity for some 850 persons. It will be the first and only indoor auditorium that is completely air-conditioned and so on and would be a very modern auditorium. We have had brought in technical assistance from UNESCO....(Asides) I understand that there is one at George Street. But for this one we have got assistance from UNESCO, a theatre architect. Michael Holden came in and did a study and he gave in his report to the Ministry of Education and Culture some time ago. We have gone through since the report has been handed in a number of meetings with local people involved in the arts and culture generally, and we have gone through the various sub-committees, government, cabinet and planning and Priorities Committee and we are now pretty sure as to the type of facility that we will be constructing in that area.

Now the Holden Report recommended a complex of buildings, and these buildings will be used for a number of functions. There will for instance, Mr. Speaker, be performing spaces; we will be providing rehearsal rooms, music practice rooms and so on. We will also be providing an art gallery, gallery for fine arts and craft generally; we will provide a ceramic studio, photographic studio and film projection rooms. We will also be providing performance support spaces and these will include, Mr. Speaker, control rooms, scenery docks, scenery workshops and stores, scenic design office, dressing rooms, wardrobe making rooms and a maintenance room. We will also provide in the complex administrative offices, offices for directors and administrators and heads of the various art forms, archives, conference rooms, box office, manager's office etc.

3.30 p.m.

We plan also to include in this complex plant and technical groups, house maintenance workshop, electrical workshop, audio visual workshop, plant rooms for air-conditioning etc. and the like. We hope to start construction on this complex some time before the end of this calendar year. We have engaged local architects and they have prepared some drawings which I have in my possession, not in my physical possession here, but I have in possession in the Ministry, and we are taking a look at them and trying to evaluate the cost and make the type of adjustments that are necessary to suit just what we envisage. This complex, Mr. Speaker, we hope will form a link up with other cultural areas, areas for cultural activities in Queens Park. We are spending some money during this financial year to renovate and upgrade the Queens Park Theatre and we are also spending some money putting the Steel Shed in Queens Park into the kind of condition that it would be suitable for dramatic

presentations. We feel that in the centre of the City, in that area, we will have a fairly massive common cultural complex that will cater to every aspect of the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Culture, as you know, was established for the first time in 1977 and it was established because this Government felt that the quality of life, or the quality of living, of the people in this country could not be maintained or improved by a whole lot of economic activity and there was nothing that was catering to the spiritual, something that was catering to the more attractive instincts in man. As a country develops more leisure time, as the people get more money, as the chances and the opportunities for a diversified content of living become available, any country, any society that is interested in maintaining the wellbeing of its people and to remove from them the frustrations that are born out of a society that put an undue emphasis on materialism, whenever that happens they are heading for disaster. We in this country have had the experience of many countries in the world that have taken a similar route and we have noticed the type of problems that they run into when they disregard one aspect of human development at the expense of another, and we are trying not to fall into the same pitfall as these other countries.

We have heard criticisms that money that is spent on cultural pursuits to enhance the living of all the people in this country could better be spent in building factories and this sort of argument. I feel very sorry for the people who have that type of Philistine approach to living. The hon. member for St. Michael South well knows that when he was Minister of Education that they had a little room in the Ministry with two employees and spent less than \$30,000 a year, and that was the tokenism that the Democratic Labour Party made to Government organisations to artistic and cultural activities in the country. The hon. member well knows that no attention was really given to the badly needed infrastructural needs for the arts of Barbados. I said there was no theatre for the performing arts, there was very little being offered in the line of course content in the schools or in the teachers' colleges in the arts, there was very little training for people in the arts. A transformation, Mr. Speaker, has come over this country since then. I can say that in the last two years the Government of Barbados has given scholarships or financial grants to no less than 12 people for studying the arts, and what I consider particularly satisfying, Sir, is the fact that for the first time this administration has introduced dance, rhythm and movement into the curriculum of primary schools in Barbados to give a much needed impetus to the type of learning that one would expect in a modern country in the 1980s.

We in the past two and a half years have moved the Budget from about \$30,000 a year that was being spent by the Democratic Labour Party on culture as a governmental expenditure to over \$3 million in a calendar year, and in addition to that we established our biggest national festival, the Crop Over Festival, which started off, as you know, Mr. Speaker, as a tourist gimmick and has developed, as I have heard the hon. member for St. Michael West say only last year, into an acceptable and approved national festival that is an indigenous festival springing out of the people as a form of self expression. This is the type of development, this is part of the strategy of development for culture in this country.

It is a matter of deep regret to me, Sir, that the Crop Over Festival, which is a festival that originally was started to enhance the dignity of the sugar worker, and we have tried very much over the last three years since the festival was under the supervision and administration of the Ministry of Education and Culture to take the festival to the people in their districts up and down Barbados and make the simple people, the humble folk, the sugar workers up and down the country, an integral part of this festival. It is a matter of regret to me that the Democratic Labour Party think so little about the contribution of the sugar workers of this country that it does nothing at all to try to participate in and promote the same Crop Over Festival that they talk about. In 1980, Sir, when the Acting Minister of Agriculture, the hon. member for St. Michael North East, tells me and the public of Barbados that we can confidently expect over 130,000 tons of sugar, one of the biggest in recent years, the Democratic Labour Party feels that that is not a matter for public applause. On the contrary, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party prefers to spend its time on public platforms discouraging people from reaping the sugar crop in Barbados. That's what they do, 130,000 to 135,000 tons of sugar in a year in which the Government of Barbados has to spend \$22 million more on fuel for the same amount of fuel as was spent last year, and when this same sugar crop is bringing in the foreign reserves and the cash to pay for that fuel the Democratic Labour Party is going around on Sunday nights trying to encourage the people not to reap the sugar cane. They should hang down their heads in shame, but the people will not forget it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party will continue to promote the arts in every village and hamlet in Barbados. We will continue to give grants, financial assistance, training and scholarships to the people in the arts, we will enhance their positions by making them decision-makers in the arts. We have no intentions in the Ministry of Culture, Sir, to sit on high and make any pompous decisions over what should happen in the arts.
3.40 p.m.

It is for this reason, Sir, that I have set up a National Arts and Cultural Council, a broad based Council for people drawn from all sectors of the Arts and given them the authority to devise policies that would further the interests of the Artists in Barbados.

How many people know, Mr. Speaker, that this year the Ministry of Culture is providing money for the recording of Calypsonians in the Tents and Folk Groups in Barbados and you hear these records on the radio station. The Government of Barbados, this Government, Sir, has provided funds for the recording of the works of Artists in this country. That, to my mind, by any yardstick is a significant improvement of how things are.

I am asking the hon. members on the other side before I sit down. We are going to be holding by saying we I do not mean the Barbados Labour Party Government, Sir, but we, the people of Barbados, plan to host Carifesta in Barbados next year. I want a Statement of commitment from the Democratic Labour Party that they will make their Auditorium available free of charge to the effort.

Not only that, Sir, that they will not hold back now and give us a raw building but that they will refine it. We in the Barbados Labour Party will make our Headquarters available and we will make sure that it will be in a condition to be used and I am challenging the hon. members on that side to make theirs available and make it available in a condition that is suitable for the use of Carifesta. In other words, polish it up, put in some equipment in it and make it suitable. They must put in some lighting, Sir, sound, and so on so that the people of Barbados can feel that the Democratic Labour Party is not only interested in tearing down as it has been doing week after week, Sunday night after Sunday night, sowing the seeds of dissension and discord in the community and trying to divide one section against the other and trying to get one brother poke out the other brother's eye. Let them demonstrate that they can also do something that is useful and constructive for the development of this country by making that particular gesture to which I have just been referring to.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, just briefly, I would like to give the appropriate information which the member for St. Michael South asked, the question of what the Government is paying for the land. There is no payment involved. There are lands like the Sanitation Authority Building in Church Village where you had the School. The Government also owned the property there at the corner of Spry Street and Roebuck Street but over the years, these properties were left to the Government by people from time to time.

You cannot wait until you get all the Deeds and all the necessary things ready, therefore, that is why we are

acquiring it. As a matter of fact, we are acquiring the land first which we have the right to do as we have done in the past and then when you have the necessary legal matters straightened out such as determining the Deeds and these little things, Government would be in a position to do this. The land is valued at \$718,000 but it is not anything we have to pay for. I hope that all hon. members would appreciate this.

My colleague spoke at length on the whole concept of the Church Village as well as the Acting Prime Minister because this is not the whole development. There is another Resolution and if you look at the Order Paper you will see that there is another Resolution coming up dealing with other pieces of land.

What I would like to add is that not only the Barbados Labour Party, but you will observe that we have even got into line and jumped in the bands. We are bringing out a band. We are not afraid of going out there with anybody to heckle us or harass us. We are getting into the bands and we are winning prizes too, the old and the young.

I take the point made by the hon. member very seriously, to put your Auditorium at their disposal. I think it is a very good idea. Not for the Barbados Labour Party. We have all of those things up there. You have a tall building in the air. I would not look at the various characters of the buildings in that area because Town Planning is a very serious business. I do not know. I do not know if it is close enough or far enough inside. I do not know but these things from time to time people would come and object to. I hope they would not object to the height of the building and that it is too near to the road. I do not know.

You had approval before we came into power. I only hope you will put it at the people, not us. Let the people come in and get the thing before somebody objects. If you object you know you will have to pay a second visit. I am only warning you. There are a number of them that go up from time to time and you know I would be in that. I would simply allow the Chief Town Planner to do what he has to do. I am not in that. I would never be in a Government that deal with Singh. You know that Singh thing? You know up in Maxwell Road many years ago? So, Town Planning has very powerful powers and if it is not in character and if it is too close to the road, well, I can only.... (ASIDES).

Mr. Speaker you hear that talk about a riot already? That is the sort of thing you hear in here, Sir, a riot. If I said something about eating now, that would be in the *Advocate*. You are talking about a riot. You want a riot in Barbados now. The Chief Town Planner would like to carry out his function. We are not getting into any riot. You want a riot? You hear the plan? Alright Riot.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to second that.

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

**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**

Item No. 6 was called – to move the passing of the 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.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this is another of those acquisitions. Of course, this may interest the member for St. Michael South West. It is an exchange of land between the Government of Barbados and Plantations Ltd. Opposite St. Cecilia there is an open area which the member for St. Michael South West used to be in there cleaning up the grass and so on. Just before the Election of 1976 there was a group in there, Sir, headed by the member for St. Michael South West. They would go in there and keep the land clean, but it was owned by Plantations Ltd., Sir, all of that time. Plantations Ltd. could have prosecuted them for going on their premises. He was Minister of Trade in the Senate.

Now, the same place is dirty. I do not see any activity down there by the hon. member. I do not know if it is because his neck is in harness today that he is not able to go there. So I am only saying this so I hope that you would understand that we are planning to build houses there for him. You see how we operate? Not in the constituency in which we won a seat.

We are building houses there for you so in the exchange of land you can get houses there and a playing field and so on. The land to be exchanged is for an area of land which is known as the Moffatt Land along the Spring Garden/Deacon Road area where you had Moffatt's Industry many years ago, all of that swamp land and so on. I have a very deep feeling for housing in Barbados. It is really one of my concerns.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.
3.50 p.m.

Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the lands at Passage Road were owned by Plantations Limited. They were putting up a complex there, warehouse, offices and all of that but, when I saw the land, I became particularly interested in it as an open area, to discover, that

negotiations were in train long before I came into the Ministry, under the now Ambassador to the United Nations. At that time, he was Hon. Minister of Housing. Then, negotiations slowed down a bit and I reopened them because I felt that the City must have better living facilities. There is no doubt in my mind that if at Church Village, where it is felt, that some 70 per cent of the houses in Church Village are not suitable for dwellings – you go into a place like Cats' Castle, Greenfields, right in the area, where the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West represents, Passage Gardens, I think they call it the Grange. I do not know how you really get through there to beg people for votes, and, as an Hon. Minister in Government for five years. I mean, has it never occurred to you that those people should have a better deal of life? – It hurt me, when I went through there.

So, having this piece of land there for commercial use, the Government thought that it was best to see if they could go into an arrangement with Plantations Limited, for the piece of land opposite St. Cecilia. Which is in the constituency of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West. The plans are on the drawing board because I mean, you know how I operate. It is going through. I know that there were no objections when we first had the discussions with Plantations Limited with the Permanent Secretary and my first report was that they were happy to go into this for the exchange of land and because of that, I told the Board, the National Housing Corporation Board – a directive to the National Housing Corporation Board – that they should build 'X' amount of houses there. I cannot remember offhand how many houses, but I am almost sure over 50 houses. I am not quite sure how many houses there were, I cannot remember offhand. You must pardon me if I cannot give you that information, but we are hoping to make it compatible with St. Cecilia. We are hoping to give it the same look at St. Cecilia, or, as close to St. Cecilia, so that it would not be that on one hand, you have beautifully designed terrace houses and on the other hand, you have probably the normal looking house units.

Plantations Limited therefore, Sir, have agreed to all of these transfers, but now, we are seeking Parliamentary approval for the exchange of land between Plantations Limited and the Government; the land at Spring Garden, for Plantations Limited and the land at Passage Road where the old Community High School used to be. I am trying to make it very clear; in the area of the constituency of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Sir. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I listened to the Hon. Minister, introducing this Resolution, if one were totally ignorant of all the circumstances surrounding the acquisition, or exchange of this land, one would be inclined to praise the Hon. Minister and his Government for a stroke of genius in having come to the rescue of a poor and down-trodden people, living in the area of Passage Road, to say nothing of those who would be moving from the area of Church Village. To those of us who know the facts, however, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister's introduction came over as less than heroic, more chauvinistic than it is, or was honourable.

The fact is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we, on this Side, will approve this Resolution because Mr. Deputy Speaker, we, on this Side, started this Resolution. We, on this Side, negotiated, planted the idea a long time ago about the exchange of this land and I invite the Hon. Minister, if he cannot find it on the files, to go and search, ask and discuss with Mr. Patterson from Plantations Limited and he will tell him, that some time in 1974 or thereabouts, this Hon. Minister who used to go and cut the grass in that Passage Road, suggested to Mr. Patterson, that that land which was being offered for sale, and on which they wanted to build a warehouse, should not be used as a warehouse, but, that if he would wait until the Deep Water Harbour and all the acquisitions down there were completed, that the Government would be prepared to go into an exchange arrangement. Those are the facts, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and if the Hon. Minister would look in his files, he will see that the then Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Youth Affairs in the Ministry of Community Development and Sports had the responsibility then, and went into an agreement with the said Plantations Limited and rented the said spot at a peppercorn rent to be used for the recreation and the recreational purposes of the people who live in the basin surrounding the area.

It is not only the people in Passage Road, it is the people in Bank Hall, the people in Peterkins, the people in Barbarees Hill, the people in Brewsters Road, the people on both sides of President Kennedy Drive, the people in that entire area which forms 20,000 people who have not among them, a single open space, except the Westbury Cemetery and Kensington Oval. (ASIDE: St. Leonard's School.) St. Leonard's School pasture as it used to be, before the present Government instituted the policy which — I would not take any time on it, I will come back to that. There are too many buildings in the St. Leonard's area. The St. Leonard's School pasture has so many buildings that

there is not enough space commensurate with the number of children in those two schools to provide recreational facilities.

It was very pleasant for me to hear praises such as, enhance the individual and national life of Barbados. I listened with the utmost interest to the statement made by my friend, the Hon. Member for St. George South, the Hon. Minister of Education and Culture in Barbados. Thank God, Culture has finally come into its own. The Hon. Member said that the quality of life for the people of this country could not be maintained by a whole lot of economic development. The Hon. Member said that when there was more leisure time, when people had more chances of opportunity, that they should be spaces, recreational facilities for them. The Hon. Member said that any society which is interested in meeting the well-being of its people would not put undue emphasis on the material things of life. He said, in fact, that he was glad that he represented part of a Government that was not following behind those countries which had laid such emphasis on the material things that they were heading for disaster.

4.00 p.m.

Then we have a Minister who gets up and says that he is going to put houses on the only spot of land in that area which can reasonably be contended is an area for recreational facilities. When I saw in the newspaper on the 28th May that they said they intended looking across the street from St. Cecilia to put houses over there, I said to myself surely the Minister did not say that, surely they made an error, because in this Honourable House I had been assured by an hon. member sitting on the front bench on that side that they would not take away the use of that property at the bottom of Passage Road, on the south-eastern corner of Passage Road, which has been used by the young people in that area as a place of recreational facilities for the last ten years, ever since the Community High School moved from there. The hon. member sought to make light of the fact that I went with my own hands and helped to cut the grass. It is a fact, and if he asked the question why are we not doing it now, we are not doing it now because the people who live in that constituency, the people who live in Passage Road are tired begging like dogs to get the Government facilities to cut the grass. We have gone, I have gone myself, they have gone themselves, they have gone on bended knees, but because they live in St. Michael South West, it appears that they cannot even get governmental assistance in clearing away the facility that belongs to Plantations Limited. Yes, we could have been prosecuted for using it, that is a fact, but you know why we were not? Because we asked them and we asked them nicely. We said to them "This is your land, you have no use for it." We have people, like the Minister said, and the people must have an outlet for its recreational abilities or it

would go mad; so we went to Plantations Limited and we asked them if we may use the place and they said "yes, you may use it." So as any hon. member over there will tell you, we were licencees, not trespassers.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that we in the constituency, and I say "we" because I am licensed to speak for them and I believe I will be authorised to speak for them again, we in the constituency feel that in spite of some errors that would be made in the housing complex across the road at St. Cecilia that we would not get up and argue against that. We feel that if the Government feels that it should redevelop the city of Bridgetown and that it could get political mileage out of that, we have no quarrel with them. We understand the democratic system; we recognise that each Government in power, especially a Government that has not done too much, must milk as much political mileage as it can out of any small effort it makes, and if the placing of houses at St. Cecilia will get rid of the rats in St. Cecilia, that in itself will be a contribution made to the society.

We are disappointed that the Government is so short-sighted that it would not even consult with those persons who are likely to be using the facilities, and will in fact impose a swimming pool on a number of people who may very well not wish it. But I go further; the hon. member who is Acting Prime Minister knows that he himself does not like swimming pools. He knows that, but, Sir, I go further, that they in Barbados are going to take the concept of solar energy to such ridiculous lengths that they are going to have — listen to this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I do not believe that you have examined this in its more infinite detail — they are going to have solar clothes driers. You know that the Government is the laughing stock of the industry down town! Solar clothes driers in Barbados. Everybody in Barbados has a solar clothes drier, a line strung from a tree. That is a solar clothes drier, but not them, they are going out to tender; they are going to pay something like \$67,000 to have solar clothes driers in the units, and the contention that because the units are going two storeys up from the ground, they will therefore be visible, they are providing them with these solar clothes driers. My position is "may the Lord go with you"; let us see how it works. It may be a new thing, it may work and all of us may eventually get indoor solar clothes driers. I have no quarrel with that. If you are happy with that, go ahead. *(Asides)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Please. Let the hon. member for St. Michael South West please stick to the Resolution.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir; I am dealing with this whole question of recreational facilities. If you are going to give them nice things, give them a little air conditioning. If

you must give them nice things, you have to start with a solar clothes drier?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to get back to the Resolution.....*(Asides)*.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member for St. Michael South West please continue? Order, please!

Mr. TAITT: Thank you for protecting me from my colleague whom I do not see in St. Michael West. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not seen the plan which the hon. member has prepared for St. Michael South West, Passage Road. I therefore cannot accuse him of going back on a commitment which was made by the Government. The Government of Barbados is not the Barbados Labour Party Government or the Democratic Labour Party Government or this Government or the other Government. I heard the same Minister earlier today saying an agreement signed by one Government must be carried on. I submit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that Government by its actions had a covenant with those people in that area that it went into an arrangement by which it rented a place for those purposes, led these people in that area to believe that this was the purpose for which they could anticipate would be the use of that property for all time. They were told on more than one occasion that as soon as the Deep Water Harbour was finished they would get an opportunity to see good facilities like those that exist in other places where they could play their football, where they could play cricket, where they could play netball.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me explain to you. The people that live in that area are people who are starving for recreational facilities. They have created clubs. There is Passage United Social Club in Passage Road; it is made up of ordinary people like how most of us in here used to belong to some club where you paid a cent a month subscription. They have gone out and they have washed cars, they have done all the things which we would suggest to youths to do to raise funds; they have become part of the Netball Association and they have competed and have done well. A little further up the road we have Alkins United Football Club. They are the same team who were able to win in the St. Michael League; they were able to go to semi-finals in the Barbados Amateur Football Association.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you can accept my words when I tell you that they have not got a single place where they can practise. You know what they do? They have to get a practice here and there. Some days they get a little piece at the Texaco ground if nobody is using it; some days they get a little piece at Weymouth if nobody is using it, and some days they go down by the Farm on the school pasture if the boys in the Farm would allow them. They are always on sufferance. 4.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it cannot be right that any group of Barbadians could be without a facility to have what we consider to be the normal recreation, and as I said, except for the cemetery, except for Kensington Oval, which as you know is owned by the people but is out of bounds, there is nowhere that they can play. Do you know what we have become giants of in that constituency? We are fantastic road tennis players; we play good road tennis, do you know why? It is the only thing available; the only space available in that entire area is road, so they mark out a court in one or two of the back roads and they play road tennis. Now, Sir, it may seem as if to grant them this simple request of giving them a place like the place the ones in Murphy Pasture will get or the ones at Empire will get.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I am just trying to get my thoughts together. Is the hon. member actually saying that the land at Passage Road for which we are seeking Government approval should not be for housing but it should be a playing field?

Mr. TAITT: I am saying that the land should be available for recreational purposes. Yes I am saying not for housing. It is seven acres of land. Unless you are discussing housing just around the ring, you cannot approve and reprobate at the same time, you cannot get up in here and talk about all this great amount of culture, all about this great amount of facilities and the quality of life which you are going to give to the people and then you sandwich them into a concrete jungle. You yourself have said that certain economic activity is not all to life and I am saying that those people too are entitled to have along with proper housing, they are entitled to have greenery and recreational facilities, and I am saying there is none in that area and it is useless anyone getting up and telling me which Government was in power for how long. I am saying it is a crying shame that in 1980 there are no facilities for them, that is what I am saying, whoever the shoe fits will wear it. I am not prepared to castigate you on that side and ignore the fact that it is now 30 years since black people have been running this country, but what you are doing is that whereas we had taken some small step to provide facilities you are now in the guise of bringing progress putting the clock backwards and you are reducing the people who live in that constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I refuse to suggest that it is because of the representation which they have, I refuse to suggest that it is political, but I will make this point. In this Hon. House the hon. member talked about his going through Passage Garden. I am glad finally that he went through Passage Garden, because in this Hon. House on five different occasions I have asked for the road in Passage Garden to be fixed. When early in their term I suggested that they had stopped the work that was being

done in that road they said I was lying, they said it was not true. It is now four years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the road has not been fixed yet when in fact orders had been given to the Civil Servants to fix that road. The hon. member who is now not in his place who was at the time Minister of Communications and Works assured me that he had not stopped the work but the work has been stopped. Two Ministers of Communications and Works later, it is still a track with water in it that can float any time someone takes a bath under the pipe that stands on the corner, and the well that is only a pretence that does not really assist.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are poor people not only in Cats Castle, there are poor people in Richmond Gap, there are poor people along President Kennedy Drive, there are poor people in what is called Thomas Gap.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is straying from the Resolution.

Mr. TAITT: I beg Your Honour's pardon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the emotion which I feel about this entire problem in St. Michael South West could lead me to stray from the Resolution and I am grateful to Your Honour, but I will not sit down until I make the point just one more time. If the plan is to put in housing and commercial activity, as I heard him say, it seems to me that the seven acres that I know cannot accommodate all of that. It seems to me that we already have a gas station at the exact corner. There are three or four houses on the Barbarees Hill side that take up most of the ringed area of the land. In the back of that there is a whole line of houses which go up into a place called Thorne's Gap and that line of housing looks out on to the pasture. Further up next to that there is nothing and I am suggesting that it must be a plan of great ingenuity that could provide housing and recreation. Since therefore I believe that the housing will replace the recreation, I am appealing to the Minister to ensure that the covenant that was given to those people by the Government of Barbados is maintained and that nothing is done to deprive those young people of that piece of land on which they will be able to play; ordinary Barbadians at play.

I go further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe it is the duty of the Government to bring the quality of recreational facilities up to the level which we all agree is reasonable in Barbados. If the hon. member who knows much about the Y.M.C.A. looks at the Y.M.C.A. he can see that the Y.M.C.A. is now limited in what it is able to offer. We do not have in this country as yet an area or a stadium or any facility on which they can be proper basketball, proper indoor sports of a certain kind. We all know that. This area provides an opportunity for such a thing to be set down. We have no hard courts in the area, we have no basketball in the area, we have no football

field, we have no cricket field, we have no social centre, we have nothing. We may get through for five more years. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know from time to time you have to battle with the odd person who cannot accept some of these home truths, even when they are not in here, but we may get through five years. Long after I have gone people in that area will condemn us because we had an opportunity to provide them with the kinds of things which the hon. member spoke beautifully of this afternoon, saying that we are supposed to have them. We must not deprive those people of their birthright, and their birthright as far as I am concerned is to share in whatever it is we have in Barbados, however great, however meagre. If we have squash courts they should share in them, if we have hard courts they should share in them, if we have tennis courts they should share in them, whatever it is we have they should share in them, not necessarily equally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they do not have to get one of everything. I have no quarrel with the fact that my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael West, across from me was able to attract some lovely hard courts, I am pleased and happy for the children and young people who live in Deacons Road. It is true they all have to come across to me regularly to get some assistance because they do not see him, but I do not hold that against him, I understand his duties as President of the Party apparently do not allow him to go into the constituency regularly, but that is neither here nor there. I do not envy him those few facilities which he has got. Even you, Sir, I do not envy you the fact that....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must not draw the Chair into the debate. Please stick to the Resolution.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir, the fact that some wonderful roads have suddenly started to appear in the area of the hill going up by where Mr. Patterson — the gentleman who made arrangements with me in this Resolution, Sir — Mr. Patterson lives up there. I think the Deputy Speaker might know where he lives.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. Patterson lives up there, Sir. I think the Deputy Speaker might know where he lives, Sir, but the fact that some new roads have come up there, I have no quarrel with that. All I am saying is, give us a piece of the pie. We have nothing. What we have in Jubilee Gap is a death trap by way of a mosquito breeding ground, so that you feel it should remain so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: If you feel it should remain so well then do not come in here and give people the impression that you are changing the face of Barbados. You are selecting where you are going to change the face of Barbados. I am charging the Government of being

selective with its development policy. I am charging the Government that get in here raising questions about the Democratic Labour Party's commitment on its Auditorium which was built by small people making contributions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. Will the hon. member please stick to the Resolution.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, but Sir, the Hon. Minister threatened to push down the building in George Street. The Minister of Environment said that..... like how housing.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, will the hon. member please stick to the Resolution?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I feel that an exchange of this kind ought to redound.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order. I am not even going to ask the hon. member to withdraw that I said I would push down the building. That is for the *Advocate* to put that Craig said that he would push down the building. That is for you and the *Advocate* and the *Nation*. I would not even ask you to withdraw that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. Please continue with the debate.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are many ways in which you can say things. Sometimes you do not even have to open your mouth. The Singh incident was referred to by the Minister and what happened in the Singh incident is that a man's building got pushed down by a.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please stick to the Resolution.

Mr. TAITT: I am trying my best, Sir, and now you are telling me that you did not say so, threatening to push down that building and.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. The hon. member for St. Michael South West. Order, please. You must not let your emotions carry you away. Stick to the Resolution, please.

Mr. TAITT: As Your Honour wishes, Sir, I was barely making the point that if the Government was to get so drunk as to go out there and push down that, they would see.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: I beg your pardon, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know you do not like this. Mr. Deputy

Speaker, I am trying to get some protection from the hon. member for St. George South.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you would continue with your speech the Chair would give you the protection you require. Please continue.

Mr. TAITT: Do I have to put up with this. Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has the hon. member completed his speech?

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir, far from it. Anyhow, Sir, let me just make the point. It is good that we have a little political by-play and it may seem as if I am merely making a statement because I happen to be the representative of the area. I would like to feel however, that they are hon. members on that side who can recognise that at our age and in our age group we cannot afford to play partisan politics with the lives of the young people of this country. I do not believe that you have to be blatantly partisan to recognise a need when you see one and if you happen to be in a position when that need can be fulfilled, when that hole can be stopped, it is your duty to do it. It cannot be seen in the context of your side and my side. You might not give the people in St. Michael South West as good a facility as you give the people in St. James or St. George South or wherever but it is desirable, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they will be given a facility.

I would like to think that the Minister responsible for Community Development and the Minister responsible for Culture and especially the Minister responsible for the Environment, I would like to think that those three Ministers in that Government share my view that the people of St. Michael West are entitled to good recreational facilities. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for Christ Church.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Wait, I rose first.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I got up to speak a few minutes ago you caught the hon. member's attention from St. Michael South West of which I am very happy about now because I am happy to hear the things that he said. There are certain things about this Resolution or this Bill which is before Parliament which is causing me some concern and to get to the point it says that there is to be a straight exchange of land at Exmouth Gap and Passage Road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no way absolutely no way that land at Exmouth and land at Passage Road can have the same value. This Resolution says the same size. Barbados is a very small country with limited land resources to the Government and this land at Exmouth is prime industrial land and there is no way that this land should be exchanged for land at Passage Road and the last speaker said that it was his Government who started it so they started the error and this one continued with it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of elucidation so that the hon. member would grasp what I said. We discussed and agreed that they would wait until the whole area was completed down there but the question of equivalence would have been in terms of money. This business of an area of land we had nothing to do with it. This is their error, if you call it an error.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, he is a genius at manufacturing and fabricating. He used no such expression in his speech. Now that it has been brought to his attention he would like to change it. He used the expression "exchange".

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the greatest respect, I ask the hon. member to withdraw that. I really do.

Mr. WARD: Withdraw what?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two hon. members cannot be on their feet.

Mr. TAITT: He said that I am a master of fabrications among other things and I.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Both hon. members cannot — will the hon. member for Christ.....

Mr. TAITT: I did not speak of exchange and the records will show that. I do not want to get into that. Now if the hon. member.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ought to be addressing the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. The hon. member said that I am a master of fabrications. I object to that, Sir, and ask that the hon. member under the Standing Orders withdraw that remark.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, ...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a minute, if the Chair can give its Ruling. The context under which the statement was used, I do not think that it is contrary to the Standing Orders. Please continue.

Mr. WARD: Certainly, but you can fabricate.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue.

Mr. WARD: I am continuing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But do not address the hon. member. Address the Chair.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I could have said fabricated. He thought I said fabricating lies. I did not say fabricating lies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue with the debate.

Mr. WARD: I did not say that. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I said, land in Barbados is very limited and if you take land from Brandon to Westbury New Road this becomes some of the most important land in the Deep Water Harbour area for the industrialisation of Barbados for two reasons: (a) Its proximity to the Port and also (b) Its proximity to the water, the ocean as it were.

I am saying this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation would have to put a case for this because if he has not already had applications for industries which need the use of water and also for access of effluent to be disposed of, he will soon have, and therefore this land at Exmouth, this land where the RSPCA, this land right up to the corner of Westbury New Road is of extreme importance to Barbados not to be used for anything else but industrial use. (*Asides*). I am supposed to do it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, is there a quorum in here?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you drawing this to the attention of the Chair?

Mr. WARD: Most definitely. I hear a meeting going on out there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let the bell be rung.

(*The Bell was rung*).

4.30 p.m.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was saying this land at Exmouth — not only from the point of view of evaluation — is not on par with land at Passage Road but also, the Government must retain this land for future industrial use and not for Plantations Limited to put up a warehouse down there to store flour, sugar, peanuts and animal feed. This is industrial land, it must be protected and it must be held in hand for industry and not for warehousing. Whoever negotiated this deal negotiated a

bad deal, the last Government and the present Government. Imagine, you are building houses on land valued at \$12.00 and \$15.00 per square foot because you are exchanging land in Passage Road valued at \$2.50, or \$3.00 per square foot for land at Exmouth valued at \$12.00, or \$15.00 per square foot. So you see what the position is. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will get back to this matter of the land being of prime industrial use, but I would like now to go on to draw attention to what will happen when you exchange land like this.

Earlier today, we had a Resolution before Parliament for the compulsory acquisition of land. We also had recently a case with the Shamrock Trading Company in which they were awarded a tremendous value for land in close proximity to the land at Exmouth. Now, if the land at Passage Road is equal in value to land at the Deep Water Harbour, when they come to value the land at Church Street with a Tribunal and a proper Advocate puts a case, what kind of price is the Government going to pay?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Member is out of order. He cannot refer in this debate, to the Debate on a Resolution which has already passed this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. WARD: Shortly, we will be discussing land in here, this evening, to be on compulsory acquisition. What is going to happen when we accept the value of land in this country in the proportions which we are doing in here today. It is tantamount to building houses on the Deep Water Harbour because you are buying land at the value of land at the Deep Water Harbour to build houses. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you can see the repercussions which this is going to have. Any proper lawyer now, after this has been done, can demand all kinds of prices for Church Street, Chapman Street....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Member is out of order. He is still making reference to a previous Resolution.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, there is more land in Church Street, than that which we purchased today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Hon. Member is referring to land, other than at Passage Road, then, his reference is irrelevant and ought not to form part of the Debate on this Resolution. You must stick to the Resolution in hand.

Mr. WARD: All right Mr. Deputy Speaker. To get back to the matter of prime industrial land. (*Asides: Take your time getting back.*) Let us take for instance, the creation of industries. The Bico Plant has been badly

placed in the Deep Water Harbour and I will explain why. The effluent from the Bico Plant — Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you do not comprehend I cannot understand.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Will the Hon. Member please get on with the Debate.

Mr. WARD: I am referring to the Bico Plant....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. WARD: The effluent from the Bico Plant now has to travel in a southerly direction and come out by Pelican Village. Often, people driving along that road will smell that most distasteful odour which comes, as a result of the water, the effluent forming to the North of Bico, and forming a settlement in that drain. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if Bico had been properly placed, the effluent would have been able to get to the sea with less distance. Therefore, I am saying that the land at Exmouth is prime, industrial land because of its proximity to the water.

If the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation cares to speak, he will tell you that there is now an application for a company to put down a heavy industry in that area but, it needs to be near to the water for the disposal of the effluent. Mr. Deputy Speaker, from Westbury Road to Exmouth Road is prime land. It should be kept and reserved for heavy industries and not be used by General Traders to sell animal feeds. (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. WARD: Once again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is the Hon. Minister's turn to err.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. WARD: General Traders is owned by Plantations Limited. I beg your pardon, you would understand. The General Traders Building, at the corner of Roebuck Street, has been negotiated to be purchased, they are moving from the corner of Roebuck Street down there.

Anyhow, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to get back to this point now. I would just like to say that I am delighted that the former Cabinet is equally responsible for that error, as the present Government, so I will leave that now and you all will sort it out.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of elucidation, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Member has taken his seat. At this point, you cannot elucidate.

Mr. TAITT: Is it too late?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we on this Side, have to explain the facts to all who speak in these Debates.

The question of evaluation of land, is a matter for the experts and the expertise in Barbados, in relation to evaluation has been increased. The physical situation of land is only one factor to be taken into account, in the determination of the value. I believe and I know that, in addition to the physical situation of the land, a very important ingredient in the determination of value is the question of foundations for building and although you may have a piece of land which is ideally situated in relation to the access, its value may be discounted by the fact that it is lacking in foundations, sub-base and therefore, in the determination of the value, one has to take into account, the cost that it will take to place the equivalent building. I believe, that bearing in mind these factors, we have been advised that whereas, Passage Road may not be as well physically situated as the land at Exmouth, the cost of building on Passage Road is considerably less than the cost of building at Exmouth. As a matter of fact, Exmouth can only be built on, if a raft foundation is used, which will involve the placing of many cubic yards, or, cubic meters nowadays, of fill, together with a special arrangement for drainage.
4.40 p.m.

I would also like to mention to all hon. members that a firm called Delcana International did a feasibility study of the area as part of the pre-conditions for the Inter-American Development Bank approving the loan in the Spring Garden area, and they specifically recommended that that part of Spring Garden be used only for light warehousing because of the foundation problems; so that this decision was arrived at not after considerable research, and that is the reason why it is totally unsuitable for industrial development. It has been investigated; the foundations there are not suitable for heavy industrial development; right up I believe to the edge of Mount Gay Building, that area is earmarked and zoned for industrial development. If you want industrial development, you must go on the reclaimed area by the flour mill. Now, Sir, I think that effectively disposes of the question of the comparative value. It is not only the physical situation of the land, you must also take into account the building conditions of the land.

Now, Sir, on the question of playing fields, greenery and things of that kind, the Government had this very

much in mind for the whole of that area. It touches not only the hon. member for St. Michael South West; it also touches the hon. member for St. Michael West and the city of Bridgetown. There is no doubt about it that if you take the area that is ringed by White Park Road up to Bank Hall, through Bank Hall Cross Road, right down to Eagle Hall corner, as a matter of fact, you can go right down to Deacons Road, that is a very highly, intensely developed area from the point of view of buildings. That is a fact. The Government looked at that. Now, Sir, there are three specific areas that the Government has earmarked for greenery and for the addition of facilities. Four as a matter of fact. The Government has granted additional money to Parks and Beaches for the purpose of improving the Trevor's Way. The hon. member does not pass there every day like me, but I would like to assure the hon. member that as a result of the area along Trevor's Way that I see a very thriving softball, netball and football field in that area to the West of Seafoods. You have a right-of-way ticket, and all afternoon it is looked after beautifully. As far as an esplanade is concerned I think it is now developing with the palm trees growing, particularly now that they have extended the greenery right down to the area almost of the Deep Water Harbour entrance, and it is probably one of the loveliest esplanades that we would have in Barbados, and it is developing nicely.

The Deacons Road area hardcourts have been erected. Work has started on the Murphy Pasture area; the sewage scheme has released some more land. Now, Sir, seven acres of land or more are specifically earmarked to the north part of a gentleman called Mr. Pile's Bar. (*Asides*) It doesn't matter which constituency it comes in. The point of the matter is that now that the Spring Garden Road is there with a sidewalk, it is within a quarter of a mile, less than 220 yards. Seven acres of land or more have been earmarked particularly when the houses are moved. The Hon. Minister will tell you. There are a number of houses which have to be moved at the edge of the existing Spring Garden Road, where it stops now, just at the edge of the reclamation. Seven acres of land will be created there, levelled and made into one of the best playing fields in Barbados. It is seven acres which I believe is a very large area; so that with that playing field, with Murphy's pasture, with the hardcourts at Deacons Road, with the greenery along the area, I think that we have gone a long way within the context of the limitations that we had in increasing the facilities in that area. This is a fact. They do not have to go down to Texaco anymore; they will have seven acres in addition to the acres at The Farm and there are over four acres at The Farm in addition, my understanding is that this is five acres. Now I would expect that when you take into account that you have at Passage Road the St. Cecilia and on the opposite side the planners must at least make facilities for a hard court within a five acre complex. It would be impossible to plan that area, even if you put 80

units on the five acres, it would have to be semi-high rise, you have to retain an area for hard courts for your volley ball, for your netball and things of that kind. So within this five acres you are bound to have some recreational facilities.

If you look at the land there is a corner piece between the gas station going towards Eagle Hall that ideally lends itself to that, because I couldn't see a town planner allowing another access on this piece of land on Barbarees Hill because you have the gas station and they would be confused, so therefore the entrance and exit would have to be on the Passage Road side. Now that elongated piece of land.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member would give way, it seems to me that the hon. member has captured and understood precisely the point I was making. It is that area of land where the playing goes on now. We are not saying that you must not do anything with the fringe land that runs out to Passage Road; all we are saying is that in your development plan, save that piece of land where the children now play. That is all we are saying.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You see, the more we elaborate these things, we will see that I myself could not see how you could get town planning permission for an exit along Barbarees Road when you have a corner there, so it is obvious there is a piece of land on Barbarees Road opposite the Church and opposite where Miller's Hide-away was. That piece there would have to be made available for some kind of recreational facilities; but the point is that you could not have a cricket field, but you will be able to have a hard court area to be able to play volley ball, the ladies will be able to play netball, and it looks to me that you could have basketball, and I am positive the Town Planner will take these things into account. It is five acres and in the city of Bridgetown we have got to get accustomed to the fact that for a number of reasons we have to go above two storeys. We are trying at St. Cecilia with four; we are trying to see how the public accepts four storeys in Barbados, but four storeys mean that the more intensive the land, you have to make facilities for hardcourts and things of that kind; so we will have seven acres below, plus the little facility there, plus Murphy's Pasture, plus what we have done at Deacons Road, plus the Harbour Road, and we will have one of the best beach facilities in Barbados, the best window to the sea. I believe the hon. member for St. Michael South West visits his constituents and has already enjoyed the pleasure of the new Spring Garden Road.

4.50 p.m.

I believe that he has visited there at all kinds of hours of the night checking his constituents. It is a lovely view, so therefore when we bear all these things in mind,

this development, it is possible to take all these matters into consideration.

On the question of the solar energy dryer, I was very interested in this concept as Minister of Energy, because I would have thought that if there is one area in which we were very, very good at conserving energy, that is in the area of drying clothes. From the time I knew myself, and I believe from the time there was a Barbados, clothes were always dried by the sun, so I think that this may be an architectural hyperbole. All we may be talking about here is a little paved area exposed to the same sun and probably a little enclosure, and that may be the 1980 concept of a solar dryer. I do not know, Sir, but there obviously could not be any big thing in drying clothes by the sun, because we have always been drying clothes by the sun. (Mr. TAITT: But they have gone out to tender). You put out a building to tender, you do not put out a solar drier to tender, you put out a building to tender, and a building has certain components, so if you have a four storey building you must make provision, — except you want like in some countries where you pass and see in low income housing people have a stick out with the clothes hanging out, like I just saw in Venezuela or you see in New York — We don't want that, we want a nice area where the people do not have to expose certain clothing. You know the ladies are very very particular about exposing their undies for everybody passing the road to see, so let us look at the architectural concept. Obviously within the building there is an area where drying will take place in the same way it has taken place from the time there was a Barbados, that is, exposing to the sun. Now how that is incorporated in the building I do not know because I have not seen the architectural plans, but that is the position.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister has covered quite a bit of the ground which I myself would have replied to the hon. member, but I just would like to get it very very clear. The member for St. Michael South West on the floor of this House today, the 17th June, 1980, has made it very clear that he is not supporting houses being built on 5.42 acres of land at the corner of Passage Road. I just want to get it very clear, you would rather a playing field.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that he can be under no doubt, I have been holding this position for a very long time. On a point of elucidation. I am contending that it is a misuse of that piece of land to put housing on it, except for the extremities along the road. That land has been used as a playing field for a long time by those young people in that basin area, and I am contending,

yes, on this 17th day of June, 1980 on the floor of this House, yes, the answer is yes, 100 times yes.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: So for a woman with seven children, with no roof over her head and nowhere to sleep, the playing field, the recreational facility is a priority, a priority for a woman with seven children with no place to live, with no toilet facilities, no doors on her house, no floor.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, if the Hon. Minister will give way. The density of population in that area is already sufficiently high, it is among the highest in the world.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is completely irrelevant. All I am concerned with is that your priority is that a woman with seven children should not have anywhere to live. It is not your concern, but it is the concern of this Government to make sure that we provide the finest facilities for the people of this country in the field of housing. That is what we are concerned with, and I only hope that I do not hear a change in language. You are not interested in a woman with seven children, with nowhere to live, to put a roof over her head. It is all right to have somewhere to play, but no way are you interested in the building of houses on 5.42 acres of land at Passage Road for humble, simple folk. It is very clear.

Now, Sir, the hon. member said that they started negotiations with Plantations Limited, a Mr. Patterson. What the hon. member went on to say also was that he spoke with Mr. Patterson, but there is nothing on this file which relates to anything coming from the former administration about the land at Passage Road at all. What happened, Sir, is this, the Royal Bank Trust wrote the Government on 21st July, 1976, and they referred to the entire area known as the Grange Tenantry.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that there was an agreement between Plantations Limited and the Government, the Government paid a pepper corn rent, it was an agreement and the then Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Sport, Senator Hunte, he was responsible and an agreement was signed between Plantations Limited and the Government for rent.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: There is nothing on file, no agreement, no pepper corn rent. You may have had a word with Mr. Patterson, there is no agreement.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Cabinet of Barbados agreed upon it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On 21st July, 1976 a letter came from the Royal Bank Trust Company signed by a Mr. E. A. McCollin, the Trust Company Officer, offering that land to the then Government, and it is not seven acres of land, it is 5.32 acres of land, and if you look at the whole Resolution before you, you will see that it is 5.32 acres of land that we are going to exchange and not any seven acres. Perhaps you have another seven acres somewhere else where you have a deal, I do not know, probably with Mr. Patterson and the same people but not on this, because the very Resolution in front of you makes it very clear that it is five acres of land and not seven acres.

The hon. member went on to talk about housing in Passage Gardens. Would you really come in here and have the gall to accuse this Government of not examining that? We have examined Green Field, Passage Garden.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order. I never said anything about housing, I said they refused to do the road because it was in St. Michael South West where they do not have a candidate. That is what I said, they stopped the road from being fixed. It is a fact.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, if I were a member of the Opposition who held office at ministerial level and I had seen the conditions of the people living in Passage Garden I would not come on the floor of the House and ask this Government to look after it. After you spent five years as a Minister courting the constituency, and I heard an interview on television where you were talking about the nice people of St. Michael South West. You knew they were nice and you should have known by then that they should have somewhere good to live. The whole idea behind this complex going there is to make sure that we can move the people from Passage Garden and put them in the nice houses there, and you are saying you don't want us to put up these houses. Is that what you are saying? Are you saying that this Government should not build houses in Passage Road for the people of Passage Garden to live in?
5.00 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South West must please contain yourself.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the whole concept as we have done for example, or as we are doing at Church Village is to move people out from Church Village into areas as we have done at Rosemont, as we have built houses at Wavell Avenue, to move the people from out of the depressed areas such as Greenfield and Passage

Gardens and you are not ashamed to come in here and say that those people should not have good houses? (ASIDES).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. I must draw the attention of the hon. member for St. Michael South West to Standing Order 33.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member for St. Michael South West is asking this Government not to build houses at Passage Road for the people at Passage Garden to go into them and build toilets, put in water and electricity. You do not want them to have those things? I have never heard this in my life. Alright, Sir.

The whole purpose therefore the hon. member contends is that they should have playing facilities. He referred to Alkins United, Passage something, Rovers and those things. I have been in Parliament long before the hon. member and maybe will go out before him. I do not know. I leave this in the hands of the Skipper and not that Skipper. I do not know, but wherever you go, in every single district, in every village, the first thing you hear young people asking for is what about a playing field here, right in their own district.

Now we have to face up to the realities of life. If in every district you have you are going to provide a playing field for every single district, then where are we going? You would want one in Alkins Land, one in Hanschell's Land, one in Jubilee Gap, one in Passage Road because as you said earlier that the people from Passage Road if they are allowed to play in Deacons Road, if you do not run them out of Deacons Road.

We have to face up to the realities of life, if you have a good playing field at Texaco where the Government is going to transfer some of the land that they have at Texaco to Petro Chemicals and use the whole area behind Beach Bath, going down the hill to Brightons, that whole area is going to be a big playing field. You are going to tell me that you would not encourage somebody to walk a mile or ride a bicycle or motor bike a mile to go and play there, rather than putting up houses where you say they should not be put up? I am surprised. A person who speaks of coming from an humble origin. You do not want the people to have houses about there?

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The Hon. Acting Prime Minister covered much of the ground in relation to Solar Energy at St. Cecelia. All that we have done at St. Cecelia is to bring a new concept in Housing. We did not bring the

people to Elizabeth Park or in St. James like my hon. friend or where you are living in Black Rock. Only they should have Solar heating and a swimming pool.

This is a new concept, solar drying. That is all it is. It is something new to you. It is a new concept in housing for the small man and you live in Elizabeth Park.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir. I am only looking in this direction. It would be alright, Mr. Speaker, if it went up in Elizabeth Park but not at St. Cecelia. This is what you have said here this evening. You condemn the solar dryer at St. Cecelia. A new concept. What you would like them to have now is some old tie and a piece of rope tied up outside for them to hang up their clothes on. We do not want that any longer. We want them to be able to dry their clothes inside their houses as you know they do in the States. You know that.

I am very grateful here to the hon. member. The most salient point he has made is that he rejects the idea that Government is building houses at Passage Road and would rather have a playing field. Well, I cannot accommodate that. I can give you that assurance. My duty is to house the people in the very depressed areas and that is what I am going to continue to do as long as I am responsible for Housing.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass and remember very carefully, no housing at Passage Road for you.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY AC-
QUISITION OF LAND SITUATE AT MANGO
LANE IN THE PARISH OF
SAINT PETER**

Item No. 7 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Mango Lane, St. Peter, for the extension of the Alexandra School and for road improvement.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, your interest is in St. Peter but the Minister of Education, I am quite sure, would be able to expand on anything which the people in St. Peter would wish to know about this Resolution. You are well aware of the fact, Sir, that we have to introduce the Resolution. As the Ministry of Housing, we are the executing agencies for all of the Ministries where there is land to be acquired, Sir.

The land is .8283 hectares or 2.047 acres of land to be acquired and, Sir, it is for the extension of the Alexandra School and also for road improvement. This again, Mr. Speaker, is where the Ministry of Education is making sure that they can cope with whatever ills there are in placing children in the society into various schools and it gives me great pleasure in moving this Resolution.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, the Government of Barbados is committed to a policy of promoting co-education in all the schools in Barbados and we have started already in the last two years in making a number of schools co-ed, St. Lucy's Boys' and Girls' Schools, St. Martin's Boys' and Girls' and the Foundations Schools. This year, 1980, Harrison College and the Lodge School will be admitting girls in the first form for the first time. Some time next year, September, next year, Queen's College and hopefully Coleridge and Parry, if we can get the new facilities ready in time, will go co-ed and we hope over a period of many years to gradually phase the co-educational system in this country.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the Government is also committed to providing Universal Secondary Education in Barbados.
5.10 p.m.

We are well on our way. We have constructed for the short time we have been in Government, a new Secondary School, the Roebuck Secondary School for 850 children, the Secondary School at Holetown, the Trents Secondary School for an intake of 1,200 eventually. We have also done many extensions to a number of existing Secondary Schools and only this month, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture moved out of its premises at Crumpton Street and has given, handed over, the facilities there for an extension of Harrison College.

In developing the new places and extensions for these schools, a number of factors must be taken into consideration. One is, that with the small units of the past, such as, at the Alexandra School, it was difficult to work out and carry out a sufficiently wide area of subject offerings to be offered at a modern school. The reason being that the small numbers and the cost of offering a wide array of subjects would mean a limited number of pupils for teachers to work out all the options and it would be a case of high cost and not sufficient returns.

I consider that a reasonable figure for Secondary Schools should be in the region of 850 to 900. These are units that are manageable, they are big enough to offer the various options which I talked about, without being so unwieldy as to make the school unmanageable. It is therefore, in pursuance of this Mr. Deputy Speaker,

that under an agreement with the World Bank, the Government of Barbados has contracted a Loan of over \$20 million to start a project to provide, among other things, extensions to the six Secondary Schools in Barbados and to equip the Secondary School at Trents.

Now, starting this very year, there will be extensions done to the Alexandra School. There is, at the moment, a registration of some 475 children at the Alexandra School and I propose to have the numbers raised to 875, so we must provide facilities for some 400 children more at the Alexandra School. The facilities which we intend to provide include three Science Laboratories, a demonstration Science Room, with tiered seating Sir, an Art Room, a Craft Room, a Social Studies Room, a Commercial Room, a Sewing Room, a Music Room and a number of general classrooms.

We are acquiring the extra land at the North Eastern section of the school Sir, to provide, not only the space for the additional new building but also, to provide playing field facilities for boys. It is well understood Sir, that when you put boys at a school, you must have a cricket pitch and football facilities and therefore, we need more playing area than with a girls' school. With this in mind, I had the officers in my Ministry take a look at the adjacent land at Alexandra School, we have identified this area and we are seeking, by this Resolution, to acquire that area for the additional facilities of which I am speaking. We have been in consultation with the Governing Body of that School and the Headteacher, and we are all agreed on what is best for the school. We would therefore be providing an additional 400 places in the North which will allow large numbers of children who travel from St. Lucy, St. Peter, part of St. Thomas, St. James; to prevent them from doing their daily trekking to Bridgetown and all the attendant problems of transportation and the like. So that, the people in the North, contented by the additional facilities in the North, could be encouraged to send their children to school in that area and while I am on it Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me make it absolutely clear that I am not at all suggesting that additional physical facilities enhance the quality of education in schools and it is precisely for that reason, Sir, that I have had instituted at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, a course in Educational Management and Administration to make it possible for headteachers and senior teachers in the schools to acquire the skills of management in administering fairly large school units. The days when one could consider the running of the schools as just a skill that was acquired by the long years of teaching, are long gone, there is a lot more involved in it than that and it is for this reason, that we are seeking to train our teachers at all levels, to be better equipped to handle these units which we are providing for the people of Barbados.

We have also, Sir, in pursuance of our training, started another course at the University of the West Indies, a Bachelor of Education Course; so again, that we can train senior people in the schools to be better equipped to carry out the jobs which they have to do. Even further than that, under consideration, at this moment Sir, is a major extension to the Erdiston Teachers' Training College which will provide additional facilities; Library Facilities, a Teaching Resource Centre for the trainee teachers at the Teachers' College and moreover, Sir, we will be training an additional 50 per cent at the Erdiston Teachers' Training College, so that we can clear off the backlog of all those untrained teachers at primary schools in Barbados who have been teaching for years and years without formal training. We would now be in a position, over a few, short years, to clear off all the backlog of training at that Institution. But, providing additional facilities at the Teachers' College, like providing additional facilities in the schools, is not enough, so we are doing a comprehensive assessment of the Curriculum at the Teachers' College to see whether it is suitable for the needs of the 1980s.

We are taking a look at the Training of Teachers of technical subjects. I know that the previous administration provided some training for teachers of academic subjects traditionally, Sir, but, in an age when the new technology and the new skills required for industrial and national development, where technical and vocational training is vital to development, it is important that teachers of technical subjects should finally take their proud place in the main-stream of teaching life in this country. We have therefore, instituted, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the short life of this Government, a Training Programme for teachers of technical subjects, between three joint bodies Sir, Erdiston Training College, the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies in Cave Hill which is responsible for its certification.

5.20 p.m.

These are some of the plans that this Government is making to improve the standard of education in this country, to improve the delivery of education in this country, to improve the opportunities of the children in this country for secondary education.

For many decades now, Sir, there has been universal primary education in this country, a fact of which all Barbadians are proud. It would be a matter of extreme pride if within a few short years every single Barbadian child of secondary age is getting quality secondary education. I say "quality", Sir, because every single child under the age of sixteen in Barbados is now receiving education in the educational institutions in Barbados. That was not the case when the Democratic Labour

Party went out of power. Every single child under the age of sixteen is now entitled to and are by and large attending educational institutions in this country. As far as I am concerned, Sir, that is a matter that needs to be promulgated a little bit more because there are still a lot of people in this country who feel that everybody of secondary school age is in school. Why I say "quality" is because I am a little bit concerned about the quality of what is delivered in certain non-governmental institutions in Barbados, and I am working on that.

There is a general responsibility as Minister of Education in this country to superintend all education in this country whether in Government or non-governmental institutions, and I am alarmed at the indifferent way in which non-governmental educational institutions have been neglected in the past. One of the first acts I took as Minister of Education in 1976 was to return to school all the children under the age of sixteen that the Democratic Labour Party had uncere- moniously kicked out of school with no regard as to what would happen in this situation. That was in October 1976, because as I got around this country I saw despair and concern of the parents and children at the fact that fourteen year olds who were thirsty for education were being put out of school by the previous administration.

What I have also done too, Mr. Speaker, in giving assistance to the non-governmental secondary institutions was within a year of being in the Ministry of Education to make it quite clear to the Minister of Finance that the children who went to the small private school around Bridgetown were the children of the poorest people in this country and that they were the ones who were paying school fees, pretty high ones at that, and that people who were far better off were going to school free, and that I wanted immediate assistance to all those children, and the result was that there was a 50% increase in the money that was given to the parents of those children as bursaries. In addition to that, Sir, to assist them in getting a better quality of education in those institutions, I impressed on the Minister of Finance the need to give greater subventions to approved private secondary schools so that they would be able to provide the hardware for the non-literary type of education. To teach science, or technical subjects of home economics or commercial subjects require hardware, where you need stoves or refrigerators in a domestic science class, you need tools in a woodwork class, you need typewriters in a commercial class, you need test tubes and all the other paraphernalia that they use in science classes, and these cost money and I had to tell my colleagues that, so that the children in those approved secondary schools that were not getting the benefit of these things because of the high cost that fell on the proprietors of those schools, the Government should raise the subventions to those schools for those particular studies, and Mr.

Speaker, subventions were increased in some cases by as much as 50%.

Back to the Alexandra School, Mr. Speaker, the Alexandra School has had an extremely proud record of achievement over the years it has been existing in Barbados, and it has done a great deal of credit to the northern parishes and has produced in this community a number of outstanding women in many fields of endeavour, and I want, Mr. Speaker, at this point to pay tribute to all those people who over the years have done so much through their time, through their efforts and through their money to make the record at Alexandra School what it is.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this year the Headteacher of that School, Miss Sheila Ward, who has spent almost literally her whole life at that school retires. She went to school at Alexandra and when she left school she taught at that school from the time she left school until today, and she would have completed 50 years at that school. That is a remarkable achievement for anyone and we on this side on behalf of all the people of Barbados take this opportunity to thank Miss Ward for her outstanding performance to the Alexandra School in particular and to education in Barbados in general, and I hope, Sir, and I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, as a representative of that parish in which that school resides, would like to be associated with our remarks that Miss Ward will have a very rewarding and interesting period of retirement. I, Mr. Speaker, above most things that come before this House have tremendous pleasure in being able to support a Resolution that is going to give a little bit more to Alexandra School to help it along the road to maintaining what it has achieved for most of this century.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am not the spokesman for education on this side. The hon. member for St. Lucy who is quite an expert in these areas is out of the country, so I will attempt to make some reply on behalf of the Opposition to this particular matter, and I would like to start, Mr. Speaker, where the Minister left off and perhaps say some of the things that he did not say, and that is, I would wish to make it quite clear that this must be a moment of satisfaction to you as a representative for St. Peter to note this particular expansion that will be taking place in your constituency.
5.30 p.m.

I do not know why the Minister held back in extending some praise to you for the work that you have done in that parish over the years. (Hon. L. R. TULL: I will do that at Mile-and-a-Quarter, not in here). He was not very fulsome on this occasion and I know that you cannot participate in this debate and I would like to pay a tribute.....

Mr. SPEAKER: My only participation is that I am part of the extension at Alexandra.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Right, right, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope that the Minister of Education would realise that and say it. It is said, Mr. Speaker, that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and if I did not know a little about the educational development in this country I would certainly say that the Minister of Education is a fervent admirer of the educational policies of what he terms the previous administration, because whatever he enunciated here, most of the things that he enunciated here this afternoon is a glowing tribute to the soundness of the educational policies pursued by the Democratic Labour Party administration ever since it took over the Government in 1961.

I will join with him in extending a tribute to the Headmistress of the Alexandra School, Miss Sheila Ward, who has made a magnificent contribution to educational development at that particular school and generally to the economic development of the country. I would join also in that tribute the several persons who have served and are serving as Governors of that particular school. I am unable, by reasons of protocol, to mention certain names because I see some of them in this Chamber here today, but they know to whom I am referring, and all the many persons who over the years have made a contribution to that school.

Expansion of secondary education in this country is not a new thing. I am glad that the present administration found it possible after some difficulty — I do not know what was the nature of the difficulty — in appointing the same Miss Ward as Headmistress of a school when apparently they did not wish to appoint her at the start, but he could issue some fulsome praise now.

Hon. L. R. TULL: On a point of order, Sir. I wish the hon. member, who knows so much better, would not get up and make these nasty remarks that do not reflect on me but on the lady. The Governing Body appoints the Head Teacher, not the Minister, and he knows that.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I know when you make your remarks you remain.....I was quite calm and I will proceed in that calm way, and whatever I say can be verified from the record, and if I say anything that is not correct you can make it correct. I said the present administration, if you are upset by that, well, you can do what you like about it, but in here I speak as my conscience dictates and as the record states.

As far as the development and expansion of the Alexandra School is concerned, you would believe, hearing the Minister, that this is the first occasion on which that school has been expanded. There have been several

expansions at that school before, there have been expansions at Harrison College before, there have been expansions at the Lodge School, there have been expansions at the Coleridge Parry School before, there have been expansions at the Alleyne School before, and so in order to get the record straight and to underline the fact that educational development in this country is a continuous process, not something that started in 1976, it is a continuous process, and nothing that is said by the present Minister will erase the fact that major educational developments have taken place and that he is following in that particular pattern. I believe that is the problem he may be having. He comes up and makes the point about co-education as though it is the policy which he invented. I would say that co-education at the secondary level has been going on for some time, even at the school which we had — I do not know if to say the good fortune but to me it was the good fortune and I am not certain what is his position — but (Hon. L. R. TULL: I did not go to Coleridge Parry). You would have been more intelligent if you had gone to school down there, like myself and the Speaker, or if you had gone to the Parry School in the North.

I think you will recall, Mr. Speaker, in 1975 when the policy was enunciated quite clearly in this Hon. Chamber. I believe you were on this side of this Chamber at that time, you now preside over us having been elevated to the Speaker's Chair. We said that co-education was the policy for education in this country and the direction in which education should go, and we started with the Combermere School and we said that other schools would follow. That is all that is happening. We made the first step to ensure that the buildings at the Ministry of Agriculture at Crumpton Street would be available for a further expansion of Harrison College. The Minister says they will be taking in a new stream, later this year additional pupils. We welcome that development because it is part of the development envisaged and indicated by the previous administration, not so much because it was indicated and initiated by us, but because we believe that it is in the best interest of the development of that particular school.

What more is there to say? Mr. Speaker, I really do not wish to go into all of these matters, but as far as the subventions to schools are concerned, it is well known that it was the Democratic Labour Party, the previous administration, not even myself but a previous Minister, Mr. Cameron Tudor, who devised a regime of assistance for the private secondary schools in this country, giving them subventions for the very areas that the Minister of Education is talking about. But these are the things he must say. I regret that he spoilt what started out as being a sound speech by trying to make some cheap political points, but he should realise that he is above that, he does not have to scramble around for votes, or perhaps he

sees the writing on the wall, I do not know. Maybe he sees the writing on the wall and he is feeling a little insecure now, but all he has to do is to ask the member for St. James and the member for St. Peter to come up and give him a little help and things might be all right, but we will see. He does not have to come and make that type of political statement, for what purpose? To what end? The result of what he says may be a distortion of the record, because it is well known in the annals of education of this country that the regime for assistance to approve secondary schools, the private secondary schools, was initiated and developed by the previous administration, and if he has to increase the subventions as he would have to, because his Government has imposed on this country such a crippling rate of inflation which they cannot control now, that the cost of everything has spiralled.

5.40 p.m.

What he should direct his attention to are the words of his Minister of Finance and Prime Minister that the parents of this country with children going into Secondary Schools would be given their uniforms. I do not remember what is the formula that was set out but children are now preparing to go into Secondary Schools.

Mr. Speaker, I have a daughter who will be going into Secondary School but I am not speaking for myself. I am speaking about those children who would be admitted to Secondary Schools in accordance with the Budgetary Proposals who want to know about the implementation of those proposals. This is the time when parents want to hear about it and you should get up and tell the people of this country what are the arrangements for raising the assistance of uniforms and other assistance for many children going into school.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the hon. member.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister has already made his contribution.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The hon. member has raised the point.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite agree but the Hon. Minister must find ways and means of being able to.....

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I am not anxious to reply. If you rule, that is it.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I can only conclude, Mr. Speaker, or assume that he probably does not know how to reply because you have given him every opportunity. He only had to say a little word "elucidation" or "explanation" or something like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister can only rise on a point of order.

Hon. L. R. TULL: On a point of order. I cannot elucidate something I did not say. I made no reference to the uniforms and money so I cannot get up and elucidate that. I understand the English Language.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I cannot understand you, though.

Mr. Speaker, that is what the people want to hear about. A clear statement from the Minister of Education now to those parents. They are in St. James. They are in St. George South, St. Michael North East. They are in St. Michael West and St. George North. These are the parents who want to hear about these matters and I daresay in St. Peter as well. They want to hear about these things and not one word.

I can go through item by item. This expansion at the Alexandra School is welcomed. Those who have to administer that School would welcome this expansion which is envisaged in the acquisition Resolution that is before us. Those who have the interest of the educational system at heart would welcome that particular development but we have to tell the Minister of Education from this side that the matter of expansion in Secondary Education started long before you became Minister of Education and long before I came into politics. (*Asides*). That is why we wish to get the record quite straight and so when you get up and say that you had to send back into school children kicked out by a previous administration all of them at that age, even the majority of children 14 years and over were sent out of school under the first Barbados Labour Party which ruled this country from the late 1940's, 1948 or thereabouts until 1951. It was the first Labour Party Administration.

There were no provisions for those children you are talking about and it was the School Building Programme initiated by the Democratic Labour Party, first of all under the former Minister of Education, Cameron Tudor, all of the schools that started carrying children all up to the fifth form meant that they were a larger number of children remaining in schools than pertained before. Each new school that we built meant that children were remaining in schools beyond the age of 14 and we approached it on a gradual basis and on the basis of what the resources of this country could afford.

We did not have any large loans from any World Bank. It was the resources from the people of Barbados. The savings of the people of Barbados which expanded those Secondary Schools to which I made reference. It also constructed schools like the Ellerslie School, like the Springer Memorial School, like the St. George Secondary School, like the St. Lucy Secondary School, like the

Garrison Secondary School. All of those came out of the resources and savings of the people of this country without the benefit of a long term loan from a Lending Agency like the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development better known as the World Bank and with each one of those new schools that we put up and with each new extension at Secondary Schools like Queen's College, Harrison College, and the Lodge School, just to name a few, with each new extension, more and more children remained in school after 14 years old so the Minister has now come at the tail end of a process when the runs had almost been knocked off, like Desmond Haynes got a run out in that First Test Match, victory in sight, the victory of the people in Barbados to achieve, and to build on what previous administrations in foundations laid before, including the first Barbados Labour Party Administration, to provide universal Primary Education. We were able then to provide virtually universal Secondary Education and you have come at the tail end of that particular process. (*Asides*).

I am not saying he is nothing. I believe he has a little something in him, more than anybody else on that front bench over there. I believe so. I believe he has something in him but I do not think that the people of St. George South would recognise that at this time. So, Mr. Speaker, that is at the tail end of the operation and if after almost four years in Government all he can boast about is that he sent back 14 year old children back to school — some of them have to drive down to that school which we are talking about now. You had a large number coming from St. George down to Alexandra School but they are not transporting children over long distances but I am told that a large number of children had to drive from St. George. I do not know if it was St. George North or South, to continue their education down at Alexandra School (*Asides*).

I am not talking about the School Meals Workers. These are developments which are welcomed in the interest of Education in this country but when I get into these debates I am interested in ensuring that the educational development, those areas in which the Democratic Labour Party worked so hard for the people of this country, do not go off the rails as they are going off now in the City and in St. Michael because when in an aside, I am not certain you did hear, Mr. Speaker, I asked why the Minister of Education was not in this thing called The Educational Priorities and Planning Commission or whatever it is called. The first time that, this House, as far as I can recall, has been told formally about the existence of that particular body. We knew about a Central Planning Committee, but I have heard something about Priorities and Planning and I quite frankly was at a loss as to what that is.

5.50 p.m.

The Hon. Minister of Education does not have any play in there, he must realise now that he is not in their second eleven. What has happened now because of the dominant position of the Hon. Minister of.. (*Asides*). I cannot ask you about the Hon. Member for St. James, I cannot even ask the Hon. Member for St. George South. The Hon. Minister, the Hon. Member for St. James, because of his dominance, or, predominance in the Cabinet, it is not Harrison College that does it, it is power, this is power in the Cabinet. You see, when he speaks, the others have to listen and ask what is his view and if he says that it is a housing development at Ferniehurst, it is a housing development at Ferniehurst, no more school there, you have to take second place, you will hear about it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Are you speaking on the Educational development at Alexandra?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes. You know, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is all inter-connected. It is a housing development at Ferniehurst. Little does it matter to the Government, that the secondary schools in that vicinity are overcrowded, but you put in more children in the area, in a school situation that is already overcrowded. Not a word of protest from the Hon. Minister of Education, even though the plans of the Ministry of Housing and the plans of the Ministry of Education are obviously not meshing, they are contradictory, they are conflicting, head-on clash.

Now, today, or last week, we heard about a development at St. Cecelia. More housing in the City in a situation in which the schools in the area are already overcrowded. So, we have Ferniehurst, more houses, more children, but, educational facilities already overcrowded. On top of that now, we have St. Cecelia.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are not reflecting on the St. Cecelia?

Mr. SANDIFORD: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not reflecting on it at all. It was a decision of this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Of which you form part.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Of which I form part. But, it creates problems for the schools Sir. Houses at Passage Road with Solar Dryers, like New York. (*ASIDE: Swimming pools.*) That is the situation which we are having.

Mr. Speaker, it has been cleared for a long time, that there was need for expansion in the Secondary School system and that was the path that we were on.

As far as the training of teachers for Secondary Schools is concerned in educational administration and so on, you heard him. A new thing unfolded here today. It was unveiled, a programme involving Erdiston, the Barbados Community College and Certification by the University of the West Indies.

There has been an Erdiston, Community College Programme set out before. (ASIDE: For what?) I would like to call upon these Hon. Members of Government, I would exclude the Hon. Member for Christ Church South Central because he has learnt his lesson already. I had to give him a rhetorical lashing in here already and ever since then, he is very careful to set out a background. He has learnt. A solid Hon. Minister over there. (ASIDE: Make the point about Erdiston and let me come for you.) That was a programme before then and as far as looking at the Curriculum of Erdiston is concerned, that is one of the responsibilities set out for the Board of Management of Erdiston.....

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. The Hon. Member is misguided if he thinks that the Teacher Training for teachers of technical subjects which has a tripartite organisation between the Teachers' Training College, the Community College and the University started while the Democratic Labour Party was in power. In fact, it started in 1977. If you do not know, do not say these things.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Alright, you must tell us the difference, but what I know is that there was a programme in place. You must tell us what started in 1977 and tell this country that it has been in the educational plans that technical teachers should be provided for the school system in large measure, by local training and that this involved Erdiston Teachers' College and it involved the Barbados Community College.

Educational Administration, these are developments. I myself, was a member of the Council of the University of the West Indies and of the Planning Bodies of the University of the West Indies Joint Committee of Council and Senate and different Bodies which considered from way back in the early 70s, the establishment of a Bachelor of Education Programme. (ASIDE: It started in 1978.) We know how things go in the University. They take a long time to come to fruition. The University is sometimes like a snail, things take a very long time to jell in that particular institution. The only thing which comes to fruition quickly in that Institution apparently, is strikes. So what we are seeing now, is the end of the road of a long process of gestation. These are the things which you must come and tell the country.

I regret, you were making a reasonable speech but, as soon as you went off to make political points, you got into waters that were too deep for you. Do not tangle with them.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to make one point in relation to a point made by the last Hon. Member because I do not think that we should leave the impression that his speech may have created, questions left unanswered. He was talking about the question of the building of more houses in the City area and the consequential pressure on the Secondary Schools and the Primary Schools in the City area. I would like to point out Sir, that a very careful analysis has been done as to the origin of the pupils who occupy places in Secondary Schools in Barbados and it is clear that with respect to the City, or in the City schools, or the schools in St. Michael that some 70 per cent of the children who are in those schools do not live within that area.

6.00 p.m.

It is precisely for this reason that the Ministry of Education is embarking upon the programme of expanding schools in areas other than St. Michael, hence this Resolution for Alexandra School; hence the decision to expand West St. Joseph, the decision to build a new school at Wotton and in other areas. I think that the point should be noticed very clearly that this comprehensive planning in relation to educational opportunities is part and parcel of the implementation of a manifesto promise of the Barbados Labour Party that we would like to see the massive problems of dislocation arising from the need and necessity to transport thousands of children daily, taking up I believe some seventy-seven units every day in school terms greatly reduced. As Minister of Energy I am also interested in the fact that when we came into power in 1976 a barrel of oil was costing \$US9; the latest price is \$US28, three times as much, and I would like to compliment the Ministry of Education on the comprehensive planning that they are undertaking to ensure that educational opportunities of an equal stand are being provided in areas other than St. Michael; so I do not think the hon. member for St. Michael South should try to convey the impression that there is a lack of planning in expanding housing in the inner City because you would create more pressure. He really does not take into account the fact that the pressure on these schools in the inner City does not arise from the fact that the people who live in the City go to those schools; it arises from the fact that people who live outside the City go to those schools, so when we pass this Resolution to expand the places outside of the City, we will be thereby relieving places in the City for those people and at the same time achieving our objectives of bringing the schools to the people. I think I should make that very clear because I do not want the wrong impression to remain.

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

RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE LAND AT COUNTRY ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 8 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Country Road, St. Michael, for construction of a Family Court and other facilities for the Probation Office.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution before the House for the purpose of acquiring another area of land on this occasion at Country Road, St. Michael. The land is some 1375.15 square metres and is being acquired for the purpose of constructing a Family Court and other facilities for the Probation Office. This of course, Mr. Speaker, is a matter which the Ministry of Labour and Community Services would have great interest in.

As I understand it, they are preparing to make sure they have better facilities in the area close to the old age pensioners office in Country Road, and they would have to acquire this land. We have sent out the necessary acquisition notices, there seems to be agreement between the parties involved up to a point, but the problem is that of a Millicent Payne and the other portion is that of a Miss Albertha Boxill. The valuation from the Commissioner of Valuations is something like \$38,000 for one piece and \$8,618 for the other piece.

Mr. Speaker, there is not much I can say about this Resolution since it is only the duty of National Housing to carry out the acquisition and bring it before Parliament.

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the Resolution. This Resolution envisages the acquisition of land at Country Road for the provision of a Family Court. Any practising legal practitioner can attest to the increasing importance of family law in this country. At the moment family law is dispensed in all the magistrates' courts and in all the Supreme Courts, and the volume of family related matters in all the Magistrates' Courts has been increasing at a tremendous pace over the last decade or so. There is no doubt that it is now a specialty that requires specialist treatment by specialist practitioners.

A family court in Barbados will deal with all the matrimonial causes, all the affiliation proceedings and will bring a coherence to the delivery of justice in matrimonial matters in a way that it cannot now exist because of the various courts in which it is dispensed. It is a

matter of serious concern where lawyers who operate as magistrates without any special training in family law dispense justice that is not based strictly on law but on an understanding of human beings, of family and the society. The establishment of a family court therefore is a revolution in the social thinking of this country and can result by careless handling in a lot of distress among families, unmarried mothers who bring cases in court and affiliation proceedings and the like. What I would like to see, Sir, is a senior person properly trained in the principles and experience of family law with all the associated disciplines, social psychology, psychology and so on who would be put in charge of that court and would bring to bear the experience of a social discipline and a profound knowledge of law in meeting the day to day proceedings that are brought before many magistrates' courts in this country. I think that this establishment of a family court is an important breakthrough and I hope that it will succeed in making life more tolerable for the hordes of people in this country who have to come into contact with this process.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHURCH VILLAGE, ST. MICHAEL

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, there is very little I can say on this, this takes the same pattern as the former acquisitions. It is for the redevelopment of the Church Village area. I am quite sure that members spoke at length on the first Resolution before the House and I would hardly see any need to say much more on Church Village and this acquisition.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with acquisitions of parcels of land at Church Village, and I believe the Minister did indicate to me when I raised questions earlier that there was another Resolution which the questions I raised were more pertinent to and we have now reached that Resolution.

I wish to know what discussions have been entered into with the owners or occupiers of the premises at Church Village which are being acquired in terms of satisfying them in respect of their on-going businesses. I would like to know what are the reasons and purposes for this particular acquisition. We have been told that the previous acquisition was specifically in respect of the Cen-

tral Bank and an auditorium which would span Queens Park — I believe words to that effect were used — and we would like to hear specifically how this additional acquisition tie into that particular area. Is it that the Central Bank would be occupying the whole of the premises? I think the people of this country are entitled to know because this is a substantial piece of real property in the City. There are people who have carried on businesses on those premises, some of them for over 60 years, and I want to hear something about the cost that it is envisaged to pay for these parcels of land. I am not going to make any mention or reference to any member in this Chamber or anything like that. We would certainly like to know if all the buildings are to be acquired, that is, bounded by Church Street itself, Roebuck Street and Crumpton Street. We would like some clarification on this because at one stage there was some proposal and I believe there were notices published in the newspaper about acquiring that whole area encompassed by those roads. I understand that there was some change in plan after that but I think the people of this country are entitled to know, because these are the things which add uncertainty in the lives of people and you never know what stresses and strains are put on the people.

I say no more at this stage, I leave it general like that, and I believe that the Minister or Ministers will honour their previous commitments to supply the relevant information.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to interfere with the province of the Hon. Minister who is responsible for this acquisition, but I just want to say that I am positive that if the hon. member had read the Resolution very carefully he would have seen the names as set out in the Schedule. Elizabeth Straker, Frederick Springer, Carmen Beckles, Julia Barrow, deceased, Cottle Catford, Frederick Lovell, Aubrey Lynch, deceased, Cottle Catford, George Chapman, deceased, Irene Murrell, Olga Douglas, Albertha Jackman, Marjorie Manning, James Payne, Clifford Jones, Sidney King, Vincent Branch, Adora Pollard, Carrington and Sealy and Khubchand Kamani.

Now there is no Forde at the corner of Crumpton Street, there is no Rus-In-Urbe, there is no West Indian Supplies, in short there is a little side road. If you know where the Strakers' house is where the 90 year old gentleman used to live, just past Rollock's Drug Store; Garnet Street is the boundary. The Government could not afford the acquisition of the other street, but having the plan, when you clear that area you will be able then to widen the whole of Garnet Street and connect it back up with Roebuck Street, and then you will have a lovely inner area there, and the little piece of Crumpton Street nobody is on at the moment, it is just a little "V" piece, and I remember telling the hon. member that there is the

question of the removal of the wall and bringing it in more so that you would have sidewalks on both sides, so that there is no need for us to acquire Crumpton Street, no West Indian Supplies, no Dr. Ramsey, no Mr. Forde, none of those, the point is you can make Garnet Street wider when you clear there. Now the only two businesses I know in there is a rum shop at the corner opposite Dr. Payne's place, there is somebody else inside, a fish cake shop, and an undertaker. As I explained to the hon. member already, I believe that provisions have been made the undertaker has gone the other side already, he has his reception area there already, so that there are very few businesses you are talking about. The Sanitation trucks have gone too, we are not interfering with the front of Roebuck Street going that side, we will be widening Garnet Street and the other street in there the name of which I have forgotten. It has been paved and if you go right through you will be able to come back through just where an "O" Level Institute or something like that is, and there will be a little piece of Crumpton Street where there are no buildings. The Hon. Minister will explain that to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other member who wants to exercise his right by way of making a contribution? The Minister may wind up.
6.20 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am so happy to know that I am the type of person, not a Minister, who moves around at all times at all levels. From the Acting Leader of the Opposition, the Physician Specialist at Delaware Clinic, Mr. Straker, you name it and even tall John who has his business in Garnett Street and who is a supporter of your Party. There is no problem about dislocating people and so on.

The whole idea, as you know, that inside of Garnett Street, inside there, that is where we are really concerned about, where you have all of those older houses of which, I am subject to correction, but of which 70% of them are owned by landlords who even refuse to repair those houses. They cannot even be removed, they are so bad, approximately 70% of them.

I believe what has really concerned a lot of people is that they saw a number of names in the *Advocate* such as Courtney Forde, Frank Ramsey, Dear's Garage, West Indian Suppliers, and I had the calls, too. We have not even mentioned a single word to them, yet you are seeing these names appearing in the Papers. This was because the Surveyors put in the whole area. The Surveyors surveyed the whole area. That is what they consider as the Church Village area.

The names of the people who are not going to be affected, for example — we do not want Mr. Straker's

place, or Fredrick Springer, or West Indian Suppliers. We are not interested in them. We have the names here, West Indian Suppliers, Gertrude FitzPatrick, Christina Cummings, Dr. Ramsey and Helen Ward. I do not know if Miss Lowe is your Godmother and was planning to leave something for you. I said I do not know.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know you are addressing the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, and I know the Acting Leader of the Opposition would know what took place and what he had coming to him. I am not sure that it is Miss Lowe who is your Godmother. I am not sure. However, Sir, Germaine Springer, Walter Beckles, FitzHerbert Estwick, the man that has the

Mr. SPEAKER: He now has the Foundry.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: He now has a Foundry, Sir. Una Carew and Wilber King. All of these people here. Cottle Catford, Rupert Dear in Roebuck Street, I had a call from the Managing Director from Dears Garage who want to know how much we planned to pay for Dear's Garage because they saw it in the newspapers.

I would just like to put the hon. member at ease that there will be no dislocation where these people are concerned and you will appreciate also that since you have to negotiate with people...*(Asides)*. No, he is not there now. He has gone somewhere else. That is now Mandeville and Company, if I am not mistaken. Since this Government came into power he is selling more books, Sir. He is expanding his business.

The hon. member can have no fear. He will appreciate that since we have to negotiate with people, I cannot tell you what prices we are paying for them because we are still negotiating but the Acquisition Act is of such that as soon as you publish the notices you can acquire. We have to do this rather than negotiating with the people as you know what happened with Sion Hill. You negotiated with Sion Hill, acquired the people's land and we had to come in 1976 and pay so that is all that is going on out there.

We acquired this land out there for the purpose of getting on with the programme. Do not get worried about it. It is for the people of Barbados provided for them by this Government but I cannot tell you the figure that the acquisitions would cost at this stage. Since they are still negotiating. There are people who are deceased. They have to get their Attorneys overseas, all of these things but I know your biggest concern that they are a number of people where your bookstore was. They are a bit concerned seeing the notice in the paper. Not your bookstore.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. The hon. member may be misleading this Honourable House. I have no bookstore and I have no Godmother in the area that the Hon. member is referring to. He said he did not know. I am putting him at ease now. I have no Godmother in that particular area or no land or any other bequest to come to me in that particular area.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Lou is not your Godmother? Aunt Lou is not your Godmother? Alright, Sir, we will discuss that outside. I know your big interest in this. You drop your cup of tea to run in here for this. We are not taking away anybody's land. We are giving everybody a fair, good deal. Do not get worried.

Yes, Sir, we are more or less concerned with inside the area where the houses are. I cannot tell you the price of the land because we are still negotiating. That is as much as I can say on this Resolution. We have sent out the notices. Where they were a number of names that had caused people concern we have rectified that error in the papers and the names which have just gone out are the ones which we have no interest in, Sir.

I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that this Resolution do now pass and that the Acting Leader of the Opposition and I can have a cup of tea and discuss the Godmother point outside. You know what I am talking about, Sir.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

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

Order No. 10 was called – To move the passing of the 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 all the purposes of Industrial Development, Export Promotion and Vocational and Management Training.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Resolution seeks Parliamentary approval for an Agreement entered into by the Government of Barbados with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, otherwise known as the World Bank whereby various Agencies of Government with the guarantee of the Government of Barbados are borrowing money for disbursement by the Executive Agencies of the Industrial

Development Corporation, the Barbados Development Bank, Export Promotion Corporation and for the provision of funds for the expansion of BIMAP to create more classrooms and for funds to hand over to the National Training Board for the commencement of the Apprenticeship Training Scheme. Some of this money will also be spent on the Skills Training Programme although that is a small part of it.

As hon. members are aware, one of the prides of this Administration has been that since we have been in power more and more funds have been made available directly through Government Institutions and indirectly through Commercial Institutions by way of persuasion and exhortation to new areas of development whether they be industrial, semi-industrial or otherwise.

6.30 p.m.

The Barbados Industrial Development Corporation has a record in the course of the last three years of which all Barbadians should be justly proud, published very early, in this regime, a programme, containing certain objectives which it hoped to achieve by way of the diversification of the type of industry which we have, as well as, the creation of job opportunities, as well as, and this is very important Mr. Speaker, for, to me, it is the realisation of an idea which I have been propounding in the 20 years that I have been in politics which was embodied in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party as long ago as 1966, namely, the concept of decentralising employment job opportunities in Barbados in areas other than St. Michael and Christ Church. Now, the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation would have these figures more readily at hand than I have, but I know, that I believe that we have been approving industries at the rate of 20 per year, in other words, we have approved 60 and what is more, job opportunities that have actually been created, net job opportunities have exceeded the target set out in the Industrial Development Corporation's Plan. I am talking about net job opportunities. I have given a very clear instruction and I know that the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation is of the same view in this respect, that when we ask for job opportunities created in the fiscal period, we are talking about net job opportunities not gross job opportunities.

I believe that the competence of the Industrial Development Corporation in the administration of previous Loans from the Caribbean Development Bank and from the Government so impressed the World Bank, that there was no difficulty in persuading them that the Caribbean Development Bank's values had been exhausted, that there was need for replenishment from another multi-national Institution and when I say I believe, I know it to be so, because I have been told so.

Now, Sir, in respect of Export Promotion, this is a young Organisation and we have very clearly identified the path which we would like to see it go and a very small proportion of this money will be going purely to the area of market research in foreign markets which is necessary to be undertaken, market research in the foreign markets — looking for a little niche that we can fit in.

In respect of the Development Bank, the Development Bank in the last three years has had a Record of disbursements and contrary to popular belief, the percentage of its lending in areas other than Tourism, has increased more in the last three years, than it had previously. I have checked that, and I know that there have been more small businesses who have been the recipients of loans from the Barbados Development Bank in the last three years, than ever before, and I want to say something too on this. The Government has concluded, and Cabinet has approved a Comprehensive Plan for small business development. This Plan, has in fact, been in operation but, there has been a difficulty in getting agencies who are the Executive Agencies to implement Government's Plan in selling this to small businesses.

Now, the Export Insurance, the Discounting Facilities of the Central Bank, the Export Credit Guarantee are all creatures of this Government and some of the chief beneficiaries of that Scheme have been small businesses. In addition to that, the Industrial Development Corporation, as the Chairman will tell you, created special officers to deal specifically with the problem of small businesses to help them to get finance from the Development Bank, or, from the Commercial Banks and I want to say this, that it is very wrong for anyone to convey the impression that the totality of assistance to small businessmen by way of finance, comes only via the Development Bank because the Commercial Banks also lend money to small businesses, particularly the Barbados National Bank. Also, a large part of business finance comes by way of the buying of machinery and it is not the Commercial Banks who do that, it is the Finance Houses, who do that.

Now, when I recall, early in our days in Cabinet, the difficulties that small businessmen used to face because of the legal mumbo jumbo that surrounded security to be given to the Development Bank, particularly if they were incorporated. When I recall how easy we disentangled that by simply coming to this Hon. House and amending the Law in relation to Bills of Sale, and Hon. Members on that Side concurred in it, so that the company could grant a Bill of Sale on a specific piece of equipment, segregated from all the other assets, so that if a small man went bum, the particular piece of equipment would be security to the Bank to the extent that they will collect on that. Well, if you do not understand what

is meant by a small man going bum, I am sorry for the Hon. Member. It is a good thing he is not a bank officer who will disburse money, of which he is a Trustee and does not know what is the meaning to that. We amended the Law to remove that legal constraint and it has facilitated the amount of Loans, not only for the Development Bank but for the Commercial Banks.

Now, Sir, I am particularly pleased, very pleased and I know Sir, that it will please you too Sir, as Speaker and as Representative of St. Peter to know that the first new industrial estate which will be built, will be built at Colleton in St. Peter outside of Six Mens. The World Bank was made aware of the fact that St. Peter, St. Lucy, the North, had to have an industrial estate. 6.40 p.m.

All the studies demonstrate and show that it would be wise to carry out that scheme. I am told, Sir, that an area of land has been identified, 14 acres. Negotiations have started and by the passage of this Resolution the wherewithal would be there to pay for it, there would be no constraint except town planning. The area of land bordering St. Lucy and St. Peter, the dividing line going up the hill by Colleton, swing left to go to Half Moon Fort and you go the other side and before you get there you go up Retreat where there is a nice gently undulating piece of land which befits the north. So when I see, Sir, that we have that, we have the development of the hotel, we have the clinic, we have the area earmarked for housing, we have the fishing scheme, I believe that Speightstown and St. Peter and the north of Barbados can feel very proud of the fact that there is only one stray bird in the team in that area that comes from St. Lucy.

Of course some of this money will also go to further the development in St. Philip. Some will go to expand further the industrial area at the Grantley Adams Airport, some will also go to complete just one of two factories that are left in Newton. I believe Newton is filled now, the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation will tell you. As I understand it, there are 30 odd applications for factories to I.D.C. Obviously we would like to satisfy all thirty but the point of the matter is that they cannot all be satisfied within a year, but we hope that within two or three years this programme will suffer the same fate as the C.D.B. programme that is, that before the time has come for the expiry of the projected period of the programme, the money would have been used up, the factories would have been built and jobs would have been created and we would be having to look for more money.

Mr. Speaker, on the vocational programme, the National Training Board is an institution which has been created to complement the efforts of the Ministry of

Education in institutional training and the Ministry of Community Development in non-institutional training. I believe that it is a matter of pride to all Barbadians that the Skills Training Programme run by the Community Development, Director Mr. Lomer Alleyne, assisted by a lady called Miss Hazel Francis and assisted by an OAS specialist, I believe he is Mr. Dyer, a specialist in vocational training started in April, 1979 and has eight centres in operation: Belleplaine; Grazettes; Gall Hill, St. John; Speightstown; Rock Hall, St. Thomas; Ellerton, St. George; the Farm in St. Michael and Pinelands. Now we have also got a building in St. Lawrence and we are looking for other areas. I believe in St. George the St. Lukes Girls' School has also been offered now that that school has been amalgamated, and we are trying desperately to find a site in St. Philip and we are hoping that with the cooperation of the I.D.C..... (ASIDES) Gall Hill in St. John. I believe the Hon. Leader of the Opposition if he were in here would be gracious enough to compliment the Government for the fact that it placed a training centre in Gall Hill.

Now, Sir, let us look at what is happening in that area. Now over 504 people have received training in such areas as leather-craft, key punch operators, steel-bending and fixing, repairing gasoline engines, woodwork, needlecraft, pipe fitting, horticulture, masonry and electrical installation. In short, Sir, this is our national service. We believe that parents of children who are not at school who have reached the age of 16 now that we have made it 16 should encourage their children to participate in this kind of exercise. We hope that after they pass through this, those who are not in the polytechnic, not in the secondary schools, not in the types of employment, and they are oriented, this is a vocational orientation programme — the hon. member for St. Michael South West will know what it is, it is based on the methods of the Army. You do not come out with a statement, you come out of it oriented as to if you would like this kind of work, what are the fundamentals of it, and if you want to continue you should move smoothly into an apprenticeship scheme in the full knowledge of the type of skill involved and things of that kind.

Mr. Speaker, what I am particularly pleased about is that particularly in the construction industry, horticulture, particularly in the garment industry and other areas many of the employers have been employing people who have come out of this programme and their reports of them are very good, because they feel that they come in with a thorough understanding of the type of work they have to do, an understanding of some discipline in relation to the work habits, and training in a minimum way in relation to the kind of activity they have to do. So we have a multi-faceted approach to this question of youth training in this country. You have the institutional centres for fourteen

to sixteens, you have an expansion of the secondary schools, expansion of curricula within the secondary schools, you have the polytechnic and at a higher level you have the Community College, but parallel to that you have the skills training programme and you have the apprenticeship scheme. Now all this calls for money and we have such great faith in this that we are willing to borrow money, and part of that money will be devoted to the buying of machinery and the capital element in this area.

6.50 p.m.

I know that this will receive the support of all hon. members. We prefer to spend our money this way in training our people in a civilian atmosphere than follow the pattern of some other people who have these same training skills within the context of a compulsory national service in the army, but I must appeal to parents to insist that their children who are indulging in a little bit of liming to take advantage of these opportunities. Believe you me, Sir, in some parts — and I understand it is the pattern in some parts of St. Michael — there has been not enough interest shown in the programmes. This is a massive public relations job which must be undertaken, the 500 who have got a good record of employment, I believe the percentage is very high, but it is a very good thing and I would like to see it expanded. Of course the training of demonstrators is an area to which particular attention should be paid. We have got the ILO standard and we have been training demonstrators to achieve the ILO standards, and that training started from February 1979, but this is complimentary to the efforts of the Ministries of Labour and Education and to the IDC. As a matter of fact, Sir, in order to co-ordinate and to make sure that there is no wasteful duplication of this effort by various agencies of Government, I initiated together with other Ministers and with the Chairman of the IDC a programme whereby the managerial heads of IDC, BIMAP, the Central Bank, Standards Institute, the Development Bank, Chamber of Commerce, everybody who was in charge of some area related to development that they must have meetings every one or two months. Let them go to the Hilton Hotel and have a brain-storming session, because we want a coordinated approach, and I hope when the booklets start to flow from the printing presses the hon. members on the other side will not say that it is electioneering, they will say that it is the implementation of a well thought out and well coordinated programme for bringing Barbados into the 1980s in industrial development.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some US \$6 million of this sum of US tendering which we have borrowed from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is going to the Industrial Development

Corporation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I had the honour a few weeks ago of signing in Washington on behalf of the Industrial Development Corporation, which is as I have said the major implementing agency as far as this loan is concerned, and I think I would just like to add to and elaborate on the remarks made by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister.

Perhaps I ought to begin by saying, Sir, that the \$6 million is broken down as follows: \$5 million will go for industrial estates, \$600,000 will go for investment promotion and \$400,000 will go for technical assistance, and that according to your quick arithmetic make up the US\$6 million. I want to say too, Sir, that this money is expensive money. It has become necessary for us to seek this loan for industrial estates because two years ago we were lent \$7 million (Bds.) by the Caribbean Development Bank for estate development, but we were able to generate such a significant demand for factory shelves in Barbados that in two years we exhausted this money. It was supposed to last three years and in two years we exhausted the money, so that in truth and in fact we had to look for new funds for factory buildings, but this money attracts 14% interest. We have to repay this money virtually at 14%, because one of the conditions on which the World Bank has lent us this money is that the money must earn, the interest rate is less than that and that is why I put it as gallantly as I did. The interest rate is not 14% but they have stipulated that our estates should be economically viable, they should not be subsidised as far as this loan is concerned and that the return on the money to us should be 14%. The result of that is that the rental structure has had to be recast and the rents arising from the new factories that will be built with this money will be in some cases double what it was in the past. We have had to be doing in anticipation a considerable amount of public relations with persons on the estate and those who are about to come on the estates, because it is really a significant difference from what it was before. The idea of \$2.00 (Bds.) per square foot per year as opposed to \$4.00 (Bds.) immediately and over the next three years going up to \$6.00 (Bds.) per square foot per year is really a significant difference to the fixed cost of rent per year. It has had the initial effect of scaring a few business people in the industrial estates and we have had to be doing a considerable amount of public relations in this regard.

The basic position is, Mr. Speaker, if I may borrow an expression from the hon. and learned member for Christ Church South Central is that our rental rate structure has really been heavily subsidised in the past and it has been much lower than several of the countries that we compete with for attracting overseas business, and given the inflationary world in which we live and given the cost of the money, we have found it necessary to re-

cast completely our rental structure at the Industrial Development Corporation.

As was pointed out by the last speaker, Sir, the estates that will attract most of this money, Sir, are the planned estates in St. Peter and St. Lucy, and negotiations are in train and we are hoping to bring them to a satisfactory conclusion within another month to six weeks, and it is expected that we will be planning for a maximum of 1500 workers in the north given the relatively small catchment area from which we will be drawing, St. Lucy, St. Peter, northern St. James, given cross country facilities like buses to serve St. Andrew. I do not know whether we will be attracting any from St. Joseph, we did not think that it would be wise to plan for more than 1500 people in the north and we are thinking that we may need to have a special incentive in relation to the rental structure let us say for estates in St. Michael and Christ Church, there must be some disparity between the rental structure for the estates in the north and the estates closer to the City so as to provide an extra inducement for people to go down there. I can tell you, Sir, that we are already talking to two existing manufacturers who have indicated a willingness to expand their facilities by locating in the north, Sir, so it does look as if the northern estate will be off to a fine start. I believe you will wish me to pause at this point, Sir, so that we may repair to dinner.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting now stands suspended until 8 o'clock.
7.00 p.m.

On Resumption --

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Before this Sitting was suspended for dinner, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was dealing with our thoughts for development of the estates in the way in which we intend to use the \$5 million component of this loan which is being earmarked for the development of industrial estates.

I just want to say that in relation to the Grantley Adams Industrial Park, I very much hope that in the course of the next calendar year that we can get ahead with our plans for establishing an Export Processing Zone, or as some people call it, a Free Port Zone, at the Grantley Adams Industrial Park. It will involve, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the creation of a fence around a large acreage of that land at the Airport and it will also involve the establishment of a Customs Post but we have been giving great thought as to how we can set about the

establishment of this additional facility and I very much hope that it will come to pass in the year ahead.

The Newton Industrial Park is almost exhausted. I do not think it would make good sense to put in more factories there. The land that is available there should be used for the development of the existing factories in the estate. That is good factory estate land to be reserved as a certain amount of space for the development and expansion of existing factories in the estate.

The Wildey Industrial Park is also exhausted. There is no land left there at the Wildey Industrial Park.

The Grazettes Industrial Park has long been exhausted and I think that in addition to St. Peter and St. Lucy, the next area we would have to look at from the point of view of decentralisation of these facilities will be St. George.

I should say for the benefit of the two hon. members present who are the representatives of the parish of St. George that one of the difficulties of getting to St. George earlier was the fact that the supporting services such as water have not been available to the extent that we can plan an Industrial Park. That is being organised and we very much hope that in the year ahead we can start serious planning with respect to the Industrial Estate in St. George.

The \$600,000 which has been earmarked for investment promotion I should emphasise that it is only the foreign exchange component of foreign investment promotion that will be covered by this \$600,000. Similar considerations apply in relation to the \$400,000 for Technical Assistance. We have not yet drawn up a programme in respect of the expenditure of \$600,000 for investment promotion but I have no doubt that most of it will be spent in Europe and in North America.

At this point we are also thinking that we should spend some money to expose some of our businessmen to one or two countries, particularly in the Far East, that have technology that is relevant and appropriate to what we are doing here in the West Indies and the size of our markets and the scope of our operation. We have found that much of our machinery that we import from the United States, that we import from the North Atlantic countries are really designed for markets and scale of operations that are much larger than ours.

More and more we are satisfied that Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines and India are some of the countries in the East that have developed a technology more suited to the size of our markets and the scale of our operations and we have been thinking, Sir, since we have recently come to the conclusion that a major constraint of further development in Barbados now is not capital or any

shortage of ideas necessarily, but limitations in respect of the technology which have hitherto been readily available.

To that extent we are thinking that we can make a further contribution to this development effort if we were to expose a larger number of businessmen to see what is happening in one or two countries whose technology is more relevant to ours and we are thinking that we may spend a little of this money, not a large amount, in carrying some of our businessmen on a very carefully prepared mission, some time next year.

Now I am very glad, Sir, that some of this money is going to BIMAP and to the Ministry of Community Development for Management Training and Vocational Training. Barbados is now a relatively high-priced location for offshore manufacturing. In relation to Haiti, the Dominican Republic and parts of Mexico we are relatively high-priced. The new rental structure that I spoke earlier of is not going to make us any less high-priced but rather more high-priced.

What we have got to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is to ensure that more and more of our people are so trained that the strength of our labour pool in terms of the sophistication, the range and diversity of their skills can be an additional attraction to offset the high cost of operating in Barbados. To that extent it is very necessary that in two areas where we have perceived shortages, the area of Management Personnel and the area of Technology and Vocational Training, that we should have further input. All of this is very necessary if the development process is not to be frustrated and so far as BIMAP is concerned, this money will be used for the erection of a Wing to house additional classrooms and to ensure that we can intensify and accelerate the Training Programme in relation to Management.

We have had to precast the physical plan in relation to the new Wing at BIMAP. We have had to go back to the drawing board and completely re-design the Wing and to that extent we have suffered a delay but my inquiries reveal that by September we should be breaking the ground and that the construction process would be commencing just about September.

In relation to the Vocational Training I am happy to say, Sir, that it has already been in train, that programme, and that as the Deputy Prime Minister has said more and more businessmen are finding that those who have passed through that programme are very qualified to be brought into the labour force with certain minimal skills with the right disciplines and with the right work habits. I very much look forward to an expansion of this particular programme.

In so far as Industrial development is concerned, I think that we are just at the end of the beginning and even though we may succeed in the next few years in significantly licking our employment programme and reducing the unemployment statistics to 5%, 6%, or 7%, we are going to still have a large role in re-tooling our labour force as Barbados moves away from what I call first stage manufacturing operations where a lot of unskilled hands are necessary to second stage manufacturing operations where a higher level of skills and a higher level of Technology is introduced.

As we formulate our plans, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the technical assistance for projects and the investment promotion, Parliament will hear more and more what we are doing. At this stage I can only say that our efforts in Europe have already borne considerable fruit. We have good reason to think that in a few years we may be attracting as much investment from Europe as from North America and we have no doubt that the money for investment promotion will be spent in Europe.

We have an Office, as you are aware, in Brussels. Right now it only has a staff of one officer and one Secretary and we have already taken the decision that a minimal size of a visible office should be two officers and one Secretary and we have been advertising for that additional officer and we very much hope that within the next two months we would have recruited an additional Officer for our European Office but I can say, Sir, that there is a steady flow of businessmen coming into Barbados from Europe as a result of our efforts there over the last year and already we have three applications before us for the establishment of industries here in Barbados as a direct result of our operation in Europe, so thus far it has more than justified its establishment.

With those remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to support the passage of this Resolution.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to make a few comments on this Resolution. Trying to perform a duty which I have as a member of the Opposition in this Parliament, we need to take a wider view of the type of economic activity going on in this country and perhaps to bring a breath of fresh air into that process of those persons burdened with the responsibility of administration if they would listen.

8.10 p.m.

Perhaps to bring a breath of fresh air, in the thought process of those persons burdened with the responsibility of administration and if they would listen, as I said before, the Hon. Minister responsible for Industry is such a hard ears person, that he would not listen to anybody, at any time. (*Aside: Not hard headed.*) And hard headed too? Indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am surprised that many of his colleagues have often told me

that when he was at the Bar in a matter in which he had some training, he would often listen to some people and show some element of normality in his legal opinions and his legal posturings, and to some extent, was known as a lawyers' lawyer which is a professional compliment in a way.

On the other hand, when he is delving into areas in which he has no competence, or training, and where, his duty clearly, is to analyse expert opinion and bring commonsense to bear on such opinions that he might garnish, yet, he shows himself as the biggest expert on earth, on all matters. (*Aside: Successful too.*)

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to have a look at the industrial programme of this country. Now, over the past years, under the Democratic Labour Party, there can be no doubt that great strides were made in industrialising Barbados, significant strides were made. Indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that during that year, we had the benefit of increased employment opportunities, we had the benefit of raw materials, at relatively constant prices we had the benefit of capital goods machinery, at relatively constant prices and relatively stable prices. As far as energy was concerned, we also had the benefit of the promotion of firm interlinkages between the industrial sectors and other sectors of the economy for example, developing the Tourist industry and, to a lesser extent, the commercial sector in this country. We also had the benefit of a relatively undisturbed market situation in respect of our exports which were at a reasonable cost and indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also had the benefit of introducing new skills into this community. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this ball game has changed. What we are witnessing here is an attempt by the present administration to demonstrate that they can do more of, and better than, the previous administration, but, the entire environment for industrial development has changed very drastically since 1973, 1974. It has changed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the following directions:

- (1) The cost of energy, not even thinking of the impact of the new electricity rates.
- (2) The cost of fuel and I would just like to remind the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister that he was quite wrong and quite mistaken in his view when he came in here last week and induced another Hon. Member who might not know any better, but I am sure that he knows better, to cast the total blame of the increase in prices at the OPEC countries.

I think that Third World countries would do much better to fight for a recycling of those petro dollars on soft terms, for the developing countries, to assist them in their industrialisation and other programmes within the

country because there is objected evidence, for example, that the surplus of some \$30 billion generated by the 1973, 1974 oil increases had dropped to about \$1 billion by 1978, as far as the OPEC countries were concerned.

But, on the other hand; Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister responsible for Energy must know that there are far other components involved; the attitudes of the industrialised countries, the attitudes of the multinational companies which they will do nothing to control. Indeed, it is very significant that the EEC countries cannot persuade Britain to sell them her oil any cheaper than the prices which they can get from the OPEC countries. The War between the OPEC countries.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the Hon. Member speaking to the Resolution?

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Sir, I am speaking to the problems of industrialisation, we are borrowing a lot of money and we have to see the direction in which we are moving and the problems related. It is most fundamental.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also have to face a massive increase in the cost of raw materials, increases in the cost of machinery and parts, increases in the cost of transport internally and externally, we have to face more difficult market problems subsequent to problems within the CARICOM area. We also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have to face the fact that by our own stupidity, we have broken certain important inter-linkages within this country. For example, in terms of the clothing sector of industry, where, many of the clothing manufacturers are today very concerned about the impact of the imported clothing into Barbados and the effect that it is having on their sales in the domestic market. All these factors lead I think, to what the Hon. Member for Christ Church East was hinting at, the possibility of a decrease in the competitiveness of our exports because of a whole range of factors and indeed, Sir, the final thing which I would like to say in this area, is that there is also a tremendous demand on the infrastructural development in this country, consequential on the factors which I have mentioned earlier on.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a reasonable, rational person I hope, I am forced to ask myself certain questions. The first question that I must ask myself is, what is the net value of the industrial sector to Barbados, given the circumstances which I have outlined? The second question which I must ask myself is: Is that net value increasing, is it decreasing, or is it remaining stagnant? The third question which I would like to ask myself is: What subsectors within the industrial sector have the greatest net value and therefore, what would be the area within the industrial sector that we should be directing our attention towards for the future.

8.20 p.m.

Now these are the kinds of questions that I would ask because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would be interested fundamentally in maximising our employment gains from industry, in maximising the earnings of the workers, in maximising our foreign exchange earnings, in minimising our dependency on imported energy, and indeed to further the development of the utilisation of local sources of energy to a maximum, and to get into that area of industrial development which augurs best in terms of having a positive impact on our balance of payments in this country. Those are the kinds of criteria that I would set myself in order to do this.

We hear of all sorts of studies being done. Now my understanding of this situation where you are asking yourself these kinds of fundamental questions, is that what you really need is to have a thorough look into the past to see what has happened in industry in Barbados, look and see what is happening now and have probably a five or ten year programme of development, and I say this because we get all kinds of propagandist type of statements emanating from politicians understandably, you get the kind of report that you get from the Barbados Development Bank which just seems to be a rehash of political statements rather than statements emanating from a Bank quite distinct from the kind of report you would get out of the Central Bank. I would say this, that for a Government to take an informed position, for the IDC to act on the basis of information through genuine well researched information produced by people who are genuine experts in this area, and for the lending agencies, all of these are important in this Resolution especially the Barbados Development Bank, to take informed positions when they are making loans, then this kind of information should be available.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that we should have reached by this time the stage where we should have been able to construct a module, whether it be only for the industrial sector, probably for the total economy, but at least let us confine ourselves to the industrial sector in which we could slot at any time we wished either by taking out information or by putting in information or by making inputs into the pattern of development as far as industry in Barbados is concerned.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you look at the barest components that one would want to modify in the light of a changing situation, one has to think in terms of a pattern of incentives and the direction in which you put your investment capital; you have to look at the terms and the sources of the loans, you have to look at the kind of borrowing policies that you will pursue and lending policies that you will pursue in relation to the industrial sector not on an adhoc basis, but in terms of a specific development programme, and I am sure that in my own mind no such programme or no such study, no

such research has been carried out, and I doubt very much whether we have the personnel available to us here in Barbados in order to carry out that kind of study.

Now it is one thing acting on feelings or acting and saying that you created more jobs, and here you created 300 jobs perhaps based on the application forms to the Barbados Development Bank for loans without even bothering to go back and check whether the jobs were actually created, because otherwise you run into all kinds of ridiculous situations; so I would strongly suggest that we begin to look very carefully to find out what is the net value of the industrial sector to this country taking the totality of the factors which I have mentioned, and then on the basis of that we try to construct a programme in which you can graft on the inputs which I have recently suggested, including the important inter-linkages within the economy.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must say at this point in time that I am convinced beyond any doubt that we are wasting time and every day the price is getting greater and greater. We might get and probably will get from fairly good information that I have a good sugar price this year. (*Asides*) It is common knowledge but I also check out common knowledge too. It is my duty to check out common knowledge not only local knowledge.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the question of agriculture and on the question of agro-industrial development, I would be much happier if we were adding to an already grossly inflated national debt borrowing this kind of money to go into the agricultural sector, and I will tell you why. You would need a lot more than that and we would be happier if you borrowed money to put into the agricultural sector in this country provided you would get the land reform and abandon your plantation mentality. Anyhow, we do not want to get into that at the moment.

I want to draw, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the attention of this Honourable House three things, and I am taking the Barbados Economic Report of 1979. I start off with page 46 where we see the value of imports section by section. Food imports from 1975 to 1979 have risen from \$92 million to \$133 million. Then it is interesting to see that the amount of money that we are spending on machinery and transport equipment, I do not know what percentage of this goes to industry, has moved from something like \$79 million to \$196 million. Then there are areas such as chemicals, lubricants and so on which would suggest to me that our industrial sector has probably contributed considerably to the strain that is being put on us to maintain a positive balance of payments position. This is reflected, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on page 45 in the same document where you will see the gap on visible trade widening not narrowing, from \$219 million to an extraordinary \$546 million, over half a

billion dollars, and when you look at that you will see that if we were producing more food in Barbados and if we were earning more consequential on the capital goods that we are importing into this country, then I think these are two major areas that would reduce that particular gap.

8.30 p.m

I think that these are things that we need to look at and there is no point trying to behave like an ostrich in a situation like this. Now you have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from the same document, the Economic Report, page 26. This is the Barbados Development Bank to whom a considerable proportion of this money will be passed on for on lending and this is the kind of statement that you get coming out of it: "The Barbados Development Bank continued to make available substantial credit to the manufacturing sector. Even though the number of new loans made to the industrial sector in 1979 were six less than the 20 disbursed in the previous year, the dollar value for the 1979 was \$3.9 million as against \$1.8 million in 1978. Loans committed to the industrial sector in 1979 generated some 161 new jobs." In the very next paragraph the Barbados Development Bank also made seven new loans totalling \$142,500 to small manufacturing enterprises and funds made available to small manufacturing during 1979 providing a total of 59 jobs. \$142,000 in one area of small manufacturing, small business, producing 59 jobs, \$3.9 million in another area producing 161 jobs.

Now this is what I mean, that if employment, if the generation of new jobs is an important component, and it is one of the main components of our industrial exercise, because if we can at least keep people working and if we can at least make sure that what we import at whatever added cost involved in what we produce at least pays for what it produces and if it does nothing else but increases the employment in Barbados I would think that would be some net value to the society, but I am not even sure, and I do not think that anybody knows, whether this is taking place at the moment, but what we are sure about is that in the one area of industrial development, that is in the agro-industrial area, fraught with a whole lot of difficulties, mind you, I am aware that it will need heavy capital investment, I am aware that it is not as simple a matter as it appears to be on the surface, but in that area of agro-industrial development that we could probably be utilising largely raw materials, utilising land, utilising people who are interested in agriculture. I believe that that is one of the areas in terms of our industrial development that we should begin to focus on, but that is a matter of belief, I cannot say that is a matter of fact because the information simply is not available and we need, if it takes \$1 million and two years, that kind of comprehensive study to be done.

Now there is a very important study being done in Jamaica on the tourist industry in that country and I am very interested to see the kind of modular arrangement that they have introduced in assessing that industry. I believe that out of a recent conference — I keep myself well up to date, the Minister might not even have the information yet — that the Puerto Rican study not only on tourism but on the present situation in relation to manufacturing in that country is virtually completed, and from the way that study has been set up I believe you can have adequate examples to look at and see how these studies are done and how they can be done, because you are no expert in this area, you may be competent to administer but you can administer better on the basis of information, and I am sure the member for Christ Church East would appreciate what I am trying to say. In other words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am urging and I am calling upon the Minister responsible to cast aside his newly acquired arrogance in these areas and recognise that there is an area of discipline, that there is an area of informed discipline that is very necessary when dealing with an important sector of the economy, and I believe that if this study is done now, whether as is most unlikely you all form the Government after the next election or as is much more likely this side forms the Government, you would have done a tremendous service to Barbados if you could provide that kind of study and get it done at this point in time because this is going to be vital to our planning.

BIMAP is not equipped to do it, the level of expertise required is of a different nature. BIMAP can assist, and as a matter of fact I doubt very much whether — and I am looking forward to the study that they have been allocated by the Caribbean Tourism Board in the area, a study in tourism, to compare that with what would emanate out of Jamaica and what would emanate out of Puerto Rico and see what kind of research they have done — but I still say that BIMAP is not equipped to do that kind of study, although of course the exposure to genuine experts in the area and genuine research methodology would be good for BIMAP to be associated with that kind of study.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to say this, that a recitation of the number of factories you have opened up, a recitation of the supposed number of people whom you employ, and I will tell you a little something about unemployment now. Last week the hon. member said 14,000 but I have added up starting off with the 3,600 in December, 1976 which another Minister mentioned they had already created, and if you look at the number of claims coming from different agencies, the total amount of jobs that you would have created is about 33,416 published. I keep a record of all the statements made about the number of people employed, but the hon. member said 14,000 and I think that the Hon.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance when it was pointed out to him that the figures for unemployment which he is producing bears an inverse relationship to the figures which he is putting out for the expansion of the economy, I think that he jumped into an explanation which we are still trying to delve into, that is a fact. If you look at the four Budgets you will see the difference between the two.

Finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would strongly advise that we get out of this area of making propaganda type statements when dealing with serious matters and let us look and see how our industrial exercise in this country will address itself to the problems of unemployment, to the problems of the cost of living, to the problems of the hyper inflation which is ripping this country apart, and indeed with some sense of humility recognise that there are others in this society that have some contribution to make and since they are not burdened with the day to day exercise they are capable of taking an overview position. Thank you.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, such a masterful analysis. It is really a pity that at this time in our sitting there appears to be no reporters from the national Press — I cannot speak of the partisan Press but I speak of the national Press — no representatives of the national Press, and indeed the reports in Hansard of our debates are so late in coming out, I believe they are still about a year behind hand or more, that the people of this country are unable to get the type of information and education that is the obvious result of a speech of the type that we have just heard. 8.40 p.m.

I believe everyone in here well agree, and you above all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it was masterful, that it showed a grasp of detail, that there was clarity of expression, that it was positive and it showed the directions into which we should go and I say that it is a pity that such speeches are not given greater prominence as far as the National Press of this country is concerned because one of the functions of this Honourable Chamber is that of educating the nation on the issues facing the country. That certainly is one of our functions and we consider it as a responsible Opposition to enlighten the people on the issues facing this country and we have had a very good demonstration of that here tonight and that happens from Sunday night to Sunday night.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. L. SISNETT: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What has all of this garbage to do with the question under debate? It is nothing else but garbage. Could we get to the point, Sir?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is all the hon. member who just sat down can understand.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please come to the matter?

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am dealing with the exposition and analysis of this problem of borrowing money in relation to spending on industrial development, training and the operations of the Barbados Development Bank. The member for St. Michael North East, he is not the Minister for Health.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member please continue your speech on the Resolution?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you cannot allow the hon. member in here to get up and call what another member gets up and say as garbage. It is your duty to call upon the member to withdraw the remark.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would have been my duty had you drawn it to the attention of the Chair at the appropriate time. You allowed it to pass and the matter is now passed. Will you please continue with your speech?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a gut feeling and this represents a large feeling in this country that there may be excessive borrowing on the part of the Government. A lot of people are calling into question the amount of borrowing by this Government.

We have borrowed from the Inter-American Development Bank. We have borrowed from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. We have borrowed from the Caribbean Development Bank. We have borrowed, I believe from the Government of Canada. We have borrowed from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. We have borrowed from the Government of the United Kingdom. We have borrowed from the Government of the United States of America, no doubt. We have borrowed from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and we have borrowed from that International Conglomerate which glories in the acronym Orion Bank.

All of these International Institutions, the vast majority of them are public Financial Institutions, some of them private. The question really is, is Barbados borrowing too much money or not? It is for the Minister or Acting, or Temporary Minister of Legal Affairs or Justice, or however he styles himself now or Education, for all of the Ministers out there to come and tell the people of this country whether Barbados is borrowing too much money or not, to establish the criteria to the satisfaction of the people of this country

that we are not borrowing too much money. Now, I not going to or stating a position on that because I am not blaming expertise in this area. I am merely..... (ASIDES). Now that is garbage.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. Please continue with your speech.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am not putting forward a position on this particular matter. I am seeking information and I am calling upon the Government as its bounden duty to satisfy the people of this country that its borrowing programme is not too excessive and that it will not place us in the path that other countries including Caribbean countries have found themselves. I refer to the countries of Jamaica and Guyana, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

I recall in the heavy days of the 60's and early 70's Jamaica was encouraged to borrow money. There was a lot of talk about how credit worthy it was and that it could get money in order to carry out developments on a broad base. They went ahead. They borrowed the money, from the very Institutions which told them that they were credit worthy but they came a point when the same Institutions came in and told them, well we have problems in this area, how are you going to manage that type service ratio and all sorts of criteria then came up and they found themselves in all sorts of difficulties, into the death trap.

I do not want to see this country fall into that particular pattern. I do not want to see this country go into that particular morass because in its way follows civil strife, dissention and all types of social tensions and it is the responsibility of the Government, therefore, to come and assure the people of this country that they have not set us or they are not setting this country on that particular path.

When I look at it, just during those three or four years since the Government has been in power, the National Debt has almost doubled. The National Debt of this country has almost doubled. (ASIDES). I am very glad to hear the re-assurance that there is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you hearing yourself?

Mr. SANDIFORD: I hope you are hearing me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are the only person that the Chair can hear at this moment.
8.50 p.m.

I believe that in 1966, the National Debt was something like in the region of \$46.7 million, by September, 1976, it had grown to about \$241.1 million. But, since

that time, the National Debt of this country had grown from \$241.1 million over \$429 million by February, 1980. Now, I think we have got to stop, think and consider what this means. It is not merely an increase in the amount of money flowing into the country, it also has implications in terms of the servicing of that Debt and it has implications also, for our Balance of Payments and the other components of our total financial situation. Therefore, this Government has got a duty to explain to the people of this country. You must get up and tell the people what are the criteria that you are using in terms of the management of that Debt and in terms of the basic credit-worthiness. What is the test? It is the acid test. (ASIDES: Why do you not go and do your own research?)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: You want me to do my own research? I am seeking information. I am going to tell you something now. Barbados was ranking number three, I believe, out of 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had the highest Current Account Deficit, of more than five percent of the Gross Domestic Product, ranking only with countries like Guyana. I believe Guyana was number two, just above Barbados and Paraguay. Those were the countries which Barbados was ranking with, twenty-five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and during the period 1974 to 1978, and most of that Deficit was in the period after the present Government came into power. Most of that Deficit was incurred after the present Government came into power.

We had better sit up and watch what is happening because if you do not give us the information and you do not analyse these factors, there are other persons capable of analysing them. This is international knowledge, this is known. (ASIDES) Like you, I am an independent researcher. We must be concerned about this. You cannot dispute that fact, you get up and dispute it.

I am saying that that is an important test, one of the important tests as to whether a country is borrowing too much money, or not. You might sit back there now.....(ASIDE: That is nonsense).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. The Hon. Member, please continue with your speech.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I believe that this present Government may be using the conventional means of determining this credit worthiness and believe that they are alright, we are alright Jack, when they come up and they tell you that you can borrow more money, you have not borrowed very much. That may be true of money flowing into the private sector directly from the inter-

national institutions, but I am issuing a warning and it is a matter that is concerning thinking persons in this country. They are asking the question — if you have not heard it — they are asking the question, are we not borrowing too much money? (ASIDE: Who? He wants all for himself.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: You will hear. As I said at the outset, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not dealing with the question of industrial development, or, the direction into which this money might be going. What I was concerned about is raising that question and this question with which people in this country are concerned and they are asking for an answer to it. You can make glib remarks about it, but I think that you have the people out there to satisfy that the path which you are setting us on is not a path which may be riddled with problems in the future. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You would not have to deal with them for a very long time.) I thought that you were already warned tonight that you are too hard ears.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. The moment of interruption has arrived. Is the matter under discussion controversial? (Pause). That being the position, the Hon. Member can continue with his speech.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I think that a word of warning — (ASIDES: To the wise.) — I have not said to the wise; I think that a word of warning to those of you sitting over there is enough and I believe that you may sit up and think about this particular problem.

I do not think that I wish to say anything more on this particular point.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened to two very interesting speeches from the other side. As usual, they have put forward no alternative programme for consideration, they have laid nothing on the table, they have trotted out a series of fundamental, basic statements which can be gleaned from the most elementary text books in economics, or, industrial development and they display a total lack of understanding of how this Government makes decisions.

We do not make decisions on instinct, or prejudice, or gut feeling. We have been studying the economy of Barbados for twenty odd years. We have done all of the analysis that could be done here on the previous Government's policy and we have set out very clearly, in a succession of Manifestoes the part which we would pursue in relation to these matters. (ASIDES). I do not mind about Jamaica, do not tell me about Jamaica or Guyana.
9.00 p.m.

In addition to that, since we have been in Government the actions that we have taken have earned nothing but praise and commendation by a number of international institutions whose duty it is to scrutinise Governments who come to them for loans. For the benefit of the hon. member who spoke first on behalf of the Opposition, the Industrial Development Corporation produced an industrial development sectoral plan setting out very clearly the areas in which it would attempt to encourage industrialisation in Barbados and why? That plan was prepared after a very careful analysis of the relevant factors. In addition to that, Sir, we have an on-going examination taking place of Barbados' position *vis-a-vis* its competitors who are out there in the market looking for the same investment dollar that we are looking for, and our comparative position is not analysed and evaluated by us or by Barbadians; we hire as a matter of retainer industrial consultants of the very highest order to do that comparative study all the time, so that at any given period of time Barbados is under the microscope of these consultants determining what is our competitive position *vis-a-vis* the other people who are out there competing with us. It is not a matter of arrogance; it is a matter of knowledge of how these things should be done. The fact that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central does not know.....

Dr. HAYNES: If the hon. member would give way on a point of elucidation, I did address myself particularly to the net value of industry to Barbados, and I wonder if the Hon. Minister would direct his attention to answering that in dollar terms or any other terms he may want to.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to answer all of the points raised by the hon. member because if you are in the world competing you have to know who your competitors are and to know what qualities they have and to know how you can beat them in the competition.

A number of factors were mentioned about labour costs, energy costs, transport costs and all of these things, and I am explaining very carefully that as a matter of routine, as a matter of practice, that comparative study in those areas goes along all the time.

Now on the question of value added, I do not know whether it is generally appreciated in Barbados, but the whole regime since 1974 of fiscal incentives in all of the CARICOM territories is based upon an evaluation of each application for fiscal incentives, and there are minimum criteria for value added. So that if you want to know what is the value added contribution of each industry that has received fiscal incentives in the last six years, all you have to do is to get the original

application, see the projected value added, get the present export on production and check and see whether they met the criteria which was necessary before they could have got their fiscal incentives, because fiscal incentive is now graded in periods of years in relation to value added. If you pick up the Fiscal Incentives Act you should know how to calculate the value added.

Now, Sir, I do not know what the Opposition think they can get away with in this country. I am amazed. The hon. member for St. Michael South said that we are borrowing too much.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, I raised a question; I asked for the reaction of the Government. I never said you were borrowing too much. I raised a question.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member can raise questions; I do not raise questions in here. The hon. member is putting forward the view of the Opposition that this Government is borrowing too much. Now anybody who has even an iota of knowledge of underdeveloped countries will recognise that the only way you can develop is if you have investment. Now you can only get investment if you have your own domestic savings or you borrow. These are fundamentals. Now if the hon. members on the other side are saying that in this country all the money that is needed to invest can be had locally, then I would be truly amazed because one of the problems with underdeveloped countries is that if we use our own local savings to invest exclusively, you run yourself into balance of payments difficulties, because for financing the foreign component of capital goods you have to run down your reserves because you cannot pay in your local dollars. That is why in countries like Barbados we have to indulge in foreign borrowing particularly that proportion of foreign borrowing which finances the overseas costs of the capital goods or the services which you are bringing from abroad. The true criteria of whether you borrow too much or not — the hon. member can go and pick up at the Community College a textbook on economics and he will find it there. I know that our repayment of debt and servicing foreign debt as a proportion of our export of goods and services is very very low. I also know that our proportion of debt repayment in relation to our GNP is also very low.

Now the hon. members talked about current account deficit. You do not compare Barbados in our visible current account with Guyana and Paraguay; it is an unfair comparison for the very simple reason that the proportion of export on goods and services in Guyana and the composition of their export trade....

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. member giving way?

Mr. SANDIFORD: He has given way; it is non-controversial. Is the Minister aware that the very institutions which he says monitor the performance of Barbados compare these countries.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member is trotting out about how some institutions compare. If you want to give me a document I will show you the fact that that document that you have says so because Guyana has no invisible income to speak of.
9.10 p.m.

But the current account deficit in countries like Barbados is to a large extent closed by invisibles, so that you have to look at invisibles in relation to Barbados like how you look at bauxite in relation to Guyana. Look at what proportion of the GDP services pay in Barbados and look at what it pays in Guyana, so do not come to me with that, I am not scared of that at all, I will argue with anyone on that, I am not scared of that, I have to argue with the World Bank and others. Barbados has always been a country that receives a very high proportion of invisibles. During the fifties and the sixties at the height of emigration invisibles closed to a large extent the difference between our imports and our exports. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. members on the other side refused to acknowledge the fact that in this country tremendous strides have been made in the last four years in the earning of invisibles, and more strides will be made when we implement further our programme to bring the export of services to Barbados. If you differ from us in this respect that is a matter for you but our policy was and we have always put it in our Manifesto that in a small country like Barbados services play an important part in closing the gap between imports and exports.

Now there is a lot of talk in this country about lack of information. The information is there but you must know where it is. Like Jamaica, like Puerto Rico and economic impact study of tourism is taking place in Barbados. The hon. member does not even know and he will not listen, and I am explaining to him the methodology for that study. The parameters of that study have been set not by BIMAP but by IRDC of Canada, the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and CTRC had a Conference here in 1977 and the model for the study, the parameters, the inputs, and the methodology were all agreed and each territory who had the capability was requested to carry out the study within the context of the agreed model so that it would be comparable. Puerto Rico has completed theirs, Jamaica has completed theirs and ours is on the way to completion, but if you really want to know truly about tourism in

any of these territories you must try to get the information not only in winter but also in your worst months and in your shoulder season. Barbados' winter part is completed, the May-June part is being completed now and the summer will be completed and we will go right down to October. The methodology is not determined by BIMAP, and may I also say this, that criteria have been set and constantly returns have to be sent to IRDC and then they will go through the computer. The computer programming and all that is common, so that fact that BIMAP is doing the mechanical part of the study should not detract in any way from the quality of the study which should be evaluated by the criteria parameters and methodology that have been determined by respectable institutions.

I know that is very much a part of the other side to decry local institutions. I do not decry them, I have always been insisting with the Inter-American Development Bank, with the World Bank and with the European Development Fund that no consultant from abroad should do work in this area without being associated with local consultants, because I believe that our consultants here have a contribution to make and should be granted part of the services and of the money involved, because I want to build Barbados up into being a place where we have consultants who are recognised world wide and we can go out and quote. India did it, and after all I want some jobs for the hon. members on the other side too, I do not want them to stay over there in Opposition all the time and wither, I want them to get some of the prosperity too.

Let us go further, Sir. This question of agro-industries and agriculture. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the IDC has clearly identified agro-industries as being necessary, but I have repeatedly said that the most successful agro-industry we have ever had in Barbados was sugar production because the people who own the land own the factories, but in Barbados every time you separate ownership of the processing from ownership of the raw material a tug-of-war and battle go along between the two of them as to who is to get the most out of the industry. We had it with BARPAC, we have it in relation to vegetable production, we had it in the BMC. You can make as many contracts as you like with farmers to deliver produce, if for some reason the market place brings a cent more they will deny you the raw material and sell it for the cent more. That is the farmer mentality in this country. We had an elaborate study done but I have always said, and in all my speeches from 1966 have been consistent on this, that the only way you will get processing is if you have a partnership between the Government and farmers, but if you leave it to the Bridgetown merchants you will have a tug-of-war. The only Bridgetown merchants who can successfully have agro-industry in this country are those who have sufficient land area that they can grow for themselves and

process it. I have always said so and I will maintain that. We have canning equipment in Barbados available to can and the farmers and the cannery cannot reach an agreement in relation to raw material price. I will tell hon. members something, that the raw material price paid for pigs in this country is 1.5 or 1.7% higher than the raw material price processors abroad have to pay for it. The thing is this, that the hon. member does not seem to realise that in Barbados the consumer wants the cheapest, the farmer wants the highest and the processor wants to make a rate of return. Now, you get out of that dilemma! You can import raw material here far cheaper than you can produce it here in relation to something like pigs or poultry; that is a fact. You can buy it from Canada, you can buy it from the United States. (ASIDES: Only the food is much cheaper). All right, I know that, so therefore in the evaluation of your agro-industry you have to look for those industries which are capable not only of competing domestically but have an export-potential, so you must have specialisation. All this task about no studies have been done, the hon. members do not appear to read the newspapers, the most elaborate study on Barbados' potential as an agro-industrial country has been done by Mr. Graham Gooding.

9.20 p.m.

Not in your time, as a pre-investment prerequisite for the building of the facility for the Barbados Marketing Corporation. A most elaborate study and I think that people should recognise and the hon. members over there should recognise that when he picks up the figures and he shows that we are importing \$133 million in food, two things the hon. member has not done. He has not deducted the exports. He must deduct those first to arrive at net and secondly, he must analyse the content of them to see how much of that is capable of being grown in Barbados. We cannot grow wheat. We cannot grow rice. You must look at the constituent of that import. Look at where you have the production capacity. That is the only one way of looking at it.

You must be able to grow something that you can export that would earn foreign exchange to pay for what you cannot grow here. You have got to look at this very, very deeply. That is not the official examination that the hon. member is so famous now to be carrying out. He just cannot do that among intelligent people who understand these things. It cannot do. That is superficiality. You do not do it so. You just do not pick up the imports because, I have heard George Fergusson utter this, a former member for St. Michael that it pays us better to sell our flying fish to the Japanese at U.S.\$1.00 per pound and import cheap fish because we will make 50 cent on it so therefore you must carry out this comparative analysis. So at the right place the hon. member will be enlightened on these facts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I draw.....

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, Sir, I will wind up now. So I do not wish to go ahead explaining to the hon. member where he can get his information because obviously his researchers do not know where to research but I have already indicated three sources of information to the hon. member and I am positive that when he gets the information he will withdraw the statement that no evaluation, comparative studies or proper analyses of where we must go in the future industrial development have been done. They are in fact being done continuously and they have been done.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 24th June at noon.

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

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