THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 17th March, 1980.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.20 a.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker) and Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. (Edin.)

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 11th March, 1980.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by hon. members, let these Minutes stand confirmed. *(Pause).* These Minutes are confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received copies of Accounts and Statements for the month of January 1980 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Barbados Housing Authority, the National Housing Corporation for the period April 1969 to August 1976. In so doing Sir, I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of the Government, to the Commission and those persons who made it possible to produce this Report and I sincerely hope that the context of this report would be a safeguard to all Barbadians and in the meantime to strengthen the institutions of which we live in Sir.

I take great pleasure Mr. Speaker in laying the Report.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE and Dr. HAYNES entered the House and took their seats.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Bill to implement the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act.

A Bill to amend the Customs Act.

A Bill to amend the Consumption Tax Act.

A Bill to provide for the membership of Barbados in the International Finance Corporation.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to implement the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Customs Act be now read a first time.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Consumption Tax Act, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the membership of Barbados in the International Finance Corporation, be now read a first time.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, and 42(5) be suspended for the remainder of the day to facilitate the consideration of the matters that we have to deal with.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day.

Order No. 1 was called – to move the Second Reading of A Bill to grant a sum of money from Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1981.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again it is my duty to rise to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill for the forthcoming Financial Year and to take the first steps in presenting the Estimates of Revenue and expenditure to the House this year. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Estimates are presented in a new form. The preface to the document that has been circulated to hon. members would give some explanation of the style that is intended to be used in the future.
10.30 a.m.

The new form was presaged last year by a model draft appended to the Estimates of the Ministry of Health, so that hon. members would have the opportunity over the twelve months of studying the new pattern which is being introduced for presentation of the heads of spending. The number of heads under the current Estimates has been reduced from 99 to 35, and the number of capital heads has been raised from 13 to 15. With this reduction of the current heads there has been an increase in the number of sub-heads. There are 170 sub-heads in all under current. Under Capital there has been a more drastic change because this year arising partly out of the permanent condition of over-estimation of the capital vote that has marked our Estimates perhaps for the last 40 years, Sir, and partly out of the fact

that block votes have been shown to allow insufficient control by the Auditor General on capital spending in certain instances, it has been too easy to shift from one activity to another, we have introduced a sub-head for each major project in capital. The object is not only to improve financial control, but to show what a programme really costs.

I will return to this point in a moment, Mr. Speaker, but in passing I should mention that we are now doing away with the system of notes in the form in which they existed in the past. The sub-heads now have a general description of the service or activity for which the vote is being appropriated, and there will be no specific notes to amend against the heads themselves. The coding system now employed will control the type of expenditure allowed. If we wish to see the notes which refer to the coding, you have to turn to the guide in Appendix F which is page 33 of the appendices to the Estimates. In other words, we have put all the notes into this appendix and this is what the Auditor General will refer to when he is considering whether an item of expenditure is a proper charge on the vote. We will of course, Mr. Speaker, run through in virtually every head. It is actually page 31. Did I say page 33? I beg hon. members' pardon. When we see the item Statutory Personal Emoluments, we will see the note in appendix F includes statutory salaries and all statutory personal allowances. When we see supplies and materials, we will observe in supplies and materials not elsewhere specifically described. Includes stationery, registers and office expenses, printing supplies for production, foodstuffs, provisions and groceries, animal fodder, drugs, medical supplies, films, and it goes right down; ammunition, cutlery, kitchen and tableware, metal badges, licence plates and so on. Under operating expenses, operating expenses fills nearly a page by itself: postage, uniforms, Government hospitality, milk sampling, public relations, car park tickets, traffic signs, revision and printing of the Laws of Barbados, World Population Programme, expenses of Commissions, and so on, Sir. They are all described in a common note. This will save printing and it will concentrate in one point members' attention whenever they deal with a particular item.

Under Capital I have already said that the notes will now be called descriptions and the descriptions are now much more full. I will draw hon. members' attention to two heads to explain what I mean. The first is Head 78 which is a head of the Ministry of Communications and Works. If they look at Sub-heads 8 to 15, now these sub-heads, Sir, were formerly embraced under roads and drainage. Sub-head 8 is now the Spring Garden and Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic project, $3.39 million being appropriated for that during the current financial year. Sub-head 9 is President Kennedy Drive to Exmouth, the particular piece that is being built now; just under $3 million is being appropriated for that. Sub-head 10, Speightstown By-pass; Sub-head 11, Fontabelle to Cheapside; that is for the rebuilding of Fontabelle Road. Sub-head 12 is Private Tenantry and Subsidiary Roads, and hon. members will notice that we are appropriating just over $1½ million to expand the programme for private tenantries and subsidiary roads. Sub-head 13 is the reconstruction of the road from Husbands to Holders in St. James and sub-head 14, highway rehabilitation generally. Sub-head 15, construction and improvement of other roads, and you will see this is Highway 7, East Coast Road Extension, improvement of Top Rock to Rendezvous Road, improvement of Rendezvous Hill, Glebe, St. George, construction of the Ring Road and so on. In other words, Sir, the vote which used to be a block vote for all roads so that you could shuffle from one project to another and really never find out what each project cost is being broken down so that the House, the public and the long suffering Ministry of Finance can find out exactly how the people's money is being spent in this regard.

Another example is the following Head, Head 79; taking the Polytechnic as a single example. Previously there used to be a block vote and you will see how you describe it more intimately. There used to be a block vote which just went to the whole amount and was not divided. Hon. members will notice this is an example now of how even within a single vote you can see a division, a division going right down, personal emoluments, national insurance and so on as if it were a current head. We will thus be able to get a better understanding of how the previous block votes are being spent under heads of capital.

Mr. Speaker, that deals with the new form of the Estimates, and of course as the Estimates continue I think we will get a better understanding of the style that we are following.

I turn next to a review of the year in which we are coming to the last few weeks of the financial year.
10.40 a.m.

I have to draw to the attention of hon. members an *errata* sheet which has been circulated dealing with errors in the Estimates. Now these are not the amendments, Sir, which have also, I imagine, been circulated and which will be dealt with as we reach the individual Heads, these are errors of one sort or another. Some of them are misprints and mistakes made in calculations that we do get, Sir, others are recalculations to bring up to date the material which appeared in the Estimates in the first instance. Some of those indeed also arise out of errors, so we should not look at the memorandum for details of previous years expenditure and revenue as printed, we must look at the *errata* and make the corrections so we can get the accurate figures.

Now last year, Sir, we budgeted for a current account surplus of $20.9 million. According to the latest figures the revenue to the end of February was $312 million which was an increase of 17% over the first 11 months of 1978–79, and the expenditure to the end of February was $303.6 million which is an increase of 18% over the corresponding period of 1978–79. The figures given in the *errata,* Sir, show that we are now projecting total revenue for the year of $366 million and total expenditure of $339 million, which will reveal current surplus, if realised at the end of this month, of $27 million.

I think, that this reflects the healthy state of the economy, because undoubtedly we took the brakes off in 1979–80 compared to 1978–79 and we have allowed more general scales of expenditure both for current and capital, but we have been able to achieve very nearly the same current account surplus in 1978–79 despite the supplementaries that we have had to deal with, revised travelling allowances and so on, and despite the teachers' salaries and the police's salaries which were met during this year, and despite the increase in oil prices of 40% in all over the year which the Government has had to absorb along with all other citizens, and I am certainly very pleased that during the financial year that put a lot of grey hair in my head from time to time we have still been able to come out with a reasonable current account surplus to help us finance the capital works during the year and also to help us look forward to the increase in salaries to the public service during the forthcoming year.

Capital expenditure to the end of February is 40% up, Mr. Speaker, on the corresponding period last year, $71.4 million. This is the result of a number of new projects. There has been a great deal of new housing, new expenditure on the roads and of course the sewerage scheme and the polytechnic, the Government laboratory schemes are all full underway, as well as of the construction of schools and the new headquarters for the Ministry of Agriculture. Projected capital expenditure for the whole year is noted in the Estimates as $83 million, but I have my doubts whether it will be as small as this because this month's rate of work is very considerable, and I think that the expectations are that we will spend more than $12 million during the month and therefore probably exceed the projection. We are projecting an overall deficit on capital and current put together of $56 million according to the Estimates but it may be a little more. Whatever it is, Sir, it will be between 5% and 6% of our estimated gross domestic product which is a very small amount within the context of Barbados' financial performance of five years ago, and certainly a very small amount within the context of the performance of developing countries around the world which are facing the intense difficulties created by oil price increases.

A few weeks ago I indicated to hon. members, to the Leader of the Opposition, that the Central Bank is predicting almost 7% growth in the Barbadian economy during 1979. I myself had my doubts about those figures then, but in the light of the somewhat more favourable figures of Government finances that have appeared within the last few weeks now that intense calculations have been made, I think that this figure may very well turn out or prove to be more accurate than would have appeared likely a month or six weeks ago.

I want to deal, Sir, with a matter relating to this question of the deficit. I have been out of the Island during the past week – I had to be in Washington dealing with several congressional committees dealing with matters that relate to the development not only of Barbados but on the whole of all developing countries of this hemisphere – and therefore I was not present when the Estimates were laid and did not see the headlines in the local Press relating to the presentation. I have since gathered that there was a headline saying that the Government had a deficit of $95 million, and when I got to New York I was most surprised, Sir, being intransit for just a couple of hours, to discover that I was being pursued by members of the American media who wished to question me on a report that had come from the Caribbean News Agency to the effect that the Government of Barbados is in financial trouble and it was facing a deficit of $95 million. The reporter said that he did not know what our Government had done to the Caribbean News Agency but they kept sending cables to New York saying that our Government was killing people and trying to cover up, and that now it said that our Government was running this deficit when we had been telling people all along that the Government was in a good financial shape.

I regret that I did not do myself justice in the subsequent interview, because not being fully aware of the report – it was read out to me – the Director of Finance and Planning also heard it, we consulted before the interview but we could not understand what was actually being reported, and therefore perhaps without full knowledge I explained what I could about the fact that I was sure there was a current account surplus and that there must have been some misunderstanding and so on. When I got back to Barbados and checked the matter I discovered that whoever the reporter for the Caribbean News Agency was, that what he had done apparently was to turn to the first page of the memorandum on the Estimates and his reading must have stopped on the 6th or 7th line and he saw overall deficit, $95 million.

10.50 a.m.

Well the story apparently ended there; the reporter did not read the rest of the page, did not even read the heading "Review of Estimates 1979–80", because that $95 million was what was announced this time last year as appearing from the then Estimates. If the reporter had read to the bottom of the page he would have seen the revised figure at that stage of $62.8 million – he could not of course have had access to the errata, but more important, if the reporter who seized on this as an example of the Government's financial trouble had an elementary understanding of Government economics and financing in Barbados or if he had even taken the trouble to ring the hon. Leader of the Opposition, far less somebody in the Ministry of Finance, I believe he could have got a little lesson which would have enabled him to prepare a story slightly less misleading than the one which he committed to cable and sent to overseas services – to New York and put in general circulation abroad, implying that the economic miracle that has been recognized by international agencies about Barbados' conduct of its affairs over the past few years was unsound and unjustified, with the result to investors' confidence in Barbados that might have been damaging to the country. I call on the Press to raise the standard of its economic understanding and the level of its perception on government financing.

If there is one thing that can be said of the hon. members of the Opposition, it is that when they go on public platforms they do not say that the country is being led into financial ruin at the present time. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central will attack the children of members of Government, will describe me as the nastiest of all, that drunken, slimy man and so on, but he cannot say that drunkenness or slime is affecting the finances of this country. And reporters could take a leaf out of the book of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central whose tongue has little goverance when it comes to accusations, justified or unjustified. If he cannot find something to say about the way the country is being run economically, then there can be very little to say.

The national debt seems to be the last matter on which the hon. member found something to say in economic terms. The public debt is reducing – excluding the government's overdraft – because if you read the Central Bank's report, their overall figures exclude the government's overdraft, and I will explain why it is excluded. At December 31, 1979 it stood at $397.4 million; at December 31, 1978 it stood at $367.4 million, which means that during the year it increased by only $30 million, which is a very small figure indeed. During December $5.9 million in debt was reclaimed; Government debentures were brought in and not resubscribed, and indeed this has come out of the Current Account Surplus because had we not redeemed it our system is to include redemption of capital in the current Estimates; so had we issued these debentures the Current Account Surplus would have been $5 million more. But we did not issue them; we redeemed those debentures and did not issue new ones, so the debt itself was reduced at the end of that time. The Government overdraft is included by the Central Bank and over a period of time it reflects Government's overall liabilities. Unfortunately the Government's overdraft is subject to great fluctuations, and if you look at the debt figures for the previous year, at the time that the hon. member was pointing out that the Government debt was $426 million, the following month it went to $412 million then the following month it went back to $426 million – it jumped from $401 million to 414 to 427 to 412 in successive months. All of that is due to the fluctuations of the Ways and Means Account, which is the overdraft; and the underlying debt outside the question of the fluctuating overdraft was $397.4 million at the end of the last calendar year. I mention that because I know that hon. members like to read Appendix D so that they would get a good grasp of the public debt of the country. And Appendix D does vary from the Central Bank's calculations due to different modes of approach to the subject.

Now a few notes on the figures for 1980–81. The revenue is projected at $395 million and expenditure at $372 million. The projected surplus therefore for the coming financial year – and this is only the second time in twenty years that there has been a projected surplus – is $23.1 million. But I want to caution hon. members inside the House and the representatives of the public service unions outside the House that they must not be excited by this projected surplus. The Barbados Workers Union and the National Union of public workers have made submissions for increases in the salaries of public servants that would amount in one case to $70 million and in the other case to $72 million. Obviously these amounts are beyond the capacity of the Government to pay; even half of these amounts would be an intolerable strain on the Government's finances. It would not only absorb the entire projected surplus but it would demand increase taxation. Let there be absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind that to meet the current public service salary demand will mean that it will be impossible to give overall general tax relief on any large scale this year. The unions did not see fit to accept the overtures of the Government to settle their wage demands in advance of the budget and certainly not in advance of the Estimates. We are therefore now, and in a few weeks later on in the Budget, groping in the dark where the government's true Bill for 1980–81 is concerned. We are estimating $372 million as a matter of common sense, but it is bound to be over $400 million because we are going to give the largest wage increase that we can possibly afford; we are prepared to let it wipe out the current account surplus. There may be other reductions in revenue in the Budget because it is impossible to think in terms of general tax relief over all this year, but that does not rule out

substantial tax relief in selected areas. But the country has to be run, and I consider that during the last two years the financial method which this Government has thought proper for the running of the country has met with some success, and if we are to continue that success we must have a responsible approach to Government revenue and expenditure. I just mention these incidentals so that we can understand that although we are appropriating this money we are in fact talking about a much larger sum. At the present time we have introduced a new analysis showing an analytical breakdown of current expenditure. Reference to that analysis will reveal that personal emoluments in the Government are over $141 million and added to that there is another $10 million, including travel.

11.00 a.m.

We are paying $4 million in travelling allowances and we are paying $8 million in National Insurance for public servants. When you increase that by the amount that the Unions want you would be increasing it by an amount equalled to the whole of the Customs Duties that the Government collects to something like ¾% of all the income tax that the Government collects.

They are asking for a salary increase equivalent to all the Airport duties, we pay so the dilemma into which the Government is placed in revenue can readily be realised.

There are one or two points I will make on Government Revenue. If you look at the figures for Income Tax you will see that we estimated $1 million in collections for this year. There is a revised Estimate of $87 million. This arises out of what appears to be a short fall in Income Tax appearing in the Estimates.

Hon. members will recall that the last Budget gave very substantial income tax relief and therefore a shortfall is only to be expected in all the circumstances. Nonetheless I should inform hon. members that to the end of February net collections of Income Tax, that is the total collections less the refunds amounted to over $90 million so that figure of $87 million has already been exceeded and will be more than exceeded during this month.

For the explanation of this I have to return to a well-known phrase made popular by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, many years ago. He was not able to say it during his last five years in office. I refer to the phrase "the general bouyancy of the economy" and I think this will explain the discrepancy if hon. members sees a discrepancy in the figures for collections of Income Tax.

I should also say that the Estimates of revenue have been a little conservative in one or two other respects. I do not think that today, tomorrow or the day after we will collect Corporation Tax amounting to only sufficient to bring us up to $47 million as estimated. I think that we will collect nearer $50 million, perhaps even more, so there may be one or two alterations which hon. members will discern in the monthly accounts which are presented to Parliament and which vary from the Estimates.

The only opportunity to talk about revenue comes during the Second Reading, Sir, and I therefore have to mention these matters at this stage but, of course, I will be willing to deal with any points which arise out of the Revenue Estimates when I make my reply.

Well, Sir, there it is, another year in which the finances of the Government have shown a reasonable buoyancy. Our Expenditure and Revenue have risen at broadly the same rates. The directions of our Expenditure have been maintained at roughly the same conversions. I have made calculations, Sir, and on Social Security, Welfare, Health and National Insurance, in all, Sir, the Government is spending something like $84 million.

This according to my calculations and based on the GDP over these 12 months, not the calendar year, which bring us into this year of roughly $1.2 billion will reveal we are spending something like 17% of our Gross Domestic Product on Health, Welfare and Social Services. This is an enormous percentage for a developing country and it is something of which we should all be proud. Health $40 million plus $12 million Capital Estimates, that is $52 million, Social Security and Welfare $43.4 million, $12 million in National Insurance spending. You will not find those in the Estimates.

In our economic services we are spending 8.9%. Sorry, Sir, Education is included in the figure for Social Services, 8.6% in Education. Economic Services just under 9% of our GDP. I think that these are satisfactory percentages. They show that Barbados is being run by a Government of the people, by the people, for the people and not being run for the benefit of small groups or classes. This is something, Sir, of which on both sides of the House, I think we should take credit and not try to drag down the country in our less temperate moments at home or abroad.

Defence Expenditure, I do not know if hon. members will advert to that, on the other hand compared with 17% in Social Services is less than 1% of what this country produces in goods and services annually. They are developing countries, South American countries that spend – when I wonder how they can accept the terms of American Loans for military credit it is pointed out to me that in fact their Defence Budget is taking up 20% of their GDP and a bigger total perhaps of their Government Expenditure.

I wonder what in Grenada they are spending on the People's Revolutionary Army, a body of people six

times the size of ours and bigger than the Trinidad Army. If that is the example that is being pointed out to us as an example where Human Rights are well upheld I would tell all those who think that Human Rights are alright if you exclude Preudhomme and the others in jail for a year without any charge and the closing down of the *Torchlight Newspaper,* I will tell all those that Human Rights does not only include being kept out of jail but it includes spending on Health, Education, Social Services, Welfare, Pensions and assisting the poor of the country and Barbados can hold up its head as a country in the Caribbean including every Caribbean country and I mean Cuba and Puerto Rico as well as the poorer countries, we can hold up our heads as spending more on Social Services proportionate to our wealth than anybody else in this area and that will be record of this Administration when we present ourselves for a second term in two months, six, twelve months or fifteen months as the case may be, Sir, at all events, before December 2nd, 1981.

Mr. Speaker, I daresay that all hon. members will want to say something during the course of the Estimates about the major items of Capital Expenditure. I will therefore not detain you too long on that matter but just in passing I will draw attention to each Head. It is less necessary now than perhaps it was in the past to itemise the projects because there are now itemized in the capital works but hon. members will, I think, be interested to see that there are eight sub-heads of Primary School Development, each one representing a separate Primary School Project, that projects at the Secondary Schools will include substantial work at Coleridge and Parry, Parkinson, Alleyne, West St. Joseph, Alexandra and Trents Schools.

These are specific projects apart from the $3 million we have been spending at Harrison College, Lodge, Combermere, Queens College and St. Michaels. Apart from the $3 million, there are specific projects at the other schools that I have mentioned, that there is a $1 million Project at Erdiston College and the Polytechnic will spend $8 million during the year, that there is a $¾ million Project at BIMAP; that $1 million will be spent improving the School Meals Services by building a new Centre, purchasing new vehicles and equipment.

I do not wish to steal the thunder of the Minister of Education but there are certain constraints he may feel in revealing a certain piece of information because it is still in draft form in his Ministry. I do not know, Sir, but I am reading in the Newspapers that the School Meals are in worst shape than they used to be, that there was something wrong in abolishing the 10¢ charged for School Meals.

There was a criticism in the Newspaper yesterday an Organisation calling themselves the Democratic Labour Party because I do not believe that hon. members opposite could be seriously lending their names to a suggestion that it was wrong to reduce the School Meals charge but emphasising that the meals are worst now than they used to be.

Now there is a certain technique perfected by a gentleman called Dr. Googles who comes from a country not very far away from the country of origin of the author, as I have been instructed, of that advertisement. Admittedly the author fought very hard 7,000 miles away from the scene of any action against Dr. Googles and his millions and therefore knowing who it is we should not take it too seriously, but Dr. Googles said that you must tell a big lie and if you repeat the big lie often enough, people will think it is the truth.
11.10 a.m.

A comparison of the menus in the School Meals Service will show – I did not say Dr. Goring, I do not wish to offend the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. A comparison of menus for given periods five years ago, and at present will show that the standard of meals has gone up. But two UNESCO Consultants have just been in Barbados and they paid certain unheralded visits to schools to make spot checks on the quality of the School Meals Service and those experts have written that the Barbados School Meals Service is the best they have ever encountered in any country in the world and they have also compared a meal which they ate, favourably, with a meal which they ate the night before at the hotel. They said the same thing was served and it was better at the School Meals and yet, we have to put up with these vagabonds in the Press trying to distress a lot of innocent children by making them feel that they are being misfed and underfed. That is what we have to put up with in this country. Drag your country down at all cost, no matter at what expense and damage to the morale of the citizen out there who has reason to believe he is hearing an honest criticism and does not realise who he is really dealing with.

The vote for the hospital Sir, sets out very clearly, the particular Heads going down to sub Head 14 with which we are familiar, but I would draw to hon. members' attention to Sub-Head 16 under the Capital Head 81 which represents the vote for the introduction of the National Drug Plan and the National Health Service. Five and a half million dollars is being appropriated of which $4 million is for drugs to be supplied under the Drug Plan. I will not expand on this. I imagine that it will be dealt with by the Minister when the Head is reached. It is a major plank in the policy of the Barbados Labour Party to introduce the National Health Service as promised in our Manifesto to the public and this $5½ million is the first instalment.

Under the Head Ministry of Labour and Community Services, it will be observed that $800,000 is voted for Housing and Welfare and $1 million is being voted for

community centres and sports facilities. I think the Community centres and sports facilities speaks for itself. Under Housing and Welfare, hon. members would wish to note that the money here to be appropriated, is for an expansion of the programme of providing welfare houses for old age pensioners who are in need of proper housing.

I am proud to say that by the end of this month, on the basis of this year's vote, the Hon. Minister of Labour, Community Development and Welfare will have built more houses under the Welfare Programme for old people than the Democratic Labour Party built in all the 15 years that it was in power, and he will have done this in as near as makes no difference, in a matter of 15 months. Funds are being provided for the continuation of this very important work.

I have dealt with Head 78 and indicated some of the major road programmes which are under development. I touched on highway maintenance and highway reconstruction. Perhaps, to take current along with capital, I could deal with another of the current complaints which in this case Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleagues have persuaded me – maybe I live in a road that is not too bad – but they have persuaded me, are reasonably well founded. This refers to the general public, as well as, political complaints about the state of the roads. Checks have been made Sir and it has been discovered that the information which I gave the House on the change in the quality in the road repair materials in 1975, at the end of 1975, was perfectly well founded. The quality of the material used to repair the roads went down under the previous regime. They accepted a last good quality road repair material during 1975 and we are now seeing the results of that.

I am going to say this – you will have a lot of friends on this side if you took – the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is making *sotto voce* remark relating to a public servant. I am hearing it from him, but I have heard it from other quarters not necessarily on that side of the House before, but we cannot divorce ourselves from the performance of our public servants. That is a very important matter you must understand and although Mr. Speaker, I am giving the reasons why the roads have gone into holes, which is that from 1975, they were repaired by inferior materials. I am given that as a reason. I am also saying Sir, that even when it was pointed out to the public officers that superior material is available and that steps should be taken to formulate programmes for using it, there was some sloth in developing the programmes. In the same way that the previous Government, I think, had to bear the burden of using the inferior materials in the first place, I accept that we have to bear the burden of correcting it and I have much hope that during the year, the funds which are being appropriated for the rebuilding of a new asphalt plant for the Ministry of Communications and Works; I am hoping the new plant will include superior facilities that will allow us to use better materials. You will need special materials – I was hearing arrangements, I do not know exist – and so allow us to use better materials, a hot mix wherever possible, for road repairs or at the least, use a better quality asphalt emulsion, not the asphalt cement, for road repairs.

11.20 a.m.

I really can't say that the complaints about the bad roads are the result of malice or anything else. I think that those on the other side who are complaining may not even be aware because many of them, Sir, took little trouble to find out what was actually going on in Government in those bitter and thankfully forgotten days of 1975. I do not think they realise it is they, it is that Government that was responsible for the bad condition of the roads.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Sir, has a large number of sub-heads which hon. members will no doubt explore. Hon. members perhaps may wonder when they see Subhead 5 why a relatively small amount is being voted for soil conservation. I should tell hon. members that the report of the consultants on the Scotland District Scheme is in hand but it recommends such major works, works of a character that exceed any engineering works done in Barbados before, that we are having to carry out very intensive consultations with the Inter-American Development Bank which will be the basic provider of funds for the Scotland District Scheme. They will have to provide basic funds. Other agencies have expressed an interest in carrying out certain sub-projects, but consultations are underway. While in Washington during the week I met engineering experts as well as the President and the Vice-President and the number three man at the Bank to discuss this scheme. We have therefore not been able to formulate sums of money to go into the soil conservation scheme on the basis of the new study. Nonetheless the study is directing our feet, pointing our feet in the right direction, and we have increased the amounts for work in the Scotland District in every item except professional services because these amounts would have been exhausted in payment for the study during the year.

Hon. members will take note under sub-head 19 that the subsidy for the Barbados Marketing Corporation is now down to $167,000. I see the hon. member for St. Michael West in his seat. I would like to congratulate him on the management of the BMC which – I do not want to be unkind to anybody, but which came as virtually the greatest surprise I have had in Government. I do not mean surprise that he managed it so well, but surprise that his qualities of management were able to overcome years of difficulty and the people with whom he had to deal, the greatest surprise I have had when I understood that the BMC's accounts at the last completed financial year showed a loss of only $26,000, and that that loss

was entirely referrable to depreciation of stock. In other words, it showed an operating profit. I believe for perhaps the first time in its history I could only sit and wonder, Sir, because there had been many projections in the Ministry of Finance that the BMC would continue to put forward a fair face to explain that it would make a huge amount of money and then every year and a half come back for sums of between $1½ million and $2 million to bale them out. I believe the BMC's overdraft is now down to very small proportions, that the current year, I do not want to put my mouth on it, but the current year will show an over-all profit. The hon. member does not want me to say that, but I still think it is true and certainly the fact that we are asking the House for less money under the Head of producers' price support which represents the work the BMC does by way of capital vote is a matter of congratulations, and the current vote expenses of the abattoir have caused a slight increase, but over-all there is a substantial decrease in what the Government has to pay BMC for running the abattoir, the cold storage, assisting in small farmer development exercise and assisting in produce handling.

Sir, the Estimates are full of these items. I have dealt with many of the capital Heads. Now I have not dealt with my own capital Head, Sir, but these items are fairly conventional in the Ministry of Finance. The principal construction item is the building of the new Central Purchasing Warehouse, the largest item is $2.4 million for the establishment of the air cargo service, the joint venture with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, but hon. members will find the projects – it will take too much time to go through every single capital project – as they go through the different Heads.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes what I have to say upon the Estimates. A reasonable year last year and looking forward in straightforward financial terms to another reasonable year in 1980-81. I have no doubt that all concerned have worked well, and I would like very much to thank the officials in the Ministry of Finance who have worked under very great pressure to prepare these Estimates in the new form for this comparatively early time of debating. I am sure that all in the public service and Barbadians generally will buckle down to face economic difficulties that will confront the country in the forthcoming year because the fact that we have done well should not hide from us the fact that all developing and developed countries are facing considerable economic difficulties.

11.30 a.m.

We can look forward to oil price increases. We have a great stake in President Carter reducing inflation in the United States, but I make this statement without any fear of contradiction that until he does so, until the United States comes back down to single digit inflation it will be impossible in Barbados to have single digit inflation without a very considerable reduction of economic activity, have more unemployment and to have the Government finances falling into disrepair once again. It is a straightforward choice whether you want the policies of the hon. member for St. Michael South West, 22% unemployment and 40% inflation, or whether you want the policies of the hon. members on this side, unemployment halved and inflation divided by three. That is the five year effect. Hon. members and the public can choose, but I want all to understand the choice which lies before us, an open relatively defenceless economy, the only defences those which can be erected by good and honest Government and integrity among politicians and by the spirit of goodwill, the spirit of peace and love, not the spirit of hate, burn and kill in all who have the Government, and I am speaking of all politicians in the widest sense in this country.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I endeavoured to start at the beginning of the Second Reading speech on the Appropriation Bill moved by the Hon. Minister of Finance, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, but I will begin at the end. I made some notes, as I usually do when he is speaking, because one has to follow him very very carefully. I sat on the other side of the House during the time when the hon. member was first, not the Leader of the Opposition, I believe he was sitting over there and we were on this side as the Government when the position of the Speaker's Chair was reversed. He sat then under, I believe, two different Leaders of the Opposition and after the resignation of his illustrious forbear. After that I sat on that side where he is sitting when he was Leader of the Opposition over here.

There are several remarks which the hon. member made today which I find – I cannot say amusing – I should like to say ironic. Having been one of the victims of hate and burn, not necessarily the victim of kill yet, in his – I do not like to say apotheosis – in his rounding up or running down of his speech, the hon. member of all people appealed that we should have an atmosphere of peace and love. The Democratic Labour Party has never at any time enjoyed any kind of peace or any kind of love under the leader ship of the hon. member, at any time from his advent in politics in Barbados the whole atmosphere of this Chamber turned from one of reasonable parliamentary debate to one of vituperation and hate and outward expressions of I want to be this and I want to be that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I am sure that the hon. member is reflecting on the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: How am I reflecting on the Chair? I did not refer to you when you were a member over here, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't question the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: How am I reflecting on the Chair?

Mr. SPEAKER: I maintain that you are reflecting on the Chair and you will withdraw the remarks.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I can only correct my ways if it is indicated to me in what way I am doing so, Sir, which is normal even in a Court of law as you are well aware, that you are told what is the offence you have committed. I do not know what the offence is that I have committed, I was not at the meeting in Boscobelle last night so I just want to make it clear, don't take it out on me for anything that was said in your constituency.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now look, the hon. member will withdraw his remark about the Chair attempting to take out anything.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never said that you were, Sir, I said do not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't want to ask you to leave.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will withdraw it, Sir. You don't want me to make a second reading speech, I will withdraw that remark. I am entitled to reply to any speech made by anyone inside here not only as the Leader of the Opposition; we talk about human rights, the House of Assembly does not have human rights?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is irrelevant.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would clear the air if I said that I did not say in my speech anything about hating and burning in here, I sat silent while the hon. member said that I brought hate into the House of Assembly, which is a reflection on me. The reason why I sat silent is I did not wish to interrupt him in his reply on an important occasion such as this. But I would say this now, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to get angry, it is a serious reflection on me to say that there was no hate in the House of Assembly until I came in and that I introduced it in here, that the House of Assembly was a peaceful place until I brought hate and burning in here, so it reflects on me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is well taken.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I hope that my points, Mr. Speaker, will be equally well taken, because I feel that as the presiding officer you will see that equality is preserved in here. That is how I feel about your discharge of your duties in the Chair. I am sure about that.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is suggesting that I am not now doing so.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: No, Sir, I am saying that I am assured that you were.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a reflection on the Chair again.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: How could that be a reflection?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are begging me to chase you out of in here.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not begging you, I want to make my speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are reflecting on the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You are hyper-sensitive if you feel that. I am saying that I am assured that you will preserve equality in here, because that is your duty. Please do not let us be hyper-sensitive, you have been in here long enough to know what the rights of hon. members are.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please address your remarks relating to the motion before the House. Up to the present you are wasting the time of this Hon. House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is not a remark that I would have thought would have come from you, Sir, I am replying specifically to statements made by the hon. member. Members of this House have human rights as well, we have equality before the law and I have special duties to perform in here and I am going to discharge them as you discharge your duty, Sir.

I was surprised to hear the hon. member make statements like that. I entered this Chamber in December 1951 and I am making a statement of fact. (Rt. HON. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: September). You sat, Sir, on the same side of the House as the hon. member, I entered the House in December, I should know when I entered the House of Assembly. You were not even in the Island.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is all this to do with the Appropriation Bill? What is all this to do with the second reading of the Appropriation Bill?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You should ask the hon. member what the statements to which I am referring have

to do with the Appropriation Bill, I can only reply to him.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg you do not challenge the Chair in this manner.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You mean we cannot say anything at all when you make a statement, that I must be a dummy? I have never spoken out in defence of various people inside of this office when their rights were being challenged? Spoken out at various members of the public with and without reward, regardless of political parties and now I can't defend myself?

I am saying, Sir, that I was surprised to hear the hon. member make that statement about hate, burn and kill. He didn't accuse us but inferentially he is saying that the people on this side have introduced an atmosphere of hate, burn and kill. He introduced these words.
11.40 a.m.

And that is what I am hearing now. Maybe some of them would like to see me killed; but I have survived – I am a survivor; I was taught to survive. The most that can happen to me is that you can send me outside. You can't stop me from eating, you can't starve me out. I do mean you personally, Sir; as a matter of fact, on some occasions you have contributed to my survival. I do not want to make further reference to that but I would express concern that the hon. member should wind up a debate on the Estimates of expenditure and revenue with a statement like this.

Then I go to the second point he made – the second point from the end (ASIDES) I am not a TV star; I have survived for twenty five years without television. The second last point the hon. member made that until the United States comes back down to single digit inflation it will be impossible in Barbados...The hon. member had better have some quiet words with the Governor of the Central Bank and try to reconcile their statements because there has been a severe dichotomy or divergence of expression between the Minister of Finance and the Central Bank – sometimes they were singing the same tune, and sometimes like when the Minister of Finance went out of the country the Governor of the Central Bank felt like an uncaged bird and flew the cage. Statements about inflation in Barbados which the hon. member is now covering the Caribbean Development Bank had pointed out that you cannot be telling the people in Barbados that you have single digit inflation in Barbados when your major trading partners – the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States – have rampant inflation of the magnitude of 20–21% and you are saying you have inflation in Barbados down to 9%. What the hon. member is doing now is closing the gap between the irreconcilable statements previously made; but he would have known this all along, and I have intended in my second reading speech to draw attention to this continuous barrage of propaganda that we are getting from the Statistical Services in Barbados – a lot of misleading information based on so-called sample surveys of this and sample surveys of that, completely unscientific, which he used to warn me about when he was on this side of the House but which all of a sudden now that he is Minister of Finance for his own purposes finds he can rely on when he wants to lull the people into that state of somnolence by telling them how marvelous things are in Barbados whereas in the United States inflation is out of hand and where in one of the other great industrial economies, the United Kingdom, inflation is out of hand; but here in Barbados, thanks be to God or to the Minister of Finance, we are down to single digit inflation. This is not so. And I want to get the position straight, which brings me to the third point before the last, about propaganda from outside.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I think I may have chosen my words badly in dealing with inflation. What I was trying to say is that we cannot expect inflation to be back in single digits in Barbados while in the United States it is at its very high level. I did not mean that inflation in Barbados is now running in single digits. (ASIDES)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would not expect Bradshaw to understand, so do not pay any attention to him. (ASIDES) We do not cut canes in St. John at that time of the year. (ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member for St. John please address the Chair?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The point that I made is not that the hon. member is now saying that we have single digit inflation; the hon. member is now saying that he wants to make it clear that we do not have single digit inflation and the reason is what he should have known all along and I should not have to explain it.

I come to another point relating to the question of wages and the Estimates which are not now going to have a surplus. I am glad you have now come out and told hon. members on your side not to expect a surplus, because this is the point – there is no surplus on capital or current account. The point is that what the Governor of the Central Bank said – I have a great respect for the Central Bank – but Governors of Central Banks should not be making public statements so often or at all. Governors of Central Banks should go to speech days and give out prizes and say how they used to run the hundred metres as a school boy; but they should not be speaking on economic matters because Governors of Central Banks are not necessarily economic forecasters.
11.50 a.m.

The point is this, Mr. Speaker, that the level of wages and salaries in Barbados has very little to do with inflation, very very little to do with inflation because we are in an open economy and the amount of goods and services which are produced here in Barbados is the result of the endeavours of our working population.

If you look at the breakdown as I have it here on a document of the contribution of the various sectors towards the Gross Domestic Product at capital cost or even at market value, if you look at the breakdown you will see that services in Barbados constitute the greatest component of the Gross Domestic Product.

Now how does that contribute towards inflation? Profits contribute towards inflation. Profits will contribute towards inflation because in the manufacturing sector, I personally can vouch for the fact that the minimum mark-up for manufacturing in this country for goods sold other than the endeavours of small workers is a minimum of 150%.

Now if the Workers' Organisations, let us say that it cost $100.00 to make a chair, including the wage component, including the cost of material imported and locally produced the cost of that should be $100.00, the mark-up is 150% which means that when it reaches the retailer it is $250.00 and then the retailer adds on his mark-up and it is not to be shown, so you may end up paying something like 200% or 250% on the cost of that item so the man who is working in the lower eschelons of the public service and he goes and buys this chair, his cost of living has gone up. That is inflationary but if he then asks for a modest increase and his wage component is 50% of the cost of the production of the chair, and he even asked for 50% increase in his wages, it could not send up the cost of the manufacture of that chair by more than $25.00 so now that the chair costs $135.00 and it is reaching the consumer at something like $250.00 or $300.00.

If the Governor of the Central Bank wishes to relate inflation to any local inputs it has to be at the profit level and not at the level of wage demands. That is one of the dangers of having a kind of exogenous kind of exporter when people go to a lot of Institutions in these economies outside who are highly self-supporting or self-contained where you have inter-industries, linkages where you can build a complete economic model of the U.S. economy without depending on any external inputs at all.

You can do the same thing to a lesser degree, of course, to the United Kingdom and almost 100% certainty with the Soviet Union but up to now there has not been a single West Indian Island that has been able after trying for 20 years to produce an economic model which has any validity.

I would go even so far to say that there has not been a single West Indian Island that has been able to produce an economic model at all. I was going to say an economic model that has any validity towards our situation in these countries but they have been trying. They were trying in Barbados when I was here. I was trying myself, Jamaica has been trying, Trinidad has been trying and the difficulty of building an economic model where you can show the inter-industry relationships apart from the lineal forecasting to build a matrix which has relevance in the economy is a waste of time because there are so many factors over which you have absolutely no control that it is an almost impossible feat to try to achieve one.

12.00 p.m.

When the Governor of the Central Bank comes out with a statement like that and tells us about, I am not going to enter into the dispute between the workers organisation and the Governor on this side because I have my own views on this – I do not think anybody should come and tell people who are negotiating a dispute – it is something like when a matter is subjudicate. I do not think anybody should be delivering verdicts from outside on the outcome of those negotiations whether it be an actual judicial matter or a matter which is before a Committee of Parliament, or a matter which is cause of industrial negotiations. I do not really want to take up the cudgels for the Barbados Workers Union. I pride myself for being a trade union lawyer. I have never worked for an employers' organisation in my life. I am psychologically unsuited. It is not that I could not interpret the laws the same way as some of the people on the other side in their interest, or tell them what the law is but that was not my training. I do not feel that it is incumbent for me at this junction to do something which they can do adequately for themselves, but I am speaking as a leader of a responsible political party, the responsible leader of that party and I am saying categorically that there are two things that we have to watch in this society.

First, Government officers or anybody connected with the Government being induced to jump affray of matters which are controversial. I think that when you get this kind of thing, whether it is the staff officer of the Regiment or whether it be the Governor of the Central Bank, that person loses stature in the eyes of the community and the particular department suffers as a result.

What is going to happen in these Estimates, is that you have negotiations going on now and if I did not say it, it has already been said, you have a surplus which is no surplus at all. The Prime Minister said in here today, his exact words; you will excuse me Sir because I do not want to misquote the exact words on that point. After saying the demands in one case is $70 million and a case of $72 million then even half of those demands would be

beyond the Government's capacity and would put an impossible strain on the Government's resources. Then the Hon. Minister of Finance having excited the taste buds of those who like to go in for conspicuous conception a few months ago, by inviting them to believe that he was going to give them a generous tax free budget. He now says in so many words, I have the precise words, Sir, that, in order to be a little more poetical; he says in so many words, not look down upon the wine, it is red, but harken to my words whether I am not speaking on the Estimates but listen to me carefully now and attend to my sayings, forget about the tax relief because these wicked people in the workers' organisation are likely to be putting an impossible strain on Government's finances and the surplus which you now see is not a surplus. It reminds me of the parable of the woman at the well of Samaria who said I have no husband. You know that parable well, Sir. The Lord said *out echo andros* – I have no husband, that is what is in the New Testament, it is the original version and He said well hast thou said. The Hon. Minister of Finance said, well hast thou said that we have a surplus because we have no surplus and that which thou now seest is not a surplus at all because even that which was a surplus has been taken away by those who would now be supporting it. That is a parable. The parable of the invisible surplus, and who said it? Not me Sir, I am not given to speaking in parables. I have not the gift of prophecy, neither do I speak in tongues nor have I the gift of speaking in parables but the hon. member for St. Thomas, the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance has really put on a fantastic performance here today.

Point No. 4 from the end, the last but four points, he said about dragging the country down. No member of this party Sir, has ever gone outside of this country and said bad things about this country because we have to live here and you would remember well Mr. Speaker, that when I was on that side I frequently said that when you are inside the House there is no point in pulling the roof down because when the roof comes down, it is going to fall upon your head. So those remarks could not have been addressed to the people on this side. I would caution the hon. member not to be hypertensive about what is in the newspapers, what reporters say. Everything that they say in the newspapers, he runs to correct and then gets himself deeper and deeper into trouble.

If the newspapers report in Washington that Barbados has a deficit of $92 million or $95 million, and they do not put out that as capital account and some kind of provision is going to be made to meet this deficit on Capital Account, the deficit on Current Account of the United States of America where this same confrontation is alleged to have taken place – I am not saying it did take place, but since I was not there, Sir, I can only be guarded in my language. The confrontation between the Press and the Prime Minister is alleged to have taken placed in Washington D.C. He should have told the reporters go outside and look around you or go to the office of the budget director. The deficit on Current Account of the United States of America far less Capital Account, runs into thousands of billions of dollars, so it does not necessarily mean that Barbados is going bankrupt.

Then the other, the last but fifth point the hon. member made and you have to listen to him very carefully. The point that he made, and he made it towards the ending, departing from his recital of statistics and he gets into his innuendo and attacks the Opposition that this is the second time in 20 years that there was a published projected surplus on Current Account. I have already dealt with the surplus on Current Account that is no surplus at all. But the point is this Sir, if you pick up the same Draft Estimates you will see that year, after year, after year, after year, it is not what you published, it is not what you say, but what you do. There is a surplus – there is a 10 year summary and you will see on Page 20 of the Estimates, the difference between Revenue and Expenditure for the 10 year period going back to 1969. Now we came into office in 1961 and the story is repeated all the way back here in every single year for eight years, about the surplus on Current Account. I will just give the first year and not 1969–70 and so. +1.7, next year +2, next year +8.5, next year +6 million dollars. Then for two years, that is, the 1972 and 1973 years, there are two deficit amounts of –15 and –17. Those were the out turns.

Then we go back to +18 in 1975–76 and it has, in the first year of the present Government administration a deficit of –15 million dollars. It is all right to get up and say that to the ordinary man in the public, like the hon. member said to the agricultural workers, and I will deal with that in a moment, that this is only the second time in 20 years that there has been a projected surplus.

In truth and in fact all he is saying is what he said but to the man – as Lord Justice Bowen said in a famous case, and the Hon. Minister of Health should appreciate this, because Clapham is now inscribed deeply on her escutcheon. That is her coat-of-arms. She did not want the people to go to Clapham, but Lord Justice Bowen said that the man on the Clapham omnibus, the man who is catching the bus and going up to Clapham, when you say that this is only the second year that a projected surplus has been published, it means that in 20 years and throughout the whole period of the Democratic Labour Party administration, there was never a surplus on Current Account, when in truth and in fact, in the 15 years of the Democratic Labour Party administration according to what is printed here in the book which you have before you, there were only three years in which there was not a surplus on Current Account. But the hon. member did not tell any lies, just as when the hon. member said,

just two short weeks ago I believe it was, Sir, that he was giving this great relief to agricultural workers and that he had instructed the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to tell the employers in the Sugar Industry not to take out the full amount of Pay As You Earn. The hearts of many people in the agricultural belt were drawn.

They did not wait to listen to the end of the address, I did not say performance Sir, of their television star. People like me, who are prudent, wait to hear because we know that he is always very careful, but only lawyers wait to hear. The truth of the matter is that the agricultural workers at the end of the year are not being given any tax relief at all. They will then have to look for the money that they did not pay during the crop time, if they owe the income tax any money. The hon. member said that in truth and in fact, and there he was very, very honest you see, and people do not give him a chance, they jump to conclusions and do not let the hon. member explain himself because he does drop his voice sometimes when it comes to the critical part but that is for effect rather than to mislead. He said that in truth and in fact they will be getting their refunds a little earlier and that is all it amounts to if they are getting refunds, but some of them will have to pay because during the crop time, when they are working for a lot of money, they really do not need that kind of concession, if they have to pay it back at the end of the year.

Last year, when there was a new change over in the system of coding and the computer had to be adjusted, he made another great announcement and all the middle income people and Civil Servants and a lot of people who do not listen, again felt that they were being given a whole month off in which they would not have to pay any taxes and they did not find out until they put in their final returns, that it was really for that month that he was not collecting, that as Jackie Opel said "You got to pay". In the long run you still "got to pay" and "you got to pay" at a time when you least expected because you have gone and spent the money already but again, they are very unfair to the Hon. Minister of Finance. They always accuse him of saying things that he has never said.

12.10 p.m.

He never said that the agricultural workers will not have to pay the same tax as anybody else. He never said it. All he said was during the crop season as an incentive he had told the Commissioner of Inland Revenue not to collect the full amount of tax then; he did not say "or at all"; he said "then". But I am the only person who is fair to him. I am his biggest defender. I have to explain to people you are being unfair to the Minister, you are accusing the Minister of saying things that he has not said, and I have to tell the press from time to time you are very unfair because you do not listen, and I agree with him the press is slightly irresponsible. As a matter of fact they even write editorials accusing the Prime Minister of intending things that he never said, but this is the kind of irresponsible journalism you have in this country, and the whole community with a few notable exceptions like your humble servant, Sir, has been misled as a result.

I should like to deal very briefly with certain other aspects, not so much of his speech as certain other aspects of the Estimates themselves. We will have a lot of opportunity as you no doubt will remind other speakers, the emphasis being on "other", other than myself, we will have ample opportunity of dealing with individual items in the Estimates, so they do not have to waste your time; so I do not intend to do that either. But there are certain general aspects of the proposals which have not been specifically alluded to by the Hon. Minister of Finance to which I should like to draw Your Honour's attention. He has drawn attention fortunately to the absence of a real surplus which I would have drawn attention to anyhow. He did not take to task the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union for not welcoming the intervention of the Governor of the Central Bank because obviously the Governor of the Central Bank is an office under his jurisdiction and what he does privately we do not expect him to castigate public officers for whose behaviour he is responsible. Whatever he may have done when he was Leader of the Opposition is a different thing altogether, provided as he did on one famous occasion with the Commissioner of Police, give the Speaker at the time notice of his intention to criticise Commissioner Reid, but when you are in the position of a Minister one may call quietly various officers and give them advice, but you don't have to say whether you agree or disagree with everything you see in the newspapers.

I was glad to hear the Minister of Finance say at five minutes after 11 o'clock today that we should take credit on both sides of the House. I presume by that statement which is very left-handed, come with the arm, that he means that the former administration whom he so frequently accuses of mismanagement and other heinous crimes, was also responsible for looking after the social services in this country. As a matter of fact the World Bank Report points out that education which is something that he did not mention here in his social services was the largest single item in public expenditure in the Estimates of Barbados up to 1976–77. I believe now charges of debts are pretty close now to taking pride of place, but charges of debt are creeping up and probably occupy place No. 2 possibly No. 3 but when one is on one's feet one does not want to waste the time of the House with trivialities like whether something occupies place No. 2 or No. 3; but charges of debt are considerable. But I take it that what the Prime Minister meant when he made that remark was that here in Barbados we have been spending no matter what administration has

been in office, a considerable amount of our revenue collected by way of taxation on transfer payments back to the people in the form of social services, not even to mention education which in itself is a social service. The Prime Minister himself did not drop his voice when he said that, so I take it to mean now that he is acknowledging that is a trend which they are trying to continue; but I am sure that some of his members were not listening to him attentively and that is why they cheered when he said it, because had they realised that he was saying it was a continuation of a trend which had existed, there would have been scowls of displeasure rather than cheers of joy.

The social security and health spending by Government amounted to $84 million or 70% of GDP; health, welfare and social services. When the Hon. Minister of Finance made that statement, he on two or three occasions said social security. Now I just want to say this; if he really meant that, I do not think that one should, either side either Government, take some kind of satisfaction – I do not know whether satisfaction is the right word – should take credit for spending on national insurance and social security, because after all the Government's input into that is negligible if it exists at all, probably the provision of subsidised office accommodation if it is so. What I am saying is this: that your social security scheme is a self-contained scheme to which both employers and the employees contribute, both sides. Therefore it is the nation, the workers themselves who are contributing to their social security benefits. The Minister himself may not have been aware that he said national insurance and social security. If he was I am only saying that I draw a distinction between Government spending on social services in which I would have included education and got my expenditure right higher. There is no quarrel between us, but I am only saying what my approach would have been. I would have included education and I certainly would have left out national insurance, because I would regard national insurance as something to which the workers had contributed themselves and for which they were almost entirely responsible with the contributions which were made by the employers. But the point is that I do not think there is any divergence of opinion over the fact that here in Barbados we have been in the lead, and the social security scheme and national insurance was instituted by the Democratic Labour Party administration, quite apart from the fact that our expenditure on social services are immeasurably higher than those which are made in countries which even have greater resources in the way of incomes and royalties from oil such as our friends from the south of us, who instituted a scheme for national insurance and social security long after this country had one.
12.20

As far as I remember, I may be wrong, Barbados was probably the first country in the Commonwealth Caribbean to actually introduce a full fledged scheme of National Insurance in the 20 Century.

What strikes me about the Estimates is this, and then I will deal with its presentation, is that there has been a substantial increase in the revenue from all forms of taxation between the fiscal year 1976–77 and 1980–81. Revenue from incomes and profits moved from $93 million to $161 million, an increase of $67 million on revenue from incomes and profits, and then there was an additional $17 million from what is called the employers levy. It was called at one time the unemployment levy, it is now called an employers levy. In other polite circles it is known as a payroll tax. That was something that was not there before, so if you add that on to the revenue from incomes and profits, there has been a 90% increase between 1976 and 1980. That is adding on 17 to 67, from $80 million over $93 million as close as possible, that is to say, rounding it off to 90% increase.

One makes allowances for growth in the economy, but I have never heard the Hon. Minister say at any time that the economy of Barbados has grown at the rate of 22½% per annum since he has taken office. At no time – I have heard him say today, and I think I heard him say that somebody else had said so before that he and I did not agree – but whenever the hon. member is preparing a fall back position he always drags me into it as his best shield and buckler for that defence position. He said that he and I would not necessarily agree that it would be as high as 7%, but that is the highest that I have ever heard him say.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation. The hon. member really should not confuse the difference between gross and net, a 7% real increase is 7% after making allowances for inflation and if you add the inflation on to the 7% you will surely get more than the increase in revenue, which is 18%. It is in fact 17%, inflation 13 growth 7, growth more than revenue. In other words the country has become more prosperous. Commonsense, arithmetic, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member did not agree it would be 7% but 7% is the highest and he said that is net. I am hearing that today.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation. The hon. member must know what is the difference between real growth.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet. The hon. member has not given way.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He did not say what point he is on, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: He said a point of elucidation but you did not give way, so you may proceed.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I didn't hear him, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am proceeding, Sir. I never heard the net before but we must always have a safety net, a very useful device; even high flying trapeze artistes use safety nets because if you fall then your fall is broken, so I compliment the hon. member for having the foresight to have a net on which he could fall. But it does not invalidate my figures, Sir, that if one looks at the rise in taxation from incomes and profits it is a 90% rise over a four year period – less than a four year period – and that is 22½%, therefore if he says that the 7% which he says that he and I do not necessarily agree on but now today he is saying that it looks as if it is possible, well let us accept that he and I somehow or the other may come to some unanimous verdict or conclusion that it is a 7% net growth rate, that leaves us 15½%, so he is saying then that the inflation rate is 15½% and have been for the past four years? That is the irresistible inference one would have to draw, so he needs another kind of net, because he is now saying that the inflation rate is 15½%, which is not single digit inflation that he was claiming in 1978 or 1977, because the average for the four year period is 22½% increase in income, but I am saying that in money terms that that is not reflected in the performance of the economy in net terms or otherwise, and then when one examines the indirect taxation on page iv – Goods and Services – the revenue on goods, on international trade rose from $42.6 million to $75 million, and a very quick inspection will show that that is over 75% increase in revenue. I am giving you round figures, I have got my little calculator here which has a Chiming Bell Society on it, do you want to hear it? That is net. If you go and you look at Goods and Services, (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There is no $42 million here on page iv). I am sorry, look at page iii, the page before that, and you see Taxes on Incomes and Profits rose from $93 million to $161 million, employers levy which was not received before, and then Taxes of Property from 11 to 17, Taxes on Goods and Services 43.8 to 86.7. That is the one I want to draw your attention to.
12.30 p.m.

You call 1976–77 to 1980 five years? When I went to Wesley Hall I was taught that six from ten leaves four; but you never went to elementary school. *(Asides)* Be that as it may you will see that whether you call it a four or five year period, in 1976 you collected $43 million on licences, petroleum consumption tax, motor vehicles, motor spirits, airport service charge, restaurant sales and airline service tax. It is now $86 million – a 100% increase. Up to now in your taxation in a four year period you have had nothing less than 75%; you had 90% then 75%, now a 100% increase in the same period. Good luck to you if you can get away with it; get it while the going is good.

But let us look at the realities of the situation; you have a 100% increase there and you seem to be making a little industry out of that on public account, not on private sector account. And I am concerned about this. If you are going to collect nearly a million dollars – I have just adverted to the fact that in your revenue alone you collected during that period $100 million more from the people of Barbados by way of taxation despite the fact that in accordance with the promise made in your Manifesto you handed back six to eight million dollars; you gave it back with the left hand and took it with the right; but the right hand was a steel fist and the left a silk glove. What I am concerned about is that if you can collect a million dollars in work permits there must be a lot of people coming into this country. You can't tell me that Barbadians are so unskilled; either you are charging $30,000 for a work permit or charging twenty people $50,000 each or two hundred people $5,000 each.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I don't want the hon. member to have to detain himself much longer on this. The hon. member must know that work permit fees were multiplied by five or ten in some cases. I did not even know we were getting $100 million, but I regard it as a matter for congratulations, because if you can get $1 million from the same number of foreigners from which the hon. member used to collect $150,000 then we don't have to tax Barbadians to the tune of that million dollars. But he must be aware that permits were raised in some cases from $100 to $5,000. Work permits for bank managers were raised from $100 to $5,000.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You are getting nearly a million dollars but we don't have that many banks in Barbados. As a matter of fact we have less banks than before because some of the branches have been closing down and all the banks did not change their managers last year or this year. As a matter of fact very few bank managers have been changed, to the best of my knowledge and belief, so it cannot be at the bank manager level. Indeed, we have so many Barbadians trained in banking that they are leaving the Central Bank in droves. We are overstaffed with bank managers.

I understand that there was an article in one of the local newspapers where tourists come in and get their work permits and do not have anything to do. If this is true, this is the kind of situation that needs investigation. Let us forget that we are on opposite sides politically and otherwise and look at this matter seriously. If we are Barbadians we must have a policy of employment for

Barbadians and should not be using the device of work permits. It is true you are entitled to increase the fees in order to discourage people from even making the application, but the fact that they can pay the fee should not be the criterion by which you give them the right to reside and work in Barbados. You can use it as a deterrent but if somebody really wants to come here and can pull out $5,000 you must not say "This is $5,000 more, let us take it." I hear there are lots of people being brought into this country from the other Islands and given work permits and in some cases given the money to pay for the work permit. I can give one such case: I had to lend a fellow some money up to last week, although he had been here for eight years, to pay for his work permit. I did this because he was working on a project in which I had some interest and he has to pay $200 more although the permit had been given to him last year. I also hear there are cases where there are people being brought into this country from the neighbouring Islands and are being registered. I have been back here in this country for something like thirty years – and cannot get registered. May be they suspect that I am a member of the D. L. P.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, Sir, if the hon. member would give way, I have investigated the matter of the hon. member's registration and have been assured that the registering officer has visited him three times and has been unable to find him. 12.40 p.m.

A Report has been formally made to me because I have said that I want you to register the Leader of the Opposition, even if he is a member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know who the Registering Officer is. That is an excuse they can always give that they cannot find me because they go at unreasonable hours. If he goes now, I would be in the House of Assembly but I am at my office from about 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the afternoon and the Law does not say that you have to go to a place where a person normally resides.

You can go and register a person if you catch him down in the Bus Stand, once you know where he lives. I maybe wrong but that is irrelevant. Tell him he can find me at George Street on any day Monday to Friday and sometimes on Saturdays and Sundays as well. I will call him up. Anyway, I am voting. I do not care whether he registers me or not. I am voting and I am going to decide where I vote too.

Now, Sir, I was saying that I understand there are cases where people come in here, get work permits and then go and get registered. I am saying that the work permit should not be used primarily as a revenue earner. It is undesirable as a matter of policy to use it in this way because you do not investigate every application for work permits. I do not think that is the Minister's job.

You should have responsible officers who are able without fear of fervour to examine these applications impartially and when they are satisfied that there is no Barbadian who is interested or able to do a certain job, then and only then should these work permits be issued and it should have nothing to do with Government revenue at all. That is all I want to say on that particular subject but it struck me that when you can raise $1 million from work permits that something is wrong somewhere. It cannot all be Bank Managers coming in here because they are only so many Banks that we have to manage in Barbados.

On page (xviii), since we do not normally debate these pages, I would like the Prime Minister to give me an explanation about "Sundry and Special Receipts" – $3 million. The explanatory notes really do not give it. It is a large amount of money. It is page (xviii), Item 7, Head 8 – Special Receipts. The Explanatory Note says "Receipts other than reimbursements which cannot be appropriately credited to a Revenue Item." That is like Miscellaneous but I am sure that since we are going into this with such particularity now, it reminds me of a joke.

After the 1950 Cricket Tour of England when we had such dissatisfaction there was a very clever skit on the Radio in England about disbursing of the expenses and after saying that the West Indian Cricket Board would give so much to Barbados and so on they kept the rest which amounted to £17,000 for Miscellaneous Expenses and the Jamaican fellow said "This is not fair because Miscellaneous did not play. How can you give Miscellaneous all of that money?" So I want to know why "Sundry" should get $3 million and we do not know who Sundry is so we want you tell us who "Sundry" is and what this $3 million is for because $3 million is a lot of money just to say that you do not have a Head in the Item when we are going into particulars now about whether you are spending this money on Constitution Road or whether you are spending it on River Road.

We are going into that kind of detail about Items like $3,000 or $4,000 and then you have $3 million and say that is for Sundry Expenses and Sundry does not pay taxes and giving Sundry all of that kind of money. The fellow talked about Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous was not on his side. Who is Sundry?

Mr. Speaker, last year on page 14, Defence Force, we had an Item in last year's Estimates which I have before me. Under this Head which was then Head 106 and which in the Estimates this year is now Head 72 for

the Defence Force, the Prime Minister has explained that he has reduced the number of Heads from 99 to 35 and Capital from 35 to 30 and increased the Sub-Head to 117. Anyhow, Defence and Security was Head 106. It is now 72.

We had an Item there last year for Airplanes and Ships and so on and it does not appear in this year's and I looked for it particularly because it has been brought to my knowledge that an order was placed with Vasper Marine for an amount far in excess of the amount which was being voted even in last year's Estimates for a Vessel of War. It is not a Battle Ship or an Airplane carrier but certainly it is not a Fishing Boat. The magnitude of the sum of $6 million net, that is without radar, without communication equipment and so on. I do not see any mention of any Ships or anything in the Defence Vote for this Order so where is the money going to come from?

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate the points which you raised but I would still like to draw your attention to Standing Order 64(2) in that in a Second Reading Speech you ought to confine yourself to the general principles of Government Policy and Administration as indicated by the Bill and Estimates.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I am saying is that you reduced the number of Heads and the Prime Minister said that if we looked at Appendix F we would see that in the coding it explains certain things but certain specific notes which we had in last year's Estimates could not be found and I only quoted that as an example. I do not intend to continue in that way and thank you for the reminder, Mr. Speaker.

I was just pointing out that it is a matter of principle that I cannot find it in Appendix "F" or the new Head 72 a specific reference which should have been transferred to Appendix "F" or some other place in the Estimates so all in all, Mr. Speaker, I will now wind up my remarks since I do not intend to speak longer than the Hon. Minister who introduced the Bill even if I were allowed to do so.
12.50 p.m.

We are living in an open economy. I do not think we should delude ourselves. I do not think as I have said before that we should produce one set of figures here and try then to squeeze the workers of this country back into a chamber which would fit into our preconception of what our figures ought to be. I hope I have made myself clear.

You have predicted Government being the largest employer of labour in this country, that you are going to spend X amount of dollars this year. We know that Government will necessarily have to spend more and the only way that you can – which is not being predicative – get a surplus, on Current Account, is if you drastically curtail employment in the public sector in Barbados during the coming year. If you curtail employment either you have over estimated, you agree that your wages and salaries bill has got to go up but it can hardly be contained in the way that the Government of the Central Bank would like it to be contained. I do not think that we should try to squeeze the workers back into a position to make the figures look respectable. I do not think that is doing justice to the intelligence of the general public. I do not think it is doing justice to the workers who are faced with inflation in this country and I do not think we should tell people there is no inflation in Barbados or that there is little inflation in Barbados because the World Bank has now brought the Ministry of Finance to its senses and explained to them that there is no way that the inflation rate in Barbados could be single digit inflation when it is rampant in the countries who are our traditional trading partners.

If some modicum of reason has now returned to the deliberations which are preceding the presentation of these Estimates, then there is hope for us to have something more respectable next year. If we continue in this vein, purely for political reasons, then we cannot take them seriously at all. Therefore you cannot accuse the members in the Opposition on this side, for running down the country if we find it our duty to explain the facts to the people of Barbados. The facts, not only as we see them, but the facts, which in the course of time, will have to be admitted and the facts which well thinking and civilised members of the national community already admit are so.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is.....

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. John has given such a thorough and detailed reply that I would have but few remarks to make on this particular Bill.

However, I think I should put the mind of the hon. member for St. Thomas at rest by assuring him, he said that I accused him of being drunk and slimy. I would like to assure him that I have never accused him of being drunk. I have never accused him of being drunk. It is true that from time to time *(Asides)* there are clear variations in the degree of lucidity.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. I am asking the hon. member to deny that he used these words: "The worst of the lot is Tom Adams, the so called drunken, slimy representa-

tive of this party. That is the man, worst of all. But there is a bit more I sorry I ain't got time enough to deal with them". It was immediately after you used those words that Errol Barrow murdered a man called Stokes. It was immediately after you used those words that you called me drunken and slimy.

Dr. HAYNES: I am not even aware that the hon. member drinks at all, so whoever did that transcript, whatever else I might call you, it was certainly not the drunken. The transcript is fairly wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us return now to the second reading. Let us have some order.

Dr. HAYNES: Now, Mr. Speaker, for some time I have been concerned with the rapid rate of increases in Government Revenue and my concern was based on whether or not this reflected the genuine growth in the economy or whether it was consequential on the wide range of taxation which was introduced by the present Minister of Finance over a period of four years now. In so doing, I elected to look very carefully at the sources of revenue in this country as existed in 1975–76 and get a comparison between that year and 1980–81. I chose 1975–76 because there was still a significant element of inflation in Barbados in 1975 and 1976. As we all know, about mid-year it was down to about 2% and after the excess of the last three months in that particular year it was annualised as a figure somewhere in the region of 5%. It is alarming Mr. Speaker, to see what has transpired between that period and I wish to relate this particular growth in Revenue to the published figures of percentage increases in the Gross Domestic Product in this country. Now in 1975–76, taxes on incomes and profits were somewhere in the region of $82 million. In the present Estimates, it is estimated that it will be in the region of $116 almost 100% increase during that period. When however, Mr. Speaker, one breaks it down a bit further and you look at contributions from Corporation Tax and the contributions from Income Tax, then you get a very startling difference, in that the contribution from Corporation Tax will probably show an increase of some $25 million, whereas the contribution from Income Tax will be somewhere in the region of $56 million, well over a 100%, more like 120%. I am comparing the years 1975–76.

I think that it is a reasonable statement to say that the level of Corporation Tax, despite the fact that we have two major sectors in this country that are relatively exempt from tax, is a relatively good reflection of the level of economic activity taking place in Barbados and it would seem to me Mr. Speaker, that the improvement in Government Revenue over this period of time has been due to a combination of inflation and taxation and a transfer. I want to make it clear that this is a very important point to make because very often, people look at growth in Government Revenue and automatically assume that that can be equated with growth in the economy.
1.00 p.m.

This is not necessarily so. Inflation itself can contribute to Government revenue particularly where you have a tax situation, a tax structure which has remained substantially unaltered as we have in Barbados, thereby transferring a considerable amount of the gross gains that workers may get in relation to their wages direct from their pockets to the treasury of this country. Not only is it in the area of personal income tax, but also in the area of property tax where we see an increase of over 100%.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this particularly affects a lot of small people whose properties have been revalued on the basis of the significant inflation that has taken place in property values in this country. Many people's properties have been revalued on the basis of current inflationary effects in building and in property in this country, and therefore people have to pay taxes on an inflated value rather than on a realistic value of their properties.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, under the agreement that we have with our staff, once we start at 10 o'clock we have to suspend at 1 o'clock for lunch. The hon. member will be entitled to continue as soon as we resume.

I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2 o'clock.

Mr. WARD: I beg to second that.

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

When the suspension was taken, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was addressing the Chair. He may continue if he so desires.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, to continue, I was trying to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance the very distinct probability that the revenue side of these Estimates reflects more the consequences of an accelerated rate of inflation in Barbados than through economic growth. I have demonstrated the effects on personal incomes, the effects on corporation tax, the effects on properties and indeed, Mr. Speaker, if one were to look at those areas which fall under the categories of taxes on goods and services and international trade, we

see almost a 250% increase over the 1975–76 level; but there is a much more important point here. Not only has there been such an increase, but it represents a significant shift in the traditional tax burden in this society in terms of generating revenue from those who have to the have-nots. This, Sir, might be best seen when one looks very closely at the sources of such revenue and where increases have taken place in the three budgetary statements by the Hon. Minister of Finance. I refer, Sir, to the area of travel whether it be in the public domain or whether it be in the private domain. I refer, Sir, to the increases in relation to the various utilities, I refer, Sir, to the variety of tax measures from the bedroom to the living room of every single sector of the home of each individual whatever their economic status is. This, Sir, is most important not only to recognise that the revenue gains are not a direct effect of economic growth, and no wonder the Hon. Minister of Finance has omitted as he said to use the word "buoyancy" because I am sure he himself is quite aware of that particular factor. However, Sir, in that particular area, I would like to draw the attention of this Honourable House to one particular item of revenue that must be of concern to this entire country, that is, the revenue of $1 million from gaming machines.

I believe, Sir, that when one considers all the social evils so eloquently described in the minority report put before this House, a recent gambling report, and when one considers, Mr. Speaker, that contained within that report there is a statement which purports to be a balance sheet of some kind where for an investment of $1,000 in the form of issue and fully paid up share capital in a company with an authorised capital of some $10,000.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member is not attempting to debate the gambling report.

Dr. HAYNES: No, Sir. I am trying to show the discrepancy between revenue generated, the social evils and other factors and that it might be best for Government to do without the revenue; for a paid up capital of $1,000 that that was able to generate an operating revenue of some $1.19 million which certainly supports the contention that the operation of one-armed bandits in this society is not only a seriously social evil, but contributes but little to Government revenue and I do not think it is worth the effort to keep them here. I would invite the Hon. Minister of Finance to look at the financial aspect of this operation apart from other aspects relating to it.
2.10 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Government expenditure will go up almost proportionate to the expected rate of inflation in Barbados. It is not surprising that despite the pretty figures of surpluses and otherwise quoted by Government, surpluses, increases in revenue, it is automatically matched by even greater expenses from time to time in expenditure and Government itself is suffering the effect of inflation, and I would invite the Hon. Minister of Finance to seriously consider not only those aspects of inflation which have been brought to his attention by the hon. member for St. John, namely, the nature of the economy, our high level of imports, our trading relationships must mean that our levels of inflation in Barbados must reflect those obtaining elsewhere, but also to bear in mind that on top of that our currency is linked to the US dollar, that in the United Kingdom the pound sterling has grown from strength to strength during the year 1979, and consequently whatever might be given to him by the Statistical Department in this country I would invite him to use his commonsense to look more carefully at the pattern of increases in revenue from year to year, and what he will see that if you move from one year to another that there is very little relationship between the growth of revenue and the percentage increase in the GDP in this country and it is more related to the existing levels of inflation. For example, we have had situations where there have been a 2.5%, a 3%, 4% and now I understand a 7% increase. I do not have the exact figures here because the initial figures were modified from time to time, what you said in your Budget was subsequently modified, I do not have the exact figures here with me. But what is important, that if you look and see what the net revenue and you compare it from year to year you will see that that does not follow a consistent pattern, and it seems to me that it is reasonably assumed that the inflation rate in Barbados is more in the region of 20% than 13% and that the rates have been consistently higher.

Now this is important, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the expenditure side of Government revenue. Also it is important for Government, I think, to look at other criteria and see whether or not they come up with a more realistic figure. All Statistical Departments can be in error from time to time and it can be very difficult. I am not accusing anyone of any dishonesty but it can be very difficult from time to time to come with kind of true statistics but from time to time one has to use one's commonsense in these matters.

Mr. Speaker, this question of the surplus. I do not think there is anything to boast about.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing to boast about except that the hon. member is sticking very copiously to what he would like to call his notes, but if he continues as he has been going on I will have to ask him to make them documents of this Hon. House.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to make these documents of this Hon. House. They are simply words. For example, I have here – and I can make this a document of the House – gambling.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must go on addressing the Chair.

Dr. HAYNES: Thank you very much. In that year, in which the surplus Sir, is noted, last year, is a year which coincided with substantial deterioration in important social services. I refer of course to the transport services, I refer of course to health, many areas in health, I refer to the welfare services and many other areas. The Government has to understand that housekeeping of this kind, whereas it might be attractive for consumption by a small minority of the community, they must try to understand that despite the figures which they are putting out there is a considerable amount of hardship in the community, hardship created by the effects of inflation, taxation, and in addition the transfer of wages from the private sector to the public sector, and naturally the consequential decrease in the value of the Barbados dollar.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one or two points about the question of capital expenditure. I myself am a little disappointed in looking at the highlights of capital expenditure in these Estimates. I do not wish to go through them, a large number of them are not really productive exercises in terms of meeting some of the major challenges which the economy will face in the eighties. I was indeed pleased to see a significant investment in terms of providing factory space for the manufacturing sector, I was indeed somewhat disappointed not to see greater capital inputs in areas like the expansion of natural gas facilities to the community which will represent a major priority. *(Asides)* Mr. Speaker, I am talking about capital expenditure, and whereas I appreciate that the Government has moved in a particular direction, what I am trying to suggest is that at this point bearing in mind that many of these kinds of projects will be energy dependent, that this is the time to be ploughing some heavy capital investment in this area.

Another important point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before you get on to the other important point, the most important is this, that 64(2) tells us: "After the motion for the second reading of the Bill has been proposed and seconded, the debate thereon shall be confined to the general principles of Government policy and administration as indicated by the bill and Estimates."

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, whereas I would not wish to be in anyway appearing to do anything which I cannot do, I think it is reasonable since a large sum of money involving heavy debts relate to capital expenditure that a general comment on the pattern of capital expenditure might not be inappropriate, but of course, Mr. Speaker, I will abide by your ruling if you think that this is outside the scope of the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are not obliged to abide.

Dr. HAYNES: I am Sir, and I will be very happy to do so at all times. Now what I am suggesting, Sir, is that I would have liked to have seen more investment in productive areas in infrastructural development, because what the Government is finding now, and this is one of the major charges in relation to the deployment of funds to capital development in Barbados, that they got themselves so obsessed in the early years of their administration with things like the Duffus Commission and all that kind of nonsense that they now find that the very projects which they have had to postpone because they did not have the time to pay attention to them, that they now have to do them at a time when they are caught up with significant increases in cost.

2.20 p.m.

I refer to the Heywoods development in particular and other developments which if started two or three years ago would have cost considerably less. The same thing goes for the Bridgetown Sewerage project. No one can predict the cost of development projects over the next two or three years, and when I look at the development taking place in St. Andrew if it had taken off at an earlier stage it would have been at considerably less cost.

While I do not wish to deal with the question of the national debt today, I want to draw to the attention of the Minister of Finance that although I think it constitutes the second or third highest charge on current revenue at the moment he should cast his mind to the fact that the foreign component of the national debt has doubled over the last two or three years. This is a serious matter, and when you bear in mind that many of the projects I see here under capital expenditure will be funded substantially from overseas sources, I am beginning to wonder whether we may have a serious debt problem in three or four years. I am not as concerned about the internal debt, but I am concerned about the changing pattern of the external debt and with the delay in getting capital projects off the ground which are funded externally and are energy dependent and will be caught up in spiralling costs. When you look around the world all you can see for the next twelve months is an increasing rate of inflation.

One final point. The hon. member for St. Thomas has to understand this: In a country where wages are at the low levels as in Barbados – low in the sense that there is little left in terms of disposable income after satisfying the necessities – it is not conceivable to think that wages can be a major factor in fueling the flames of inflation. As a matter of fact, I would like to draw to his attention that even last week in Washington where he was, there was a serious debate whether in a country where there is a high level of wages and a high supporting structure, for people with adequate resources in terms of health and other welfare benefits, many economies are questioning the classical theory of the wage push effect of increase in wages on in-

flationary factors in the economy. I do not think it is as relevant to an economy like Barbados as it would be in the United Kingdom, and I doubt whether the kind of programme undertaken, such as a four day week, the wage restraint of 1977–78 and so on can have any effect whatever on inflation in this country, because when you look at it you will see that when you took over the Government the rate of inflation in this country was something like 5%; and even if we accept the figure of 13%, despite the fact that you have done your best to limit the money supply available in the community, despite the fact that you have taken steps advocated by the Central Bank, the rate of inflation has gone up by almost 250% in that period. I am putting it to you that what steps are needed to control inflation are not necessarily wage restraint in a society such as ours. But I am somewhat heartened to hear the hon. Minister of Finance virtually abandoning his position of 13% in a speech he made only a few days ago when he said that whatever the rate of inflation is, so long as wages are sufficient to meet the rate of inflation, that is the important thing. I would add to that, not only sufficient to meet day to day needs but also an additional amount to make sure that people make progress from year to year.

Mr. Speaker, these are the general observations I would wish to make and I am sure this will be a very interesting debate as time goes on.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to indulge the House for too long a period as the hon. member who has just sat down did. But I will take up the point on which the hon. member ended his speech.

It is one of the achievements of this Government that in the course of the last three years both in the public and in the private sectors there has been a substantial increase in the living standards of Barbadians; their money standards have risen far in excess of inflation. Secondly, the success of the Government's financial policy can be gauged from the fact that both in the public sector and in the private sector we have seen a phenomenal increase in economic activity in Barbados, thereby contributing to the buoyancy of the revenue sector. One only has to read the newspapers to see the large number of advertisements for jobs – workmen wanted, all kinds not only in the construction sector but in the executive sector and all around. The fact of the matter is that in the course of the least three years unemployment in this country has plummeted. These facts are undeniable. What has happened in relation to the public expansion programme is that such is the confidence of the private sector in this Government that they have decided they are going to match the Government's effort stride for stride. As a matter of fact, in the course of the last six months capital expenditure by private enterprise in the productive sector has increased to such an extend that the Government finds itself competing with the private sector for skills to be able to complete its programmes; there is no doubt about that.

I heard the Opposition talk about the World Bank. I have the World Bank Report before me, of 7th May, 1979 and it shows that in 1977 there was a real growth of the Gross Domestic Product of 1.9%; in 1978 it was 4.3%, and there can be no doubt that 1979 was a better period than 1978 and that is conservatively estimated at 6.8%. Indeed if the productive sector of the economy is showing real growth, meaning that your growth is greater than the rate of inflation, so that you have a net growth; if your real growth is increasing at that rate you must have an increase of revenue commensurate with the existing taxation; and that is what has happened. Honourable members on the other side try to point out that the Government has increase taxes in all those areas but let it be clearly understood that since this government has been in power it has granted income tax reductions. My understanding is that last year in the Budget the Minister of Finance announced an increase in the allowances, the separation of the incomes of husbands and wives and things of that kind that will this year cost $17 million.

2.30 p.m.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it is no point coming in here and trying to suggest to the public that this Government has done nothing in relation to Income Tax.

Secondly, I want to point out that a rise in Income Tax can arise also in a country like this because of the fact that they are more people earning wages at the level of bringing them into the tax bracket and what is more, you now have efficient Tax Collection to get at people who were evading revenue in Barbados before and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central will know that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central too.

The truth of the matter is that if you have a more efficient Tax Collection machinery, if you have a rise in service, a greater number of people working, you have more spending in your community.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. members on the other side would have us forget that in 1976 there were 225,000 Tourists coming to this country. In 1979 it was 370,000, Mr. Speaker. Are they saying over there, Mr. Speaker, that 370,000 people did not spend as much, or did not increase their spending? If they increase their spending there is more money in circulation in Barbados. There are more goods sold to people and those who sell the goods make more profit. Mr. Speaker, the people who are employed and providing the service will get more money.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that when you look at the productive sector of the economy in the course of the last three years only a blind man could fail to see that it has galloped. Why do they seek to deny us that? Why do they try to fly into the face of facts?

Let us take the revenue. It is a fact that this Government had the courage to take off the Sales Tax and to increase the Hotel and Restaurant Tax from 5% to 8% and it is a fact, Mr. Speaker, because I check it every month that last year this Government received some $15 million approximately on that revenue. These facts must be brought out to draw to the attention of hon. members that the tax was increased from 5% to 8%.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to point out when we are talking about this question of inflation price rises on fuel and it is known now that in the U.S. they know they have such good economic backing that they can predict the effect of a $1 increase on a barrel of oil, what effect it will have on the wholesale price Index and the Retail Price Index.

It is known that in 1976, late 1976, that the OPEC countries started their second round of price rises in relation to fuel. They had it in 1973 and then in 1976. Between 1973 when they first had it and 1976 when they started again the inflation rate under the Administration of the Democratic Labour Party averaged over 24% per annum. As a matter of fact, one year it was 42% alone.

Mr. Speaker, he repeats that it was 5% in 1976. He repeats it. That is well a fact. I do not deny that because of the fact that the October Meeting of OPEC came into force from January, 1977, but some countries leaped-frog the decision and started introducing it in the last quarter and if the hon. member knows anything about price-fixing for oil, he will know that every Government in the World tries to prevent Oil Companies from increasing the price of oil and old stock which they bought at the historical price and there is always a lag between the decision having been given for an increase and implementation and this Government is more or less an expert at that than any other Government.

In the same World Bank Report that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition averted to sets out very clearly that in 1977 the rate of inflation was 8.3%. In 1978 it was 9.5%. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition referred to it and last year the calculation was that the average rate of inflation was 13% but everybody also knows that between that period of time and today that we have again be subjected to increases in the oil prices which have ricocheted through the economy.

Now I want to say this, Mr. Speaker, I think there has been a substantial change in the habits of the Barbadian people over the course of the last three years and more and more use is being made of what we produce here in Barbados. Only recently, Mr. Speaker, the evidence has become very clear as a result of a number of investigations that vegetable production and livestock production and fishing production in this country has increased predominately in the last three years to cater to a demand generated by an increase in tourists coming to Barbados and the Barbadian wise choice in substituting some imported foods for local foods because of the fact that the imported foods have risen at a price far higher than the local prices have risen because a good and important component of the cost of imported food is the cost of transportation to Barbados. That is a fact. If you buy beef from New Zealand it has to come that mileage. That is a fact.

Now, Sir, we in Barbados trade with the U.S. and Europe. In the United Kingdom the latest prediction by Cambridge University, their economic model, and they claim to have the best in England, is that the annual rate of inflation is 21% in the United Kingdom. In the United States they are predicting 18%.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the other side has walked into a trap because they are now saying that they are telling us that we can expect a high rate and they are telling us that we should adopt the remedy of Mrs. Thatcher and others. Let us say this that we will not be reducing the public services and preventing employment in this country. The other side is saying that they want us to adopt the policy of Mrs. Thatcher. They want to drastically reduce public expenditure.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. I thought I made it absolutely clear that the kind of policies traditionally used in these economies are not relevant to Barbados. He cannot get away with that one. I particularly made that point.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the other side has put forward no proposals at all.
2.40 p.m.

Both the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member got up here and spoke and said that we were indulging in wishful thinking if we think that we can control inflation in Barbados and they pointed out that we have an open economy, and that we trade with the United Kingdom as a matter of fact, I well remember the words of the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He said that we have now been told by the World Bank, which he always knew, that it is a hopeless task trying to control inflation in Barbados because we trade with the United States and we trade with the United Kingdom and they have rates of inflation of 18%, so we could expect the worse. The Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that and the hon. member said that. Now Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER: We must have some order please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I did not interrupt them. Now Sir, they then said that we must take steps – I remember the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, he stopped, he paused and said, now with those facts, now

that the Central Bank and the World Bank have told you that you have to take steps to remedy inflation. That is what he said. Inviting us, telling us we must do as Thatcher in Barbados. But never, this Government says openly that we have to have a surplus on Current Account for the very reason that.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central must not interrupt. He has had his opportunity to address the Chair.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, we are in a different situation from the United Kingdom. We have to have a surplus of Current Account. You know why Mr. Speaker, because if we do not have a surplus, we cannot finance public expenditure or Capital Account. We could not build the Post Office, we could not build Oistins, we could not build Speightstown, we could not carry out those programmes. The proof of that is very simple. The fact that according to him, they had been trying with the Post Office since 1969 and they were not able to build it. They were diggering with Speightstown and Oistins since 1960 or 1961 according to him. They were not able to make a start. We recognise that the construction industry is a key to employment in Barbados. It is our hope that we will be able to have such a level of construction between the public and the private sector in Barbados for the next 10 years so that we can employ 10,000 workers in construction without any fear of stop and go. That is our hope and I know it is the hope of the hon. member for St. Lucy too because like him, we are concerned about unemployment. At the same time, we recognise that the level of wages must keep in line and I am not going to talk anything about the pending negotiations. Just like the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I believe both sides can take care of themselves. After all, they have been dealing with one another for many years and I believe that they will be able to take care of themselves.

The truth of the matter is Sir, that the policy which has been pursued by this Government on Revenue and Account Expenditure has been seen that we have been able to carry out a level of economic activity in Barbados which has had the effect of drastically reducing unemployment. We have created buoyancy in the revenue and having an increase in the standard of living of the people of this country. I feel very happy and proud to be associated with a Government that has done that. That is the overall objective we have achieved. I am not going to indulge in any nit ticket about any particular aspects of this particular Revenue or that particular Revenue. I am looking at the overall policy and the overall policy has succeeded and I have great pleasure in associating myself with this Appropriation Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I rise very briefly to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance on the presentation of this Appropriation Bill. Not only in time, but with the sort of atmosphere that there is a projection of a surplus once again on Current Account.

I think it is significant that the Revenue of this country has increased by over $100 million between 1976–77, 1979–80 and 1980–81 and correspondingly, in the increase in Revenue, there has been an increase in expenditure both on Current Account for the goods and services for which the Government is responsible in the public sector, as well as, on the Capital Account. I believe it has done this in circumstances where the Hon. Minister has been able to increase the Gross National Product Per Capita on an average in this country. I think it is now increased to over $4,000 (Bds) a year and it was something like $2,600 (Bds) a year when we took over the Government. A real increase in the average amount of money and services available for every Barbadian in this community within a period of three years under the present Government, and particularly under the economic policies of the Hon. Minister of Finance. One has to emphasise this daily Sir, and the reason is that Barbadians are getting into a mood of not being able to distinguish the wood from the trees and we are in a mood of great political frivolity from the Opposition. An impossibility to deal with issues, an impossibility to look at the economy of the country seriously and instead they have gone back into the state they were in in 1971. The politics of denigration and rumours, every possible slander, rather than dealing with specific issues in this country.

One has to take the opportunity to point out to the Opposition that when we came in, we had unemployment in the region of 22%. I remember very well the mini budget which was brought to this House. An unemployment ratio of well over 20%, an inflation rate which was then at 40% climbing downwards, but 40% which had hit this country in 1974, a position where your foreign reserves were at the lowest ever in the history of the country.

Going back to the 1974–75 era, a negative growth in all sectors of the economy including tourism, and a country that was totally demoralised and bereft of ideas. In three and a half years there has been not only a creditable performance in the economy, but the Barbados economy within the context of Latin America and the Caribbean, including the United States of America has been one of the fastest growing economies between 1976–1980 and one of the best performing economies of developing countries the world over. I would like to hear the Opposition debate that.

As the Prime Minister said you do not want to hear the Opposition going on and spreading scandals on the children of the hon. members of the House, instead of dealing with economic factors. You do not want to

hear lies from the Opposition saying that a member on this side is a cousin of a woman who cannot even tell the truth. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central will know that. Instead, we are getting them not on facts, that would help the country but on a position to run decent people out of public life by an issue of lies and misrepresentations on their character. That is the position. We want to hear them talk about how this Government has, within three years, been able to increase the real wealth of Barbadians and with a better distribution between the wealth at the top and the wealth at the bottom.

If one is to listen not to ourselves only but the people outside of Barbados who have no short term political axes to grind and who are objective enough to analyse this economy and to see that it has performed well. I want to deal with the question of charges of debt Mr. Speaker, because it is being made to appear as though Barbados is a country borrowing so heavily that it is beyond its capacity to repay or that the borrowing has been for the wrong purpose or that the money borrowed has been misspent on non-economic projects.
2.50 p.m.

Indeed it is being made to appear that this is the first time that the nominal figure for charges of debt has ranked within the first two or three points, items in the expenditure side of the Government's account. I do not know how people study their Estimates, but if you look at the ten year schedules, Mr. Speaker, which are in these very Estimates of expenditure, Government liabilities over the period of time, you will notice that even when the revenue of this country was under $100 million, charges of debt were always in the region of between No. 4 at the lowest, fifth in the items for which we had to provide supplies in this House. They moved up gradually under the Democratic Labour Party until they reached the position of third in 1975 and I believe then the charges of debt were somewhere in the region of over $3 million to $30 million. It is in here, Sir. If the hon. members want the exact page I will give them, and in short what was happening is that when Government begins to spend more even in nominal terms, we are not even talking in real terms now, it will obviously borrow more particularly in circumstances where the past Government was not producing a surplus on current account to assist with the developmental efforts of the Government.

Now I am going to make a statement that is uncontradicted; the level of public debt both foreign debt and local debt is well below the levels of debt recommended for countries such as our own, and Mr. Speaker, do not take it from me. The World Bank Report also underscores this, that Barbados has something like an external debt service ratio representing 2.3% of export earnings in 1978.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just for the benefit of the Hansard Reporters, just state at what page you are quoting from and the number of your Report.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It is page 14 of the 1979 World Bank Report from which I am quoting, and that it is less than 12% of GDP at the end of 1978, and to quote the exact words "Barbados has a modest external public indebtedness". One has to emphasise this. I wish that Barbadians who are supposed to be among the most literate in the Caribbean, 97%, 98%, 99% or whatever you like literacy would begin to sit up and take note of hard economic facts which other people outside commend this country for instead of being misled and misguided by racial talk from members of the Democratic Labour Party. I am not saying all: I cannot say the hon. member for St. Philip South; I have never heard him with this type of politics, but particularly some of the younger power seekers in this country with a tissue of lies, with personal attacks on members on this side of the House, and unbecoming political tripe, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it you are not referring to debates of this Honourable House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Not the debates of this House. I am saying members of the Democratic Labour Party. They will know, Sir. Each one of them who has spoken will know and should be ashamed of themselves particularly those who have had the benefit of education at first grade schools in this country and universities and who should be setting a standard in public life; they ought to be ashamed of themselves the levels to which they are sinking on the political platforms of this country. That is the position, Sir. Not to discuss the charges of debt honestly and the economic position, but to go out and spread lies on people's children with dope, alleging that people are related to other people that have committed crime. That is the level to which they have sunk. I used to have respect for a few of them before; I find it difficult to have any respect for people who can sink so low in putting forward a case in order to regain power in a country. It calls for a degree of tolerance when one looks at the performance of this country, for those of us who have in the last few years devoted out time exclusively to trying to uplift the economic development of Barbados; it calls for an unusual degree of tolerance, almost as high as Our Lord had to stomach the muck and the mirkiness and the nastiness coming from the political platforms of the Democratic Labour Party. That is the position, Sir, and from leading members who have had the benefit of the educational system that should have taught them better.

If you read or listen to the tapes of their speeches, nothing to tell the people honestly as to how unemployment has fallen in Barbados. What do you get? We get the advice that people should not cut the canes; when they see David Seale cutting canes, they

will cut canes. They have chips on their shoulders so big that I think they are even frighten of their own colour black. That is their problem. How can you be a true nationalist in Barbados today in the context where political power is in the hands of the people at large? Contrary to what they think, the shift in economic power to the people at large has been very fast and great in this country. To tell people that you are going to cut canes only when you see one particular person cutting canes, or from their platforms to almost decry the effort that has been made by other public service people in setting a lead and a standard in reaping the sugar cane crop in Barbados. Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, sugar cane has contributed as well to the economic buoyancy of the country; it is still an employer of at least 7, 000 to 8,000 workers annually, and the Barbados Workers' Union has seen to it that the real wages of the agricultural sector has benefited this year to the extent of 28% increase from the increased productivity and standard coming from wages in this sector. None of that they debate, Sir. I know, Mr. Speaker, you in your day on the Opposition side would have given Jack his jacket and yet have brought forth any weaknesses which there were in the structure of Government. You don't get that anymore. You get rumours, gossip, dirtiness, filthy abuse of people personally. That is what you are getting from the Opposition and you have regretfully in this country a few middleclass people who can use their telephone faster than anybody else to find a way of spreading the latest rumour and adding to it. The danger is that this could become a sick society despite our economic performance if we are not careful. It is a real danger to which the Democratic Labour Party has contributed in no small measure in this community, making it a sick society despite the material wellbeing of the country. And why? Mr. Speaker, simply because we have latter-day power seekers who want power at any cost regardless of whether that power is going to be used for the best good of this community. That is what we have, power at any cost, Sir. I think when we have the opportunity to confront the leaders of that party in Parliament, we should remind them that it would be a dangerous thing if each one of us fought the game in the same way as they fight.
3.00 p.m.

Confrontation politics have brought many a country to its knees and this party has managed to avoid confrontation politics. We will take the patience of Job and continue to do that, Mr. Speaker, in the belief that eventually in performances such as these that the people will understand that their well-being rests on hard economic facts and progress rather than on slimy gossip which comes from their mouths very often. I want to hear the hon. member for St. Michael North Central rise to the occasion and debate economic facts, if he still has it in him, and eschew the type of politics of which I have just spoken. That is what I want to hear, rise to the occasion and do that. He has had the benefit, as I have had the benefit, of a good opportunity in this country, and if he has it within him let him debate the economic facts of the country and for those who would behave in the way in which I would describe, I would hope that he has it in him to avoid that type of politics. Hope springs eternal they say, we are not always happy to get our expectations, but I await in due course.

Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with the issue of inflation because the Opposition and the shadow Minister of Finance who cannot even lead off in reply to the Minister of Finance, can't bat first, he must come later down. I told him the other day that he still has the opportunity to read a basic book on economics or public finance and understand what it is all about. He comes in here and makes a beautiful statement, what is the statement? In economies such as Barbados the level of wages has little to do with inflation because we are an open economy. Wendell McClean told him that, he said that years ago, he is not repeating anything new, but it is not true to draw the conclusion that if wages continue to rise in any country faster than productivity and real wealth that inflation can become completely out of bounds and destroy the whole economic structure. Why didn't he go the whole hog and look at it? It is a figment of one's imagination to believe that you can allow rises all the time in wages unless on the other side, on the credit side you are having productivity increases, you are producing more wealth for the country, because not only will you find yourself with staggering inflation, which is called stagflation, you will find yourself with an economy which could become bankrupt. That statement applies as much to an open economy as to a closed economy or indeed to any other structured economy, even within centrally planned economies such as we have in Eastern Europe. Those are economic facts, one can't run away from it, the data when analysed has proved it on more than one occasion and therefore Barbados must be conscious of inflation. We have to recognise that we can't get away from it *in toto.*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of inflation today in the United States up to last week running on a point to point was 19.1%. Mr. Carter has just taken certain measures to reduce that rate. I am not sure what is the annualised rate, the annualised rate in Italy is 23.1%, the annualised rate in Brazil is 40 something percent, the annualised rate in Britain is over 20%, the annualised rate in Israel is over 140%, and indeed the annualised rate in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia is higher now than the rate in Barbados last year at 13.7%. Mr. Speaker, the last statistics that I have seen from the Inter American Development Bank on the rate of inflation in Latin America and the Caribbean show that Barbados comes within the five lowest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in inflation rates. I believe Paraguay and I believe the United States of America at the point in

time was slightly lower than Barbados, but we have done well despite the fact that we are an open economy to control the rate of inflation in this country.

I believe that the Deputy Prime Minister, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, has spoken well when he said we have to eschew some of the Thatcherite ways of dealing with inflation. Monetary policies *per se* can have a very hard bearing on employment in the public sector or indeed in the private sector in a country such as ours, and I am sure that if we had not managed this economy properly hon. members on the other side would now be shouting because we would find ourselves in an IMF situation where the IMF is asking for retrenchment of 11,000 people in the public sector in this country. We have not reached that stage, we are not near that stage and we are proud to be able to say that as managers of this country's affairs and economy in the last three years we have managed to avoid that sort of situation in Barbados. We are proud to be able to say that. I believe that we have to congratulate the Ministry responsible for the economy of this country. Some of the capital projects outlined in this document are projects which in the long term can only create further wealth for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to debunk once and for all the thesis of the Democratic Labour Party which gets up like little children playing with marbles to say 'oh yes, you are doing that project but that is our project'. I am sure that if we look back in the files prior to 1961 you will see several projects including the National Insurance project of which the Rt. Hon. member for St. John spoke, the planning for which started under the first Labour Party Government in this country. The canalisation of the Constitution River could not have taken place in 1961 unless there had been prior planning done under the Barbados Labour Party, and as a matter of fact, before the election work had commenced on the Constitution River. The Deep Water Harbour the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the airport – we will give you a sample of them – some of those were some of the projects commenced during the time of the Barbados Labour Party's first Government. Because why, Mr. Speaker? Despite changes of Government there is a certain measure of continuity in proper planning and one must assume that you have civil servants who can take ideas and translate them into action, and now there are several projects of the Barbados Labour Party which we initiated which will take time to come on stream.
3.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, let me cite an example: The project in your constituency which I hope will come on stream before 1981 is the construction of an industrial estate in Speightstown. The High Court which at last year's prices should cost us $12.4 million is a project that will take some time to get off the ground. So for them to come in here looking at the Capital Estimates and saying they are projects which that Government started is no big thing; there are also seven new projects in here which continue to lay the developmental and economic background for the future buoyancy of our economy.

I want however to come to the sector of capital development which had come to a halt under the DLP and under the Ministry for which I have some responsibility. If one looks at the expenditure of the Ministry of the Attorney General under the Democratic Labour Party for the last ten years, one would see that no serious effort was made to deal with the developmental problem of law and order in this country. I hope to get an opportunity to debate this subject during the Estimates, because when you look, for instance, under Police, you will find there was no proper expenditure spent on the Police Service in Barbados of a capital nature over a ten year period under the Democratic Labour Party. Ten years ago the total amount spent under the heading of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Home Affairs was $11,000. I am going to bring a breakdown and tell them what they spent on capital development for the police. The nature of that expenditure was for a few cars. When we look again you will find that in ten years at the middle management level only four policemen were trained. When it comes to the courts, the position was even worse.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is why at this stage I would like the hon. Attorney General to confine his remarks to the general principles of Government policy and administration.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is exactly the point I am making Sir, that you cannot have economic development in a situation where one does not have a proper expenditure on law and order. To illustrate that I give you specific examples. If you believe that you can underscore expenditure in the field of law and order and maintain economic development, you are sadly mistaken – and we are reaping some of the whirlwind from what they sowed – because you reach a stage where gossip and rumour take over no matter what the economic development you have in your country. And an analysis of expenditure in this broad area of policy will show quite clearly that the trend was set by them, and no matter how well we perform, unless we correct that trend you will find, as the Rt. hon. Minister said, that you have not got a country. However, as we get into the particular heads I will deal with this.

Let me say again that I think that overall these Estimates show that the Government's economic policies are on target, concentrated on the right sectors and looking strongly into the developmental structure of the economy. Let us hope that we can control expenditure in any

areas of wastefulness and that we can get enough productivity in the economy to increase real wealth, and that together with the private sector buoyancy the Government can pass the billion dollar mark in the next Estimates brought to this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who wants to speak? If not the Hon. Minister of Finance will wind up.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, when I found myself battered by the speeches from the hon. member for St. John and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central I was hearing so many figures that I looked around to see if there was a beauty contest. Then I looked at the faces of the hon. members and that brought me back to earth. But I heard figures from the hon. member for St. John about increases in expenditure, four years, five years, 22½%, 100%, 75% – I really had to lose touch with the trend of this argument because I could not manage between the Roman threes, Roman fours, the 76's and 77's and tax and incomes and profits. And the real answer is that the hon. members have not themselves understood and grasped fully the statistics which they are seeking to describe and interpret.

There are a few things on the side that I would like to deal with. The hon. member for St. John was very sarcastic when he dealt with income tax and sugar workers and so on; but he is wrong in thinking that his sarcasm is directed at me. His sarcasm is directed at the poor sugar workers themselves, because if it is explained quite clearly that you are reducing the PAYE and you say this is to bring on the refunds a little earlier in an attempt to make it clear to people you are not taking away income tax altogether but merely spreading it out over the years, there is nothing that human beings can do more. And when the hon. member is sarcastic in the way he was, he is laughing at the sugar workers and saying that they can't understand plain English. It is not unusual for the hon. Leader of the Opposition to sneer at people he thinks are more ignorant than he. I have heard him sneer at the late Homie Corbin and sneer at the hon. member for St. Michael South. I have heard him sneer at Mr. Neville Boxill, and he tried to sneer at the hon. member for St. Michael South East today. There is nothing unusual in his sneering at people, but it would do him good to get it into his mind whom he is sneering at. I did everything that I humanly could to (a) alleviate the tax burden on the sugar workers, and (b) to explain the exact nature of what was being done. And I am glad the hon. member can quote me as exactly as he did; he did not in any way mistake the tenor and trend of my arguments. But as I say, that is a side issue which I will pass-over without too much serious worry.

Now the hon. member spoke about surpluses. That is not a side issue but it is one where there is another misapprehension. We are dealing now with two separate sets of figures, the figures for 1979–80 and the figures for 1980–81. The hon. member's argument reminded me of a journalistic description of the famous fight between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier for the heavyweight championship of the world in 1922 I think. The European writers said it was going to be a battle between science and brute force, and after Dempsey knocked out Carpentier in the fourth round, one American sports writer said it was a battle between science and brute force, with Carpentier using one and Dempsey using both. In this case the hon. member had two things to deal with – the performance of the economy during 1979–80 and the performance of the Government's finances as expected during 1980–81; it was a speech which I listened very carefully to throughout to see if he would draw a distinction between the two years, but he failed to do so.

3.20 p.m.

He talked about there is no surplus. They cannot be a surplus and he never once made it clear whether he was denying that there is already a surplus in this financial year and expect it to be a bigger one or whether he was denying that there can be a surplus next year. Again, Sir, if it is this year he is talking nonsense. That would not be a new experience to the hon. member but its lack of novelty, does not make it any less worthy being noted of.

If he is talking about next year, what more can a man do than the Minister of Finance in here. The Minister of Finance said quite carefully, expenditure is printed at $371 million. There is an estimate of excess Current Account surplus of $23 million but this will not be achieved next year in the ordinary way if there is a salary increase. I have said so more than once but, Mr. Speaker, I still did not say it as often enough for the hon. member who behaves as if he was plucking it down from Mount Sinai and presenting it to a group of unconverted Israelites with all the fervor of a latter-day Moses.

The hon. member has demonstrated on numerous occasions that not only is he no Moses but he would battle with the hon. member for St. Michael North Central for the talent of being the most accomplished Pharaoh that Barbados has ever seen but yet once more, this careful repetition of not only what is obvious and what is true but what has already been said to be obvious and true.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member for St. Michael South Central got up, I admired his fatherly or his brotherly or whatever instinct in sheltering the hon. member from the immediate blast but really after he had finished, I felt he could not have worried. He could have let the hon. member for St. Michael

South do the job or even the hon. member for St. Michael South West. They might have proved more effective shelters for the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

The absence of a real surplus – I do not know what is the difference between a real surplus and a cash surplus. He was very funny with something about the "net". The only net he did not talk about was a hair net.

You can call it real, call it whatever you like. In fact, the Government will have a $27 million surplus on Current Account this year. This is a fact. It is there. Next year the Budget will deal with the Financing problems of the Government. In a few week's time the Government's approach as to whether there is to be a Current Account surplus or not will be revealed for all to see under the lights of Television, subject to Your Honour's approval, Sir, and the wish of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to televise the Budget once again.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that you are not now making application.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not in a position to make application, Sir. Your Honour is disposed to grant that and I take it that application has already been made.

The hon. member dealt with one or two specific points. First of all he said that Social Security should not be included and Education should be included in calculation of Government Expenditures under Social Services and I will like to deal with this and with the point briefly made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central the same time.

I did include Education in the calculation of Government Expenditure under Social Services. Education would take approximately 8.6% of the computative GDP, $1.2 billion. Health and Welfare including National Insurance will take 8.1% making a total of 16.7% of the GDP to be spent on Social Services.

As far as National Insurance goes, the hon. member says that he would not include that because it is a self-contained scheme financed by the whole people of Barbados. As far as I am concerned so are the activities of the Ministry of Health. They are financed by the taxation of Barbados and so are the old aged pensioners and others and for the benefit of the hon. member perhaps we can tell him that we have long wondered why the World Bank consistently shows a smaller overall deficit than we do. That is because, Sir, following the practice of many countries, certainly the United States, Social Security payments are regarded as taxes and included in the Government's Current Account.

You will always when you read World Bank account get a slightly more flattering picture of Government finances in Barbados than we allow ourselves because the World Bank includes National Insurance contributions and excludes redemption of Capital so when the World Bank comes to analyse our performance last year they will part with the $27 million or whatever the turn out figure is. They will add to that the $5.9 million of capital redemption and they will then add again the $31 million in contributions so the World Bank will show for Barbados Current Account a surplus of something like $52 million.

In other words, contributions of National Insurance net of benefits discount repayment of debt. Sometimes, Sir, you do get these arguments about statistics when you see different figures in the Central Bank Report of the World Bank's study or the proved figures from the Statistical Department itself. There is usually an explanation, Sir.

I think Ministers of Finance should spend some time finding out what the explanation is because I think that Departments of Governments in Barbados, the Ministry of Finance itself, have not given a study to the different methodologies. I do not like the word, Sir, but I have to use it in this case of Government's Finance Accounting.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central spoke of the decline in the Social Services. With the utmost politeness I want to tell him that that is nonsense. The benefits at National Insurance went up 20% during 1979. From $9.6 million to $11.5 million. Old aged pensions went up. They had their pensions increased during 1979 to $20 weekly, a full 25% increase.

Expenditure at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was greatly increased and is being increased more still. For what it is worth, the Government during the year had to take a positive action, where it had to increase allocations, for example to supplies and materials, primarily food, to the various institutions, the District Hospitals, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Mental Hospital, the Prison and the School Meals Service, have all had during the year and will have again next year substantial increases in their allocations for feeding the persons. I think that embraces all of the persons the Government has to feed.

3.30 p.m.

In the area of National Insurance and the overlap in old age pensions where there has been some discord and where I understand, the Democratic Labour Party is planning specified notes in its Manifesto for the next election talking about a programme for the young and the

old. I have seen a copy of what is planned for their programme in that particular area.

The Ministry of Labour and Community Development has been making a most extensive use of the Welfare vote. This is the vote for national assistance. We have greatly expanded the payment of water rates and electricity rates for needy old aged pensioners. We are giving food stamps to National Insurance Pensioners who find themselves in need and give him vouchers occasionally for the purchase of clothing. We have given the benefit of travelling on the buses, you see, the hon. members are not in touch. They only know what they say on the platforms and they get to believe their own lies. We are increasing the welfare benefits. I have already adverted to the Housing Programme. Various steps are on the way for increasing some of the cash benefits available to people other than old age pensioners who are receiving grants by reason of disability from the Government.

The Transport Board went through a bad period from September to December last year but enormous steps have been made to improve the turn around time on repairs and to hasten the speed with which damaged buses can be back onto the road and I think that if hon. members are honest enough they will admit that the level of complaints against the Transport Board has declined even more sharply than it rose, they go up and they go down. These are things that once faults are pointed out and human determination is applied wonders can be done. I am not aware, apart from the hon. member saying so, that there are any complaints about social services in Barbados at the present time.

The amount of money we are spending, the useful ends to which we are spending it are marvels in the eyes of persons from outside who look at Barbados far from being critical of the Government's spending. The opposite side perhaps could take a positive approach and note that a recent commentary in the West Indies Chronicle which emphasises the very great expenditure and interest that this Government is devoting to the social services and said that if there were a change of Government, you would not expect this trend to be reversed. Now that would be a positive comment, that their party is also recognised as a Party interested in social welfare.

The question of charges of debt has been scratched at by various speakers. In 1969–70 charges of debt were the second greatest charge in Barbados. It was the second greatest in 1970–71, the fourth greatest between 1971–73, the third greatest in 1973–74 and it has been the second greatest ever since then. So this nonsense about charges of debt suddenly becoming the second greatest charge in Government is real outright nonsense. It has been the second greatest for years but it will not be the second greatest after this month because the Estimates used to be constructed that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Psychiatric Hospital were separate Heads from the Ministry of Health and therefore charges of debt would appear to put their noses in front of health because the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at $20 million, the Ministry of Health at $22 million, are normally the third and fourth highest charges for which monies are appropriated. When you add the two of them together, they always far exceed charges of debt and when you add in the Psychiatric Hospital as well, you realise Education first, Health second and in fact always charges of debt third.

That effectively has been the pattern in Barbados as long as we have had Estimates drawn up like these. As far as what the hon. member for St. Michael South Central said about charges of debt, he is quite right that the public debt of Barbados is rising. It is rising because we have a lot of projects which are financed from abroad to carry out. We are not borrowing Euro Dollars funds to pay Civil Servants as the previous Government did in 1973 and we are not borrowing Euro Dollar funds where we can avoid it for ordinary capital projects. The hon. member has made a comment, I will give him the answer to that in a couple of weeks time.

If the hon. member wants to know what the World Bank has said about his argument even before he argued, he should turn to Page 14 of the Report from which the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition quoted and he will see that the debt service ratio already low, will be going down despite the increase in foreign debt. The World Bank has commented that by 1983 the debt service ratio of Barbados will not exceed 2% of export earnings in that year and it goes on:

> "The decline in the debt service ratio, despite the increase of outstanding external debt as percentage of Gross Domestic Product predominately reflects a projected change in the terms structure of external debt resulting from the substitution of long term projected related financing for medium term balance of payments and budgetary loans. In the light of the moderate debt burden and favourable growth prospects Barbados may be regarded as spread it worthy."

The hon. member should make himself fully familiar.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. In accordance with the principles and practice of this Hon. House that document from which the Hon. Prime Minister is quoting should be made a document of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not deem it necessary at this point in time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it a document.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already ruled on the matter Mr. Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The World Bank itself Sir is a restricted distribution and may be used by recipients only in the performance of their official duties. I would like – that is all I can say but if they apply to the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition he will show them a draft copy that he had I believe, the same time as I originally had mine.

The hon. member spoke of work permits and said they should not be used as a revenue earner, the Minister should not investigate each work permit personally. He should have told that to the former Attorney General, Mr. George Moe, who used to sign each separate application and investigate each personally. Since I have been Minister, I have changed the system and work permits come to me on a monthly basis. The duty of dealing with them is delegated to public officers. They make recommendations for all that are going to be approved on the basis of accepted principle and a list is signed every month. If they are going to be refused and it is outside accepted principle, it may be submitted to me. In the course of a month Sir I may see one, or two, it would be unusual I think to see three. Most work permits that I would see, that I do see, that I personally see, relate to remission of charges for entertainers, educators, cultural groups and so on who come to Barbados for the benefit of Barbados and we do tend to allow them to come in without paying the fees.
3.40 p.m.

The reason why the fees have gone up, Sir, although there are not so many work permits as used to be issued, is that the amount we charge for work permits is out of all proportion to what we charged before. It is really very simple indeed, and each renewal carries a very substantial charge also.

The Rt. Hon. member asked about the item "Sundry". This item means exactly what is says; it is sundries. You see, we have a difficulty, Sir. Accounting Officers say that they cannot receive money on behalf of the Government unless there is a revenue item in the Estimates to which they can assign it, so you must have a catch-all. This particular item, I think it amounted to $5 million during the current financial year, may seem a very large item of sundries, but in truth is a substantial sale of gold to Messrs. Rothschild Limited by the Government, the final instalments on the sale of the North Point as well as the debenture interest which we receive on invested pension funds, excess cash over-payments made to Government by persons and sale of Government assets. Occasionally the Government does sell assets, not within a revenue head of their own and they go into this, but the reason why it is so large for this year would be the sale of the North Point and the sale of items of gold. We got for the North Point $1.8 million dollars or something like that. I can't tell you the exact figure. The North Point is now being held in reserve for what was its original purpose which I now totally and completely believe always was intended to be the transport of shells to the South African Army, and in due course the evidence which hon. members will see about that will make them look at certain people in a very bad light indeed. I was told that they wanted to lease the North Point for transport of shells; I was told that by HARP, to Israel, but we now know where it was intended. I refused it of course; I said if they wanted it they could buy it, but we now know where it was really intended the shells should go. The hon. member for St. Michael should be very very careful before he says anything about the North Point. Don't just read what was in the Advocate. I will lend the hon. member a tape where he will hear the former station chief in Angola speaking of sending somebody to Dr. Bull to get shells from the United States armoury at Harrisburg in Pennsylvania to send to South Africa if the hon. member is really interested, but that is somebody else's scandal. I will leave the hon. member for St. John until the whole matter is published.

The hon. membr for St. Michael South Central commented on inflation, that the Government's revenue is going up through inflation. Now the hon. member used a word that has a certain meaning, which is inflation. It has an emotive meaning. Inflation is bad, inflation is destructive to people, but when he says that the Government's revenue is going up through inflation, that is an elaborate way of saying that people are working for more money and paying more taxes. That is all it means. It does not mean one thing else. Now there are some figures which I will give here that astonished me when I read them. There are 20,000 more people paying income tax in 1979 than in the year when we came to power. They are the people who (a) got jobs that did not have jobs before, (b) got raises of pay enough to put them in the tax bracket where they were not working for enough money before. Even between 1978 and 1979 contributions to the national insurance scheme went up from $25 million to $31 million; that is more people working and working for more money; so when the hon. member gets up and hits you hard with notes his economic advisers from Atlantic Shores have written for him, hits you hard that inflation is the cause of the increase in Government revenue, all he is saying is that people are working for more money and paying more taxes and paying too much tax too. He left out that, but I will put it in; paying too much taxes too.

It is a fact that in inflationary times Government revenue does go up, but all this talk about Government revenue going up omits the fact that Government expenditure has also been rising. It is not true that the

hon. member says that indirect taxation has been going up faster than direct over the four years that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has outlined. Indirect taxes rose 75% despite many increases and direct taxes rose over 80% despite many decreases, despite two reductions in income tax over four years, but all these are matters which more properly belong to the Budget than to this debate, and in due course I will deal with it.

The matter of inflation in property, why is this inflation in property? You mean a man who had a house that was worth $50,000 in 1973 is not proud to know it is worth $120,000 today? You think he is not proud to know that? You believe there is nobody in Barbados that you can get to sell a house today at the price of 1973? So what is the point of coming in here and talking about inflation in property?

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, I was trying to get across the fact that there are for example several retired people who are living in homes that would have been valued, say, at $20,000 five years ago and for some curious reason they are now valued at $120,000 and they cannot even meet the payments, and it creates a severe hardship on them through the revaluation of the existing properties in which people live, particularly retired people. I can tell you of numerous examples. For example, one lady in Dayrells Road, in Christ Church West whose property was revalued from $10,000 to something like $120,000; a retired lady on a Government pension of $110 a month.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Why would the hon. member think he would have to give me the names of the people? First of all the Democratic Labour Party introduced the system, including the revaluation system, and secondly we have a steady, continuous stream of applicants for tax relief, and I actually do see all of these. Senator O'Brien Trotman looks at the file and draws these things to my attention. I am fully aware of the fact that there are people who are on fixed incomes and cannot meet the tax bills on the property under the new system of taxation introduced in 1973, and I regularly give remission of tax. I give remission of tax for Regency Park, for Dayrells Road. I have not given any for the Garden Gap yet that I can think of. Most people who live there seem to me to be well able to pay the amounts. I can't remember any, but all over Barbados you get applications for tax relief, the Tax Relief Board gives them and I formally sign them when they get around to me if the hon. member thinks they are none in St. Michael South Central, I don't even mind.....well no, the people might not want him to know their business, otherwise I would send him a copy of the next sheet. He would go on the platform and talk about it. Insofar as the hon. member for St. James is one of his patients, he got on a platform and said he was poxy. I know I could not carry my business to the hon. member if it was private.

3.50 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. James is not a patient of mine.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: But he was a patient of yours and you got on the platform and said the child could not be his because it was not poxy.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am still a patient of Dr. R. C. Haynes, whoever he is. I have not been ill yet to go back to him but I am still his patient. He has me on his records, Dr. R. C. Haynes, F.R.C.P. at Delaware Clinic.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we need a little patience in this matter.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I never thought I would hear a member of the House of Assembly saying that another member got his cousin with child but it is not such and such because the child is not poxy. I never thought I would live in Barbados to hear a member of the House of Assembly saying something like that. Anyway, never mind the professional aspects of it, the hon. member will understand why I would be a little unwilling to give him the names of his constituents who have applied for tax relief.

The hon. member said no wonder I have omitted to mention the buoyancy, but I did mention the buoyancy of the economy. I specially said I am going to use the time worn phrase coined by the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member apparently believes that the minority report of Mr. Basil Forbes – all of whose comments are the comments represented by the hon. member on the Gambling Commission – is worth more than the majority report of members headed by the Dean and others. He is entitled to chose whoever he wants, Mr. Basil Forbes said this country should have a casino. No wonder he is against the gambling machines, because his backers who want to put him forward to run a casino will want to run the other gamblers out of business. No wonder he is going to run down the present gamblers, because his backers are not their backers, but as far as the hon. member is concerned he would know better than anybody in the House that you can have companies with small paid up capitals which are formed to do a great deal of business. They have a large amount of loan capital. There are companies registered all over the world with a capital of $50 or no capital at all. There is a major company now seeking to incorporate in Barbados that has in fact no par value shares and will not state what the paid up capital is, and that company has assets – if the hon. member thinks he will know what

I mean – has assets of well over $100 million and does business in Barbados, makes profits in Barbados to the tune of $1 million a quarter, $4 million a year, so the hon. member must not fall into the error of whichever member of the Gambling Commission is insufficiently aware.....*(Asides)*. There were not three against it, you look back at it a little more carefully.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Prime Minister must address the Chair and leave out the Asides.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I don't want to talk about the Gambling Commission Report. Different minorities had different points of view; one member of the Commission wanted the Government to buy the one arm bandits, and he was in the minority. The other person who was in the minority, I believe it was Mr. Bazil Forbes, wanted a casino opened and talked about these things. It is only the hon. member who has either misunderstood or misrepresented the plain words of the report and induced the Advocate to publish and say a lot of foolishness. What is it to do with anybody who buys what, who has what paid up capital and how they handle their business, Sir? Anyway, that is only in passing.

As far as the one arm bandits are concerned, they bring in a $1 million in revenue and if you take them out Barbadians will have to find the million dollars somewhere else. That is the way I look at it. And they may be bringing in more than $1 million in revenue very soon too, as the hon. member might deduce if he read the report of the majority of the Commission and I am not prepared either to do without the million dollars from work permits or the million dollars from the bandits. People catch at the $150,000 that an increase in members of the House of Assembly would cost but I would sit down in here and hear people quarrel about $2 million, half of which you are getting from foreigners, and that is only the direct revenue where the bandits are concerned, and the rest of which you are getting from an activity that attracts taxation all over the world.

I think that I have dealt with really all the hon. member has said except the speed of projects. I would not like to be too severe on the hon. member of St. Michael South Central when he said that we should speed up the capital projects, because I used to have those ideas too, that you can decide on a project and get it well under way in two years. We have learned some sad lessons in Government about the speed at which you can get international agencies and local agencies to work. We have also seen efforts made such as was done with the caves in St. Thomas to cut the corners, go ahead and carry out the project irrespective of overseas investigation and proper analysis, and in the end of it we are going to have to write off $2 million, in my judgement, of what was spent on that cave in St. Thomas and treat that purely as infrastructural and start from scratch all over again, because $1.7 million was just spent as though money was going out of fashion in opening up that cave. I am very glad it gave some people highly paid employment in St. Thomas, but it was spent without proper analysis and it should stand as a lesson for us all.

The purchase of the North Point and the shrimp boats should also be a warning to us not to think that instant projects are worth anything in serious developmental terms.

Well, Sir, to conclude, the hon. member for St. John made an entertaining speech. At one stage he said 'I am not a prophet' and then the next words out of his mouth were 'there cannot be a surplus next year'. At another stage he said 'I do not speak with tongues' and a second or two later he said *'out echo andros'* which I take it is a Greek phrase and I am spelling out the words for the benefit of the Government Printery. I take that to be an exercise in glottal expertise denied to all but a few of us in here. I have always admired the many tongues with which the hon. member has spoken, but the hon. member really excelled himself when he quoted from John 4: 17–18 relating to the lady by the well when Jesus said to her 'thou hast well said I have no husband'. I asked the hon. member to let peace and love be at the forefront of his consideration of his duties as Leader of the Opposition, and the hon. member once again got it wrong, because he quoted John 4: 17–18, he should have quoted 1 John 4:18 'there is no fear in love, perfect love casteth out fear.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.
4.00 p.m.

HEAD 11 – GOVERNOR GENERAL

Head 11 – Governor General – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $133,590 under Head 11 – Governor General – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 12 – PARLIAMENT

Head 12 – Parliament – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $813,386 under Head 12 – Parliament – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak with specific reference to the Library of Parliament, and I want to say that in this day and age when there is an increase in the power of the Government or the Executive when contrasted with the power of Parliament it is all the more necessary for Parliament to be made an effective instrument in carrying out its functions in scrutinizing the Executive. This means that proper facilities should be placed at the disposal of Parliament and Parliamentarians to enable them to carry out the important aspects of their duties. I must confess some deep concern at the pace at which development have taken place in respect of the Library of Parliament – through no fault of the Library Committee of Parliament itself – and I will state that I am a member of that Committee I will also state that the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance as a member of that Committee has been very helpful in the deliberations of the Committee, but for some reason or other there seems to be some stumbling block, some hurdle preventing any advance in the work of that Committee, and I would make a plea that whatever these hurdles or stumbling blocks are, those who are responsible or are in a position to remove them should in this coming year take some steps to have them removed. May I also state that the Chairman of Committees has also been very concerned about the work of this Committee, so I do not include him as a hurdle or stumbling block in this regard. I do not wish to say anything more on this but I will not imitate the hon. member for St. Philip North and submit my resignation from the Committee because of my dissatisfaction with the pace of the work. I know there is precedent but I am not prepared to take that extreme step at this stage; and I merely want to make this particular observation at this time.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I share the concern of the hon. member that hon. members should have adequate resources at their disposal in order to carry out their duties competently as representatives of the people. As a matter of fact, the question of adequate resources for members of Parliament whether in Government or not has come up lately in many Parliaments in the world, as well as the provision of remuneration of M.Ps, and in particular grants for supplementing services to hire third party services to allow them to carry out their work, particularly in respect of research. I think we would be asking a lot in Barbados in this regard, particularly in the context of the usual debate that arises when any remuneration at all for members of Parliament is discussed, even in this case when it would be stipulated that the resources should be given to members of Parliament by way of a supplement purely for the purpose of hiring third party services. Government is very conscious of this defect. I am aware of the proposals by the Library Committee for increasing the resources. Regrettably, under the Parliamentary Debates Act the responsibility for this rests with the Debates Committee. The matter came to me to be put forward to the Cabinet and it was drawn to my attention that before reaching Cabinet it must go through the Debates Committee. Accordingly I suggested that it be sent to the Debates Committee so that they could make recommendations on it. As hon. members are aware, like other departments of Government I am positive that the Legislative Department will have a review of the remuneration and conditions of service parallel with the exercise which is going on now and in these matters the staff is represented and one would expect there would have to be some discussion with the representative of the members of the staff of Parliament. That is the sole reason why it has not been dealt with; Cabinet could not deal with it, unless it had gone through the Debates Committee. But it will be dealt with in conjunction with other proposals which I am positive will be put before the Debates Committee in the not too distant future, and when an agreed decision is reached the Estimates would have to be supplemented to accommodate this.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you will forgive me if I am not specific, because the new form of the Estimates creates some difficulty as to the exact Head until one gets accustomed to it.

I want to discuss the printing of the debates. It appears from the record that there has been for some considerable time now some question why the printing of the debates takes as long as it does. It would seem to me that both administrations have annually given explanation and annually we have the same problems. I want in the context of making a contribution to this debate to take a look at what was said last year. I have no doubt that we will get a plausible excuse and I have no doubt that there is reasonable reason.
4.10 p.m.

I have been led to understand that a vigorous, concerted and serious attempt is going to be made to remove us from the morass into which we have fallen with regard to Parliamentary Debates. It is one thing for a person to say that the level of Parliamentary Debates is lower than it used to be.

In the old days those Parliamentarians used to be running the affairs of the country any how so they were familiar with what had gone and, what was to come. We have a tremendous increase in administration of Government. For those reasons it is impossible for anyone to keep tag on what has been said in Parliament unless a person can have up-to-date debates.

When one looks at the Estimates, one does not see in the Estimates such a reflection, and I am subject to correction here because as I said the new system may be the fault but I see nothing in the Estimates which would suggest that there will be an assault on this perennial problem which has been going on for well over 20 years.

It is pointless anyone getting up and telling me it was the last Parliament because, Mr. Chairman, I was not in here in the last Parliament and if the Printer stands indicted, let us indict him. If Parliament stands indicted, let us indict them. Whoever must take the responsibility where it is but more than that, let us do something about it. Do not let us say we are going to do something about it. If we are not going to have an improvement let us agree that there will be no improvement or that there can be no improvement so that next year there will be no need for this kind of a speech.

I find it impossible to carry out my duties as a Parliamentarian properly with all other difficulties that one might have as a Parliamentarian. I find it impossible to carry out my duties effectively and properly in a manner in which my constituents should become accustomed, so far as debates are concerned when it is impossible, unless it is a Statement by a Minister or unless it is a Budgetary Statement or unless it falls into that category where it can appear both in Hansard and elsewhere, it is impossible to be able to follow the words spoken by any hon. member in here from either side.

I am sure from time to time one is accused of having said something and one cannot recall if one has said it or not and conversely when one attempts to speak from memory one is told I did not say that, that is not true etc., etc.

I call upon the Hon. Minister responsible and Mr. Chairman, let me admit that I am a member of the Debates Committee who has not been attending the meetings of the Debates Committee regularly and so that no one will be under any doubt, I do not attend those meetings primarily because I think it is a waste of time.

Soon after I came into this Parliament I attended a Parliamentary Debates Committee Meeting and I formed the impression, based on the method that has been operating before and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central can confirm that in the session before when we were on the Debates Committee, whether it was true or not, we were both Senators, we were allowed to believe that we had a certain amount of control on a certain number of things. There was certain even-handedness – I had better not go along that road, Mr. Chairman. It is not because I am afraid but because I want to spend the whole week in Parliament this week.

Mr. Chairman, on that basis and for those reasons I have concluded that until I can see clearly that the Debates Committee will have its rightful place as a Committee of Parliament subject only to the whims of Parliament, I think it a waste of time. That is my personal view. I make that so no one can accuse me when I attack the Debates Committee, if I do, of not attending. I am saying why.

I do not believe that the Debates Committee can be held to blame on the question of printing of debates because it does not seem to me that the Debates Committee has that responsibility now. So, Mr. Chairman, I hope you can see the nexus between the diminution of responsibility and/or the power of the Debates Committee on the one hand and the continuing lip service being paid with the concept of a proper Parliamentary Administration on the other hand.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, we have a long week. It is not necessary to be-labour the point but I would be not quite clear if I did not absorb the individual persons working in Parliament and working for Parliament. I am not here casting any aspersions on any individual working within this context because again it does not seem as if the responsibility lies with the Officers of Parliament. The truth is, Mr. Chairman, that we do not seem to know who is responsible for it and I feel that that Government has the ability to get to the bottom of this.

I ask especially the hon. member for Christ Church South Central to take some interest in this matter as Leader of this Honourable House on our behalf and let us see that as soon as debates have been taken in shorthand in here, within a reasonable time thereafter that we can get them.

Mr. Chairman, I speak on this without fear of contradiction because I have worked in a system where you speak or someone speaks at 10.30 p.m. the night and the following morning a document appears and the verbatim record is reproduced for 145 delegates and anybody else in the World who wishes to see it.

The Hon. Attorney General can confirm that when he has gone to the United Nations and he has listened to speeches made the afternoon before and the night before sometimes and early in the morning the following day at 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock those debates are available.

Now the great resources of the United Nations can be evoked as a reason why not but I can show you, Sir, why it is not so. The process is very simple. Each one of the Reporters of Parliament comes in and does a 10 minutes take. It takes about 45 minutes to reproduce that on a typewriter if there is someone waiting outside to type it straight from dictation. It can take as much as two hours if it is being taken from a tape, depending on the quality of the tape, ability, and of pronounciation of the person who is speaking. Then in the course of a day, at the end of a day, if Parliament or any debating society or any debating group is properly staffed and all persons are reasonably competent, not super competent, reasonably competent, by the following afternoon the first draft of what was said can be produced or reproduced.

Subsequently, it has to be edited. Since the substance cannot be edited, editing is a relatively small matter. It is a question of checking to see if there is anything that is so actrociously wrong that it needs to be checked and rechecked, at which point, Mr. Chairman, it should go to someone whose responsibility it is to reproduce it as quickly as possible.

Now if they tell me that that somewhere is the Government Printery, I feel it is unfair if over such a long period of time the Government Printery has consistently demonstrated it is incapable of doing the debates to continue to send them there. If it is not the Government Printery and it is a bureaucratic tangle up then someone must have the executive responsibility to tear that apart.
4.20 p.m.

, Mr. Chairman, I submit it is pure inertia. I have to submit that because the alternative is even more fearful and I do not believe that there is anyone anywhere who would deliberately not bring out these debates. So I am going to rest my case on a plea to the hon. members on the other side whose responsibility it is now to do whatever is necessary, including increasing the vote, changing the staff, increasing the staff, buying equipment, even doing what His Honour the Speaker has once suggested or conversely removing His Honour the Speaker from the matter. Whatever is necessary, I call upon the hon. members to let us get to the meat of reproducing these debates in a manner in which we, as hon. members and Barbados in general can be proud. It is embarrassing when we have to say to a visitor our debates for the last year are not yet available but it is worse when we have not the tools with which to work.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I rise Mr. Chairman, to speak on Sub Head 2. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Exchange Visits. We note that there is an increase of some $100,000. There is an increase in the vote for operating expenses. I am not certain, like the hon. member, I do not find my way through these Estimates too easily but the point I wish to make relates to these visits. One hundred and forty thousand dollars plus $30,000 as grants to non profit agencies giving a total of $170,000 under this Sub Head Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Exchange Visits.

I am a House of Assembly man, I believe in Parliament as the people's Chamber where important functions are, or should be carried out in this Parliament in respect of the Democratic administration of Affairs in this country. I believe that 24 members are members sufficient to carry out that particular function in respect of a quarter of a million people in this country. I believe that any proposal coming from the Government to increase the members of this House beyond the present 24 members – Operating Expenses of Parliament, I am speaking on – I am trying to ensure that no steps are taken to burden the people of this country unduly by increasing the operating expenses. I believe Mr. Chairman, that those 24 members are sufficient.

What we wish to do Mr. Chairman is to ensure that those 24 members are given the necessary resources not only through provision for Library and related matters but in the area that my colleague, the hon. member for St. Michael South West, has been speaking of and other areas as well. *(Aside: Trips to China?)* We will come to trips shortly. I believe that what is required is a considerable injection of resources in almost all areas of Parliamentary activities to ensure that basic functions to be carried out by this Parliament and by the 24 members can be carried out.

What has happened is that we have seen a substantial increase in the resources available to Government or to the Executive, not only the increase in the size of the Public Service but also in the funds available and the staff available. We now have Press Aides and we have all types of assistants to the Executive in carrying out their functions. I have no quarrel with that but I believe that members of Parliament must be enabled to function more effectively within.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I hope they function effectively there. I do not know, I cannot say. There are hon. members I believe who have never gone on any Commonwealth Parliamentary Association visit anywhere. Some hon. members have been in here for a long time but that is a different matter.

What we are spending is a lot of money here and I want to ensure that those hon. members who go on visits that the people of this country can see some benefit from the visits which they make. It is a shame, that when visits are made, those hon. members of Parliament who do not go on the visits have little idea at

all of what they may have gone out into the wilderness to see, what they saw, what benefits, if any, are resulted from that visit. The point I am making is that when public officers go on visits to attend meetings or carry out some particular function on behalf of the Government, as I understand it, they make a report to their superior officers or superior officers make their report to the political Directorate. In the case of Parliamentarians, there is no general report that is available to other Parliamentarians and I believe that that is basically wrong. That whenever a delegation goes from this country anywhere, an official report should be submitted by that delegation and the hon. members of that delegation should see the report and the report should be circulated to other hon. members of Parliament for their benefit and advantage.

In other systems, we hear about "Junkits" and trips and so on. That is a common term used in the American system. I believe to avoid that type of charge that we must approach our business in terms of exchanges and visits in a more business-like manner. I support the principle of visits because it can be a broadening and an educative experience but I believe we need to bring more discipline into this whole area so that we can make our Parliament into a more effective and efficient Body. Let us not forget that it is this Parliament that stands between Barbados and a dictatorial system because this Parliament is the bulwark of the freedom of the people of this country. We are the representatives of the people and when the work of Parliamentarians is hampered, either outside of the House or inside of the House, then the whole institution of Parliament is called into question and we know not what may happen when such an eventuality occurs. A word of warning is enough and it is time that this whole institution of Parliament be treated with much sensitivity and appreciation of the role that Parliamentarians play and should play than is currently being given.

I was impressed by the response by the Hon. Leader of the House to my first intervention and I hope that there will be an equally statesmanlike approach to this second intervention and specifically also, to the point made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West.
4.30 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, before we go any further.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I at this point make this comment?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, I think it is a sufficiently important one. Mr. Chairman, before we go any further, I know that the Hon. Minister of Finance when he introduced the Estimates indicated how the codes were one aspect of the code. Now, Mr. Chairman, I am seeing here code 1201 and code 1202. Could the hon. member tell me where the interpretation is, if this is different from the other code at appendix F? I can't find the "12". Would it be Head 12 code 01?

Is that what it means? If you look at the Head we are looking at now, Mr. Chairman, I am asking this because I believe most hon. members except those who have worked with it are a little mixed up, let me put it that way. Could it be that this is Head 12. If you take 1201, the computer principle suggests to me that 1201 would mean Head 12 and then "01" under appendix F. Is that what it means? I just want to be certain.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Correct.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to make a contribution?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as the youngest member of Parliament and as one not accustomed to any habits which might have developed over the years, I believe that such youth and a new experience would give me certain insights into what kind of administrative arrangements should be provided for Parliamentarians. I am not at all satisfied with the quality of service made available to those of us who do not occupy ministerial positions, and certainly on this side and I believe the same applies to members on the back bench on the other side, it is virtually impossible if you want to get any assistance in dealing with questions, in dealing with Resolutions, in dealing with any matter relating to Parliament. I think it is ridiculous if a member of Parliament wishes to bring a Resolution before this Honourable Chamber or to ask a question that he should not be in a position to present that to the staff of Parliament who are not only legally trained, but also have additional experience in parliamentary matters as they relate to the Standing Orders of this House and have that put in a form which that member can be sure will meet the requirements of the House.

(Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain words be struck from the debate.)

Dr. CADDLE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, for elucidation of this side, could you direct my attention to the relevant Standing Order which prohibits a member of this Honourable Chamber from commenting on his experience in dealing with the staff of this House?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must understand it is not necessary for me so to do. The Rules of Parliament, the traditions of Parliament are such that they must be withheld and upheld, and I will certainly do so. It is my view that there was an attempt to cast reflections on the staff and the Speaker, and I so rule and that cannot be questioned. Will the hon. member please continue?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, be assured that the events recounted by me did not constitute a reflection on any individual or group of individuals. It reflects on a system that I am talking about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please! The hon. member is now questioning the ruling of the Chair. You are out of order.
4.40 p.m.

I would like to implore hon. members of this House especially those who have been in here for many years and who are well versed and experienced in the rules and procedures of this House, I will implore on them to restrain their colleagues when they are going out of order. That will also assist the Chair and the proceedings of this House.

Dr. HAYNES: Democratic processes, Mr. Chairman, based on the rights of not only individuals within a community but particularly those who are elected represent them in Parliaments throughout the world at all times to tell the truth and the truth is fundamental to the democratic system. However, Mr. Chairman, I will continue to make a plea, and the plea is this, that I feel that Parliament should be considerably improved if for example there was a research staff to members of Parliament. I feel that it would not be an undue expenditure, and certainly rather than finding ourselves spending more and more money on an increased number of parliamentarians, all of whom would be unable to function efficiently because of lack of support, I believe that the time has come, I think, that matters coming before this House will increase in complexity and that we should be looking in the future to providing a research department, research assistance to assist parliamentarians in their presentations.

Many of us sometimes have the greatest difficulty in getting access to information, those of us who are not involved in Government. Many of us get that information by means of letters in the post or by interested persons who feel that full expression of the democratic process should require that both sides should have access to information which would be debated on a particular day. I believe that 95% of matters that come before this Hon. House emulating from the Government side, there is no confidentiality about it, there is no reason why it should be kept as a secret, and in order to enhance the standards of debates within the Chamber such information should be processed through a research staff that should be available to all members of Parliament. I believe that the quality of speeches, the quality of presentations would be considerably enhanced if such facilities were made available and that type of expenditure I will repeat once again is perhaps one of the most vital areas needed here.

Now on the question of advice to members, I of course do not wish to reflect on your decision by recounting the truthful difficulties which I have had, but I wonder whether members would not agree with me that if for example a member wishes to bring a Resolution that he should be able to present that in outline to a member of the staff who is qualified to do so and that he should know well in advance whether that motion will be entertained or not so that when he comes to Parliament he will have adequate time in order to prepare for his debates and so on.

Another major problem, Mr. Chairman, is the question of the delivery of the Order Papers. Some better system has to be worked out. It is grossly unfair and it is no good anyone getting up and saying that this is what obtained before, because the whole point of living is that you want to improve yourself, you want to improve systems, you want to improve any kind of institution or at least contribute to the improvement of the institution in which you are functioning. The Order Papers are often delivered some time between Friday afternoon and Tuesday morning, often on a Sunday, sometimes on a Saturday afternoon, not unknown to be on a Monday morning or Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning. We are expected to come in here and debate Government business, serious matters often involving money, involving serious decisions affecting the lives of the community, and not given an opportunity to properly study the papers, and as far as I am concerned I try always to do as much background preparation and to consult with as many people who have expert knowledge in a particular field before I come in this Hon. House to speak, and I find it extremely difficult to function under these circumstances.

My understanding is that the limitations or the problems are usually blamed on the Government Printery. If that is the case, then the Government Printery should be made to understand, those responsible, that the affairs of Parliament should take priority over any other business that they have to do, because this is the highest court in the land, this is where the fundamental decisions are taken affecting the lives of every single person, and that simply is not good enough for members to have their papers within 72, 48 and 24 hours, or on the same morning that a debate is going to take place. If the problem is insurmountable at the present moment, I would suggest that the Order Papers be circulated

probably ten days in advance, that is, that the Order Paper you receive on a Friday would not deal with that Tuesday's business but would deal with the following Tuesday's business, so that you have a week and probably two or three days in order to get prepared for your debate inside here.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that if a proper research department, proper time was given to parliamentarians, that there will be a significant improvement in the standard of debate in this House, and also that the conclusions arising from debates would be to the betterment of the people of this country as a whole. But this kind of slipshod manner that obtains at the moment cannot be allowed to continue. We cannot conduct our affairs in this way, we cannot continue to do it and expect that to bring standards of efficiency on other areas of Government, or alternatively in any other areas of the society, whether it be Statutory Boards or the private sector, because what goes on in here is public knowledge, and the clear inefficiency of what takes place is automatically transmitted to the population at large, and no matter what efforts are made by anyone to stop me from saying what I feel to be correct and what should be done, I will continue – I am not referring to you, Sir, I know you would never try to stop me from doing anything, St. George people do not stop St. George people from doing anything, providing it is right.
4.50 p.m.

He stopped me from getting in in 1976, but I was still pleased that a St. George man got in.

Mr. Chairman, with these few remarks I hope that our plea will be taken seriously by those responsible for the administration of Parliament and I believe that this matter – I heard it referred to as warming over of cold soup – this matter that has been talked about in this Honourable Chamber for many years and I believe it is time the Great Combination finds it possible to do something about it. At least let them do something about Parliament since it appears they can do nothing about anything else.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am heartened to know that the hon. members on the other side are well aware that if Parliament is to function adequately, adequate resources must be put at its disposal. In the short period of time that this Government has been in power, we have done a considerable amount to improve the resources and the physical conditions of Parliament without any help from the other side, only obstruction in the sense of non-participation and objections when additional resources are placed. I only need to recall that we on this side were the ones who introduced the supplement for third party expenses of all members of Parliament salaries. We did not get any cooperation from the other side; hon. members will recall how the other side refused to participate in any of the Select Committees which dealt with this matter. We have also spent a considerable amount of money on the physical structure of this Parliament to improve the amenities here. As I said previously, the Library Committee has made recommendations with respect to the increase of staff for the Library to contribute to more resources of personnel to help hon. members in their research efforts.

On the question of the debates, I have made a physical check on this matter and have been assured that all of the debates have been dealt with by the staff of Parliament and that they are in the hands of the Government Printery. Honourable members will be aware that for the last twenty years the competence of the Government Printery has been in question in relation to the printing of the debates of Parliament. We have made some progress in that the last debate published is the debate of this House at the end of October, 1978. But we know that there will never be a satisfactory system of printing Parliamentary debates in Barbados until this House has its own small printery to do the job. That recommendation has been made, but hon. members will recall that it has been repeatedly pointed out that until we have full control of these buildings here you cannot define the precincts of Parliament nor can we have sufficient accommodation for the staff we would like to employ. But thank God this administration is building a new Post Office and when that is completed this House will be able to have control of this whole area so that we will be able to do all these things. In the meantime I have taken up the matter.....

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way. Can the hon. member tell what it is proposed to do until the Post Office is completed?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is precisely what I was coming to when I said in the meantime. In the meantime we have taken up the matter of printing of the debates. We understand that new machinery is coming to the Government Printery. But the Printery itself needs to be expanded as there is a physical accommodation problem with the Town Planner upstairs and the Printery downstairs. We have managed to get some space at Marine House but not enough for the Town Planners to move out. But with additional space we hope in the near future to have enough physical space to put in the machinery so that we can hire additional staff to deal with every thing. The suggestion has been made, and the Government is willing to consider it, that in order to get the debates up to date you will have to hire additional temporary staff.

Mr. TAITT: Will the hon. Minister also consider the possibilities of the Government Printery being put on

twenty four hour basis along with the introduction of temporary staff? I don't think the National Union of Public Workers would have any objections to that. It is my feeling and contention that one of the reasons why the Government Printery is not as effective as it might be is perhaps because the equipment is not worked continuously.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member is aware that this Government is in favour of shift work since it was this Government that took the initiative to introduce shift work on our industrial estates. This Government does not believe in overtime because it has been found that people will delay work in order to get overtime, so we would prefer to employ additional people as necessary.

As I said, this matter of the debates being a year behind is a matter of concern, but there has been some improvement though not enough, and steps will have to be taken to ensure that the additional resources placed at the disposal of the Printery will be used to the fullest extent possible. Honourable members should be able to quote from the debates and it is time that a crash programme be undertaken to bring them up to date. I understand there has also been some constraint to the work of some of the officers because of problems with proofreading, but I take the point raised by hon. members and all these things will be looked into.

With respect to the points raised about Parliamentary Questions and the inability of members to get a response – the Rules provide very clearly the criteria for determining whether the Questions are in order or not, but the responsibility rests with the presiding officers and sometimes in order to get a definitive ruling it takes some time; but there is no time limit within which a Question must be answered. If hon. members wish to introduce time limits, that would become a matter for amendment to the present Rules and Standing Orders, but the Rules of themselves as they now stand do not indicate when a reply must be made.
5.00 p.m.

HEAD 13 – SERVICES COMMISSIONS

Head 13 – Services Commissions – (a) Public Administration – Subhead 1: General Administration $142,897 Subhead 2: Centralised Personnel Expenses $180,000 – Total $250,897 – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head 13 stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Head 13 Subhead 1 I should like to ask a number of questions on this Head but before I do I wonder if the Minister responsible, the Hon. Prime Minister, would be so good as to explain his policy, his personnel policy, especially with regard to recruiting.

I do not wish to engage in a long list of questions but I would like, for example, to know the role of the Parliamentary Secretary, I would like to know if he has a role, what is his post in the Prime Minister's Office in relation to Services Commissions. You see, Sir, it is based on information which came to me as recently as three days ago. It does not seem to me as though it is valid but it is suggested that a young person had gone on a call to be recruited and that some lady had indicated to this person that he was ineligible for the particular job because of his location where he lived.

I am not going any further than that. I would like the Prime Minister to tell this Honourable House what is the personnel policy of the Government, if he can, and what is the role of the Parliamentary Secretary in Personnel, if any, and I would like to ask a few questions depending on the Prime Minister's explanation.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would also like to make a point here on the matter of Services Commissions. For a very long time in Barbados, unlike any other comparable comprehensive Boards in the country, we do not get any reports relevant to the performance of the Services Commissions during the year and therefore we are unable to assess what they are doing and how well they are doing it.

I would like to hear from the Hon. Prime Minister who is responsible for this that attempts will be made in the future to give Parliament some insight into the activity of the Services Commissions during the past year and then we will be able to gauge what needs to be done especially in relation to the Civil Service.

Some time ago in this Honourable Chamber a Resolution was brought and passed here for a Commission to look into the Civil Service with the idea of refashioning it to suit modern day developments and demands and if we had some idea of the performance of the Commission in relation to some of the activities performed by the Civil Service we would be able to get some idea of whether there was a necessity for such a Commission or whether the Commission themselves by day-to-day activities would be able to make suitable recommendations through the Government for the areas in which some improvement or some reformation would be made and I would like to hear the Hon. Prime Minister in his reply commenting on that particular aspect.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Any other hon. member wishes to make a contribution?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I doubt myself that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central can be correct in ascribing anything that happened within the last three days to the Parliamentary Secretary when the Parliamentary Secretary in my Office has been out of the Island.

Mr. TAITT: No, no, on a point of elucidation. That is not what I am saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what does the hon. member rise?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation. What I said is that I received information during the last three days. That information has nothing to do with the Parliamentary Secretary. The question I ask is with regard to the policy. That affects the Parliamentary Secretary apparently. That is what I am seeking an explanation for.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Parliamentary Secretary has acted as Minister without Portfolio with responsibility of this Head among others. He does give assistance in personnel matters. He has the experience in personnel matters, has acted Secretary in the National Union of Public Workers, a person with training abroad in Union matters and personnel matters and a person who is himself a member of the Public Service.

The hon. member could not expect me to be fully and completely skilled in all these matters in which I have no more training than he has. Therefore, I turn to somebody who has such training and who can relieve the Prime Minister of some of the cares and burdens of day-to-day administration in certain Departments.

The Parliamentary Secretary assists with Establishment and Personnel matters. He assists with Immigration matters and he also has to do with one or two other isolated matters such as matters as were raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, old aged pensioners and assisting with old aged pensions and so on.

He assists at the moment with the specialised tasks when we took over the new Immigration Services Rostering System, negotiating with the Union over how to roster the Immigration Officers.

At the moment he is trying to put forward the scheme for transporting Security Guards at the Airport. They do not get transportation now and he is communicating with a Committee that is meeting to centralise Airport Transportation. He has a number of useful functions and if that answers the hon. member's point then there is no more to be said. As far as the Services Commissions' policy of hiring is concerned, the policy has not changed.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way. Could I take it to understand that he has nothing to do with recruitment? That was not included in the Minister's explanation. I asked specifically about recruitment, Sir.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do assure the hon. member that he has absolutely nothing to do with any recruitment relating to appointments made by any Services Commissions. The matter of somebody being told that he cannot get a job because of where he lives is entirely possible. The reason being that at certain locations, notably the Airport, due to shift work a preference has been expressed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, not the Minister, to have people who would be required to do shift work come as far as possible from an area three miles from within the Airport. This includes the parish of St. Philip North and South, the parish of St. George South and the parish of Christ Church North Central, South Central and East and I daresay even perhaps West although I doubt it would get so far and it is entirely possible that that may be related to it.

I do also know that within Departments, we do not nowadays – when the Security Guards had responsibility for Gun Hill before the Regiment took over guarding them, we did not generally send Security Guards who had great transportation difficulties as far as we could to Gun Hill.

5.10 p.m.

All that I say I can repeat that as far as I know policies on employment have not changed since 1976.

The question that Head 13 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14 – ESTABLISHMENTS

Head 14 – Establishments, a total of $2,300,195.00 – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14 – Establishments – in the sum of $2,300,195.00 stand part.

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

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am inviting the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to agree to recommitment of Head 14. Mr. Chairman, we have debated these Estimates every year where we have had Establishments separated from Training, separated from Service Commissions. This year, it comes down as Head 14, but there is (A), and (B). Now, when I heard 14, I was looking on that page and I saw Establishments.

I have something to say on Training, but when I turned over the page, I saw that that is Head 14 too. I am sure they will agree to a recommitment.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(B) Training be recommitted.

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

The question that Head 14 (B) Training be recommitted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14 (B) – TRAINING

Head 14 (B) – Training, Sub-head 2 – Training Administration – in the sum of $84,249.00 – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14(B) – Training, Sub-Head 2 – Training Administration – in the sum of $84,249.00 stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I know we are going to get through the Estimates somehow. If we do not get the numbers right, we will get the substance. I should like to ask the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, who is the Minister responsible, I take his point that this is not his field, although he is slightly mistaken as to the level of training on this side. It is one of the areas of which I boast serious professional training.

Mr. Chairman, I have seen in the newspapers recently what appears to be a change in the policy regarding training. It appears as if the officer who will be heading the Training Division within the Service has been reduced from the level of Permanent Secretary to the level of I think, Senior Training Officer. I am only going on the information which one has seen in the newspaper. It would seem to me to suggest a de-emphasis on the part of the Government on Training because it would seem to me that unless they have concluded that the Executive level for Training was too high, in which case, the reduction would be purely an administrative matter, without reference to the substance, thereby affecting, even if they do that – to reduce it from a pari pasu position with other departments in the Government through, not to the next level, but through to a level of Senior Training Officer. It would seem to suggest, that training is being de-emphasised anyway.

What I should like to know is, to whom is the Senior Training Officer reporting? To the Permanent Secretary? To the Chief Personnel Officer? Or is the Senior Training Officer reporting to the Minister? Is the Senior Training Officer a head of department, within Establishments, or within Service Commissions reporting directly to the Service Commissions or to the Chief Establishments Officer? I think a little clarification might help to explain the methodology being used. I am not hide-bound in the sense that there must be a Permanent Secretary heading the division in order for it to be effective.

I am on record in this Hon. House and elsewhere, as wishing to see an integrated department. I believe Barbados is too small – I have always believed so, I have seen no reason to change my mind on this – I believe Barbados is too small to have an Establishments Division, a Personnel Division and a Training Division. As a matter of fact Mr. Chairman, I believe that given that we are alleged to have 255,000 people in this community we are probably the only community on earth in terms of a public sector, with that kind of arrangement for our Personnel Administration. I believe that the Personnel Administration should be integrated, separated along functional lines but integrated administratively.

If this reduction in the Training Department from the level of Senior Training Officer is a move in that direction I would help applaud. If however, as it appears to be, it arises out of other considerations, I think the Government would wish to reconsider its position because to have a Chief Personnel Officer, then a Chief of Establishments and a Senior Training Officer, it seems to me the thing is not balanced but that is not the main point I wish to make. I can see no relation among the various training institutions into which Government is making an input. I should like to hear from the Hon. Minister what is the policy position, what is the systematic way of integrating the training of Government Servants. Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that there is any special training for public sector executives and private training for private sector executives. I think that there are some areas where differences will emerge. What we need in an advancing country like Barbados, Mr. Chairman, is an executive approach to the management of the public sector. I contend that we will not get an executive approach to the public sector unless we give the persons in the public sector the same opportunities for executive training and the same opportunities for executing their responsibilities which one can find in the private sector. To that end, I am satisfied that what we ought to aim for in Barbados, over a relatively short time, is the co-ordinating of our entire training effort.

It seems to me that the resources available in Barbados cannot afford to have BIMAP on the one hand over in its little corner, the Training Unit in its little corner and a number of other institutions participating in the total training effort. I contend Mr. Chairman, that a large percentage of our efforts is being wasted. The selective process is not going to fruition, it is not getting its full potential.

5.20 p.m.

The result is that what constitutes training or what is put forward as training in Barbados and certainly in the context of this particular vote is nothing more than the orientation of new persons coming into the service and to a large extent the reorientation of persons who have been in the service for some time. Now that should be distinguished clearly from middle management training, senior management training and I am contending that since the Government as we shall see later – I am not anticipating, Mr. Chairman – will be expending large sums of money in BIMAP, since the Government has had the benefit of three or four studies in this regard and I believe that all the studies made the same recommendations that the local practitioners have made..... they are on file, the number of various recommendations all coming up virtually with the same point except for one recommendation which is distinguished not so much by its quality, but by its offer and perhaps that is why it carries as much weight as it does, but that is another story, Mr. Chairman. The point is that except for one report, all the others have suggested an integrated approach to public service management in Barbados, and I contend that with 250,000 or 260,000 or 300,000 people, it is wrong for us to have our resources being duplicated with half of the resources being used at BIMAP, another piece being used in the Training Unit and then, Sir, we have in the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill and elsewhere in the Caribbean attempts at so-called management training. I contend that we do not have enough resource people in this Barbados to allow for effective use of what resource we have and I would have thought that the Government by now – once I saw them making a move to have the senior training officer – would have reached the point where they are prepared to look at the personnel policy of the public service seriously.

It is with some regret that the Resolution moved by the hon. member for Christ Church East did not see the light of day because I feel that that Resolution needed to be debated. *(Asides)* It was not debated in that kind of context. I know what I am saying. Mr. Chairman, I know exactly what I am talking about. Of course we had a Resolution; we had a few statements. I am talking about a detailed examination of the service not from a critical point of view in the usual political criticisms which one might get. I am talking about an evaluation of the service, and if in fact that notwithstanding the call in that Resolution has not fallen on deaf ears, then the time has come when the whole question of public personnel administration in Barbados should be examined in detail, not by persons who come from overseas who do not have any experience in small developing countries. One of the errors we continue to make in regard to public personnel administration is that we get most of our advice when we do get it from persons overseas who are not privy to some of the difficulties connected with developing countries. Our experts hardly even come from small or indeed developing countries, and for that reason a number of recommendations made are nothing more then old hat, or as I heard the phrase used earlier, warmed over soup.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that if we are going to have as many projects as we have seen since the Sixties, since Barbados became independent, if we are to get the maximum use of the financial resources of the country especially in the private sector, middle management and upper management training is a must. It cannot be done in the context of $84,000. Mr. Chairman, there is no way that the Government can tell me that when they allocate $84,000 for training that they are taking the question of middle management and upper management training seriously. Executive management training with $84,000, Mr. Chairman, I do not understand it! It does not make sense to me and I am sure that there must be a plausible explanation, so I shall sit down and wait for it.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I want to expand on the point made by the previous speaker, and I am asking the Hon. Prime Minister if he has given any serious thought to having this matter of training dealt with within the University of the West Indies, because when you look at the needs of the civil service, and I will remark again that there has been a call in this Chamber for a look at the civil service in its entirety and remodelling it, I wonder really if that can be done on the type of approach that is being adopted. A lot has been said of the small sum of money being allotted for training, but if you look at the facilities and resources available in Barbados, I do agree with the previous speaker that we cannot have these resources scattered out in different areas, because in so doing we are likely to find that the results we get by a little unit performing in one little area in small business and so on will not be the type of result that we want to produce, the type of administration suited to the needs of a fastly or rapidly developing country.

The University of the West Indies has a lot of resources; there can be no doubt about that. The Barbados Government contributes heavily to the University financially and there is a campus of the University here, and I would like to suggest that if one looks at the feasibility of it, the cost benefit analysis of it, it may be more profitable to enter into some arrangement with the University of the West Indies and have the means of training for the civil service there rather than duplicating our efforts and maybe in such duplication encourage a lot of wastage. There can be no doubt about it that there is a need for training of the new person about to enter the civil service to give him that orientation of what the civil service is all about. There is also a need for training those people already within the

civil service, and when one looks at the new methods being developed in the process of administration in Government and also in private enterprise, there must be need at some time for training people in the higher eschelons of the civil service in new methods as developed maybe within the West Indies or as we copy from countries outside the West Indies, and I think the University of the West Indies is better placed to do that job efficiently for the Government of Barbados than to have a small centre regardless of whatever you call it doing this type of activity. As regards the name to give the head of the school, one can look at this in many ways, but I would prefer to look at it as a question of deflation of the Permanent Secretary rather than a shift in the emphasis on training as it now stands.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just a brief intervention. The question of training administration and the training of the public service personnel of course raises the question of what type of public service we really require in this country and for what particular objectives we are training them. I believe that this Parliament had an extended debate on the question of the public service in which the views concerning training programmes and related matters were widely canvassed, and I think this Parliament and the people in this country are deeply indebted to a very forthright presentation on the matter by the hon. member for Christ Church East. 5.30 p.m.

I know that that member gave very great consideration to the particular matter. He examined it and he presented his arguments very cogently, so cogently that he persuaded this Parliament to vote for the Resolution. I must say – I am not dealing with the member for Christ Church East now, because the matter is beyond him, this is beyond him now, this is a matter in which this House of Assembly took a decision on that particular Resolution, passed it, agreed to it, but up to this particular point we have seen no action taken on the proposals in that particular Resolution, none that members of Parliament can observe, certainly from this side. Maybe the member for Christ Church East knows of some other action that has been taken. It is true, Mr. Chairman, that that Resolution was passed over the protestations of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Why he didn't give his support to the hon. member for Christ Church East on that matter I really cannot tell, but I know he convinced the majority of members of this Parliament, and this raises a specific problem about the position of Parliament, because if members of Parliament after due consideration pass a matter in democratic fashion, I am saying that it is the responsibility of the Government to implement that particular decision. It calls into question the particular role and function and efficacy of Parliament.

We cannot have in this Parliament any pocket vetoes being exercised by the Prime Minister or the Executive, and that seems to be the case in this particular matter. The last person whom I know attempted a pocket veto was Richard Milhouse Nixon, and he was brought to task by the Congress of the United States for his actions. Now, our Prime Minister is no Nixon, I'm not saying that, I have a very high regard for him. The Leader of the Opposition said he has a very high regard for him, mine probably predates that, but I am saying that if it raises a fundamental principle where Parliament has actually passed a Resolution and that Resolution has not been acted on by the Government, it seems to me to be indicating that it is a waste of time for Parliament to pass Resolutions and those Resolutions are ignored, and that is why I am saying that we have got to take our responsibility very seriously and to ask ourselves the question whether we are running a democracy in this country, or whether we are merely operating a democratic sham.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are on training.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Sir, so we have got to train this Cabinet to the responsibility of the proper management of this country.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I was fascinated to listen to the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South, Sir. His first intervention today said we don't want more members of Parliament but he wants us to share out the money they would get among the existing members. That is what his speech meant.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member is misleading this House. I never talked about sharing out any resources among existing members of Parliament. A complete misinterpretation of the speech of an hon. member, and I hope you will ask him to withdraw it and have it struck from the record.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: He didn't say more money, he said more resources, he said the resources should be made available to the existing members. And now his second intervention compares me to Nixon, then no, not to Nixon, and then attempts to join in a debate in which a suggestion – I don't know if it is a good one, a proper suggestion in the sense of a debate in Parliament – is made by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and various comments are made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

The hon. member for St. Michael South may have been excluded from the platform of his party recently, but that should not encourage him to make the points in here which should be more properly made outside. I will refer him to Mr. Cameron Tudor who said there must be no more Commissions, and in this instance I have never before been ruled by anything Mr. Tudor says in 62 years, and perhaps in this instance I will follow Mr. Tudor's advice. On the one hand members opposite, their

spokesman said there must be no more Commissions, but having declared war on the police with a Commission and going up there to Wildey to welcome the humiliation to which the Police Force as a whole was submitted with people booing and cheering in the crowd, having enjoined themselves with the police, they now want a Commission to investigate the Civil Service to see if they can get the whole country turned upside down.

Hon. members must not blame him, I will tell the hon. member I am not Abraham Lincoln in Cabinet. Abraham Lincoln once took a vote in his Cabinet and there were seven members, and they went around and the first said AYE, and the next said AYE, AYE, AYE, AYE, and he said 'I vote no, the NOES have it' but I do not attempt to conduct business in Cabinet on that principle because we do not take votes.

Dealing with the points made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, the Department of Training is still headed by a Permanent Secretary, it is headed by the Chief Establishments Officer. If the hon. member reads the inscription of the vote for Training he will see that.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation. I can't believe that he means seriously that I didn't read it, I did read it. I asked specifically whether he could indicate whether the Senior Training Officer was reporting to the Permanent Secretary who is heading him or her or to the Minister.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, the answer obviously is yes. In fact I do not think the Senior Training Officer reports to the Permanent Secretary, I think the Senior Training Officers reports to the Principal Training Officer who reports to the Chief Establishments Officer, who is the Permanent Secretary heading the Department at present. The post of Principal Training Officer is a post at SAS level and it is held by a lady, and she would, I am sure, report to the Chief Establishments Officer. She has upon occasion, I think, minuted files to me, I cannot remember for what particular purpose, but it was perfectly proper in all the circumstances and I am sure that all proper civil service procedures are followed in the Training Department now, and as far as I can judge they always have been in the past.

As far as the $84,000 is concerned, I look at it slightly differently. I think that the Training Department should be congratulated for the miracles which it has done on such a modest vote. The previous Chief Training Officer, Major Headley, was given a brief to economise on the vote by reducing overseas training and expanding local training, especially middle management training, of the type of which the hon. member spoke.

5.40 p.m.

I think he did an extremely good job in middle management training courses as I have said before in here, and extending to middle management level courses for the Royal Barbados Police Force and a number of persons at middle levels in the Civil Service. There are also the possibilities of civil servants going to BIMAP and civil servants also get leave to take the diploma in Public Administration at the University. It may interest hon. members to know that there are now in my opinion a sufficient number of civil servants trained in this course to fill the available posts in the civil service and perhaps we will not be granting leave for that diploma course so much in future.

I don't think there is any question about money. The whole amount for the administration which includes lecturers is not $84,000 but $313,000. We have had a small decrease this year but this will not lead to any decrease in efficiency. If there is one thing in the training department of which I am satisfied it is the increase in efficiency in training in the last few years for a very considerable decrease in real expenditure.

The Training Loan Fund will supply another $733,000 for training, so I think the hon. member is unintentionally misleading when he says....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. I was not going to get up when the hon. member said it was $330,000, but if he looks at it himself I quoted $84,249; that is other expenditure. If you subtract that from the $313,962 that will give you the personnel cost. I was talking about the amount of money to be spent on training. Out of $225,000 for training $140,000 approximately will be for Personnel cost, so the actual amount being spent on training, unless you want to be super technical is $84,000. And I am saying that $84,000 cannot at all deal with the whole question of executive training and middle management training. But if the top civil servants are happy with that, that is all right with me.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member is correct in saying that $84,000 would not be sufficient to cover training in the Civil Service. That is why we are providing $733,962 as he will see if he reads total (B) Training, of the approved Estimates 1979–80. Of course the Personnel Emoluments figure includes people who are giving lecturers and doing teaching in the training programme. I cannot agree with the imaginative suggestion of the hon. member who suggested that training should be within the University of the West Indies. I was listening to whether he would be asking to invite Dr. Gonzalves to take a role in training public officers but he restrained himself before reaching that stage. I do not think that the type of training that public officers require can be given in its entirety by the University. The University is playing a part in so far as the Government is making a great contribution to tertiary education in this country by the grants it gives to the University and

the generous leave provisions made available to officers to study at the University. I think that the University is playing as full a part as it reasonably can at the present time within the policy framework which the Government would wish to maintain for itself in the training process.

Mr. Chairman, I really do not want to anticipate sub-Head 3 because that is really where the training vote is, $600,000; but if hon. members look at the entire Head 14 (B) as a whole they will see that the total amount being appropriated is $684,000, and this is in addition to the permanent staff who are fully established public officers; and I think that we have been served well by our training administration in recent years.

The question that Head 14(B) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15 – CABINET – $1,924,606

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 15 stand part I think that hon. members should note over the page that Printing remains the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. Perhaps in dealing with printing I would just say I am fully satisfied that the reason why the debates have not been printed is the fault of the Printing Department. I held a small inquest while the debate was proceeding earlier, and I can't call it a bureaucratic tie-up, but one of the things that happened, it does appear that a recalcitrant public officer who is charged with the responsibility of proofreading the debates has been on a sick leave binge for some time and unknown to me for two years they have been trying to get him out of the department. He has had a number of debates for some time and has not proofread them but keeps sending in medical certificates. He was a temporary officer and soon as he was established he stopped work; he got sick. This is what I was told this afternoon. There is a list of some pages of debates of the House of Assembly that he had been supposed to proofread and the department has not been able to get him to do the proofreading nor get anyone to act in his place. I do not believe the House would ask me to resign because this appalling dereliction of duty has taken place in one of my departments. I can only tell the House that I have been thinking for some months that it seems a long time since we got a debate. I have asked the Chief Personnel Officer to have the gentleman removed from the department by tomorrow and to see if by Wednesday we can get someone to do the proof reading of the debates, and an investigation is being carried out as to how to bring the debates up to date. I really have to ask for the House's consideration in this regard. Here in Barbados the Government has just as many departments to run as the Governments of Western Europe and we try to run them with a Cabinet of eight or nine people and a House of twenty four members. Individuals here have more Ministries to handle than individuals of Governments of larger countries. I do not think it is a serious reflection on either the previous Prime Minister or myself that for twenty years there have been difficulties in getting the debates of Parliament printed. Unfortunately, the Printing Department is rather a long way down the list of priorities of the Minister of Finance. But something should be done; maybe I can ask the Parliamentary Secretary to look at this as well. One head will roll by tomorrow and I will not rule out the rolling of other heads. Take this, Mr. Chairman, as an apology to Parliament for a very real dereliction by a department as a whole.

5.50 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I find it very strange, Sir, that a Government that has a vote for acting staff will have an officer who is on what the Hon. Minister of Finance describes as a sick leave binge of two year's duration. To me that is an indictment on the Medical Authorities. I hope he is not involved with any on this side. Some doctor has been giving a civil servant Medical Certificates entitling him to stay home when he is not really ill.

Be that as it may. I do not know who the gentleman is or who the Medical Advisors are. He may have gone from one Doctor to another until he exhausted the 169 Medical Practitioners that are supposed to be on the Register in Barbados. I do not know. That is not the point, Sir.

I think that it is unfortunate because the debates have been traditionally behind hand and it could not be the fault of a single officer, whoever he is, because in my time the debates were hopelessly behind and the fault started right there in the staff of Parliament, as the hon. member knows. He was on the Debates Committee. I am not saying that this officer has been in Parliament. I said at that time. I have never been on the Debates Committee. I never knew what shenanigans used to go in the Debates Committee. Members of my side used to get together with the hon. members on the other side and make their little arrangements and therefore there must be full responsibility.

It is not only now that he has had responsibility for the Debates. The Debates Committee has been responsible for a long time, even when he was Leader of the Opposition and we never could get the debates up to a standard although recommendations were made from time to time. Now we hear that it is somebody actually who is a civil servant.

I know that at one time we could not get any production out of the staff of Parliament in that respect but I do not know what arrangements were being made about the Proof Reading. *(Asides.)* I have a

recommendation to make on the advice of my Medical Adviser or one of my Medical Advisers. He said we should board the gentleman medically. I do not mean the kind of mental boredom that probably might be indicated but we should give him a Medical Board and a crown with laurels and put him out of the service if he is on a sick leave binge.

That is a very unfortunate turn. It is a reflection on the Medical people involved. It is a reflection on the Chief Personnel Officer who has only now after two years informed the Prime Minister that a Government servant is on a binge and at the public expense. It is a reflection on the Head of the Department and the general public and Parliament is suffering.

What I am saying to sum up my attitude on this matter is that it could not be as simple as that because when an officer is absent or away or unable to perform his duties you appoint a substitute. It is as simple as that. Somebody is supposed to act for him and even if he had in his possession a certain number of debates, all you had to do was to send a gentleman on a motorcycle up to his house and say "Give me those debates" and if he says he cannot find them well at least you keep the debates overdrawn or up-to-date which the new officer performing the duties would take up the slack from there.

We have a situation frequently in which Government Offices, like the National Bank, say they do not need contaminated portfolios. They say we have nothing to do with what went on before. We will deal with what is happening now from the time we took over the job. Somebody who is acting should have taken up the debates from that point and it could not really be the fault of a single individual. It must be the fault of a lot of individuals.

We have to be satisfied first that the staff of Parliament will be sending the debates up to the appropriate authorities for proof reading. They would have to be read back by the Reportorial Staff here, I suppose. In case of any difficulties they frequently ring me up because like I did just now, sometimes I break the Rules of Parliament with your indulgence, Sir, and lapse into language which is not officially permitted. I do not mean indecent language. I mean other languages other than my native tongue. The debates should be conducted in the English Language but sometimes like I do I use Greek. I quoted from the New Testament yesterday on the woman at the Well of Samaria.

The point I am making is this that the Reporters ring you up and ask you when they are going through their perusals exactly what is this? I did not get this accurately. I did not hear you correctly or sometimes they are held up with little difficulties like that and sometimes when members are on full steam they become incoherent so there may be lots of reasons why debates may be held up for a short time but it could not be the fault of a single person if we have a public officer who is on a sick leave binge he can only be on a sick leave binge with the connivance and indulgence of some Medical Officer or Officers unknown and that is bad.

The Chief Personnel Officer and the staff must also take some responsibility because they should provide a substitute so that the work can be carried on and if they had not provided a substitute and they only informed their Minister yesterday or this month, after two years, they are even in dereliction of duty. Not that officer alone but everybody appears to be in dereliction of this.

I do not know, Sir, if we will ever get the debates up-to-date. The reason I say that is this. There are large chunks, if I may use that expression, of debates which cannot be found. There are missing, perhaps loss way back in the 1950's and 1960's particularly when we were in Opposition and when we were critical at times particularly of the Estimates.

There are months and months of debates which we will now have to be abandoning because there is no earthly hope of ever seeing them, not in this place, may be if we go to one or the other two places where the departed souls are supposed to go. We may be able to get an account of that there in the fullness of time but certainly not on earth so the debates of the Barbados Parliament would never be complete during our life time but at least we should try to get the current debates up-to-date and that is our criticism.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I would like to say something if the hon. member does not mind before anybody else speaks. First of all, I should have made it clear that Parliament staff are not now at fault except for one meeting in January they apparently have sent all debates to the Printery. At the moment Parliament staff must be absolved.

The second point is that the debates have been in arrears but an effort was made when we first came into power to bring them up-to-date. I think too additional temporary staff were taken on at the Printery for the specific purpose of doing this and a lot of the back-log was cleared off. Now at that stage, Mr. Chairman, I would not say I loss interest in the matter but I have not addressed myself to the matter and having taken steps to get things put on the proper footing, then allowed the matter to fall into the recesses of the back of my mind and it is only now that they have been pulled out.

With respect to what the Rt. Hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition has said, I agree with every word of his comment about the fact that it could not be the fault of a single member of staff.
6.00 p.m.

This member of staff has been giving trouble for two years. Attempts have been made to transfer him. He has taken so much sick leave and other leave that he has to pay back his salary at different times and he himself, I now learn, had asked for a transfer some time ago, I really think that this is one of these horrific cases that arise in bureaucracies from time to time to shake the confidence of those of us who are put into political authority that we really are riding in the saddle of a machine that is firing on all cylinders.

When I hear of the congratulations that are offered to the Government of Barbados for its efficiency and its competence and I must confess Mr. Chairman, congratulations did not all start in 1976. You did not hear many between 1971 and 1976 but you used to hear them a long time ago in the 1950s and the 1960s and I must confess I think you may even have heard them in the latter 1960s as well. To me, they are as much commentary on the capacity for hard work and exercise of commonsense of Barbadians, as they are a commentary on the inefficiency of certain other bureaucracies in countries to which no doubt, we are being compared.

I think we can all, when something like this is exposed realise that what we have lost in nine months or a year of time but we must make some effort not to let the situation repeat itself where the debates were lost entirely, as they were in 1959 and 1960, but to bring ourselves properly up to date and to ensure that people can read debates of Parliament with proper expedition.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise first on a point of order. I am mindful that earlier in this session, earlier today you ruled that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central could not refer to the staff of Parliament or reflect on the Speaker because that would be in breach of Standing Orders, specifically Standing Order No. 28 is one which prevents any such reflection.

I have heard the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance refer to a Civil Servant as being recalcitrant. I have heard about a sick leave binge and I have heard charges against a public officer.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central did not call any names and I did not hear the hon. member for St. Thomas, call any names. But Standing Order No. 28(10) (b) states:

> "Any Member who desires to refer in debate to the character or conduct of any person in his official capacity must deliver to the Speaker written prior notice of the proposed reference; the notice must set out the facts on which such reference will be based and must be signed by the Member giving it."

I would like to know whether the provisions of this Standing Order have been observed and whether the references are in order and you will take into account the fact that you ruled against the hon. member for St. Michael South Central earlier today. That is the first point of reference. He was talking about the Staff of Parliament and this one refers specifically to persons operating in their official capacity. I submit that for your ruling Mr. Chairman, because I am concerned, I must express my concern when public officers whatever their conduct may be, when they are read out in this particular way on the floor of the House of Parliament. I am personally concerned about that and I think we must get a different standard of personnel administration or administration coming from the political heads of this country, I do not know what.....

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are making a speech.

Mr. SANDIFORD: All right, I have submitted the matter for your consideration.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please sit. Thanks for all that you have said but you have forgotten one thing. The Chairman has a discretion.

Mr. SANDIFORD: You have a lot of Ayatollahs around. That is your ruling Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Discretion. Mr. Chairman, I wish to refer to Head 15.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Head 15. We have a substantial increase as far as I can make it out in Sub-Head 2 – Government Hospitality and in Sub-Head 3 – Conferences and Delegations. I am performing my functions as a member of Parliament and we are supposed to ask questions on those matters and it is my very firmly held opinion, mainly that attendances at conferences forms a substantial supplement to Ministers' income. If you want to object to that you can, if you want to talk you can talk. I want to know how much did each Minister get out of last

year's expenditure for conferences and delegations. I want that specific information. I believe I am entitled to ask for it. *(Asides)* I do not mind how hon. members over there get annoyed about it. I believe I am entitled to ask it. *(Asides)* You want to know how much I get for going to China. I am not talking to the hon. member for St. Michael South East. I want an answer to that question because when the question was asked, by the hon. mem- for St. Thomas, he asked that question when he was Leader of the Opposition and he was given an answer by the then Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation Sir. I gave an answer about the rates of allowances. I would like to correct the hon. member.

The hon. member for St. Thomas, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, as he then was the hon. member for St. Thomas, never asked me how much money each Minister got. He asked me how much money was spent on various conferences and I do not think at the time I gave him the rates. I did at the time, get a breakdown but I do not think I got the opportunity to give him a reply on the actual breakdown. The file got misplaced as he can tell you they do frequently, but I know the figures were provided for me but somehow or other when it came to presenting them in the House, I never gave the hon. member how much each delegation cost, but I gave him the rates. Is that correct? That is my recollection.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any amnesia on this. You see, when these Prime Ministers and ex-Prime Ministers get together, I do not understand all this; I am not in that league.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please!

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have in my hand a copy of the House of Assembly debates, Official Report for Tuesday, 16th March, 1976, and I am on page 6156; a Mr. Adams is speaking and I am quoting.

"Now Ministers have attended 54 meetings. Many members of the public and perhaps members of the House do not appreciate what is my very firmly held opinion, namely, that attendance at conferences forms a substantial supplement to Ministers' incomes."

I am asking a question. And again on page 6157. "Now it was clear that that hospitality vote was used for supplementing Ministers' income." (A VOICE) That is true, but I did not quote that one in my statement. The same member is speaking.

Mr. Chairman, I really do not want to take up the time of the House by further quotations from this particular report. What I am saying is that the questions I have asked directly...I know you would fall for the bait. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, I am certain the hon. member will give a reply to the questions that I have asked because he knows the source of the questions and he would have the information. If he does not feel like answering them now, I know he will tell me behind the Speaker's Chair if he so cares to.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I cannot remember the details of that debate. What I was referring to just now were some Parliamentary questions asked by the hon. member. I may have found the reply during the debate, but I know for a long time I could not find the figures. I cannot remember what happened in the course of the debate, but I know I never gave him a formal reply to that particular Parliamentary Question because although the answers were prepared we never could find the actual reply, but they may have been given during the course of debate.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: My memory of that matter is that it arose out of a Minister's absence from the Island for something like six weeks when he drew a very large sum of money by the standards of those days, and the question was asked and for perhaps two years it was not answered and Parliament was prorogued and when Parliament reconvened I again asked the questions. I had asked for a number of years' travel to get to this Minister, and in his reply the Rt. Hon. member indicated that these things were buried deep in the vote books and gave what the rates were and some information as regard the number of ministerial journeys. That is my memory on it without seeing the debate.

We have tried to ensure that a balance struck between Ministers using travel as a supplement to Ministers being out of pocket. Obviously there is a margin. At some point, if you give Ministers too little they get out of pocket. I must tell you, Mr. Chairman, that having made my calculations I certainly am out of pocket for a couple of days' travel last week. This just happens to be personal because I did not have an entertainment vote and I entertained five people twice at dinner in North America and twice at lunch four people, and therefore naturally the pocket came under a little pressure in those circumstances, and Mr. Emtage and I, I think, shared the expense of one lunch; that is the Director of Finance and Planning; but what you may lose on the swings you may gain on the roundabouts. I am not going to put in for the cost of four meals in North America in those circumstances, because I would feel obliged on some other occasion if I was entertained to a lunch myself to pay back the $20. I do not even know what you are allowed now; but the amounts are not much and it is not fair to the former Minister especially if I let him know that despite inflation in Europe and North America the rates have only been raised once. So if the hon. member wishes the information, he must put down questions. Just a

rough calculation leads me to believe that the hon. member for St. Michael South who asked the question was given $1 989.40 to meet expenses on his recent journey to China. That is the rough calculation which I have made. *(Asides)* I do not know how many restaurants he had to go to in China or how often he had to take a taxi, but he would have been allowed $US10 per day to take taxis while in China or Hong Kong; he may have had to pay out some money in Hong Kong, but I do not know about China. As I say, what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts. What is saved in China you may have to spend in Hong Kong.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I think that there is a question of principle involved here. What the hon. member for St. Michael South is doing is using the precise words that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has been in the habit of berating the former Government year after year. In other words, he is throwing it back literally in his teeth. I think that we have to be concerned and we need a more precise answer than that which is given. I am not going to say that a Minister unless he is of a very low mentality would just go on a trip just to get a few extra dollars.
6.20 p.m.

I think that we know that the rates are much higher than those Ministers used to get during the administration of the Democratic Labour Party. That is going to be accounted for, I suppose, on the ground of inflation. That is the favourite explanation given for most things that happen nowadays, the high rate of inflation is used to justify expenditure, and then the low rate of inflation is used to justify the failure of the Government to give the workers of this country what the workers deserve. It all depends on what is happening on any particular day in the public sector in this Island.

The point I wish to make is a very simple one. If a Minister or a public officer leaves Barbados to go anywhere we do not expect him or her to be out of pocket. I think that is the first point that I would like to make. As Minister of Finance I found that my Minister of Communications, Captain Fergusson, and I in one year were out something like $7,000 because we were not informed that subsistence was not to pay our hotel bills and we paid our hotel bills out of the subsistence or some nonsense like that, and then we were told that we could not recover the money at the end of the financial year. That was our loss because we were not properly instructed by the public officers who should have made sure that we got our proper allowances. It is not too late because there are still 14 or 15 days to go for the Minister of Finance to recover the cost of his dinner parties, unless the vote is exhausted. I would not expect him to come for a supplementary for $1,000, if that is what it costs, or $500. If the vote is exhausted I would expect him to bear that loss now, but I don't think the vote is exhausted, but even if it is exhausted on the kind of princely salary that he is paid now $500 or $1,000 is neither here nor there. He was at one time getting more than the Prime Minister of England until the Conservatives got back in power when Margaret Thatcher readjusted the difference. *(Asides)*. I can prove it but do not let us go into that, I can bring the figures and prove it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. I have heard this over and over again and the flaw in those figures has always been that hon. members on that side do not realise that Ministers in Britain also get their parliamentary salaries.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He was getting more than the Prime Minister except that the Prime Minister was getting his parliamentary salary. I am sorry about that I am not going into that now anyhow, but salary for salary as Prime Minister you will be getting more than the Prime Minister of Britain with 55 million people, so the point I am making is that $500 -- he is not living hand to mouth like some of us – so $500 even though he comes back to us and ask us for a supplementary vote for those lunches and dinners that he had in Washington last week. But the point I want to make is this, that he can be reimbursed, some of us could not be reimbursed.

Very early in the tenure of office Ministers on that side said that they expect to be properly paid when they go overseas, and I listened to them with interest because they were some of the same people who had been saying that the allowances that were being given to members of the former Government were too high, but as soon as they got in they found out they were too low. I was just amused. I think that what the general public in Barbados expects is this, that people should be properly compensated for their out of pocket expenses. If a Minister feels that he should give some form of entertainment with whom he is doing business – I am not talking about wild parties going on until three and four in the morning and playing cards and that kind of thing, and that kind of ignorance – I am not suggesting that that happens, but I am saying, if you are entertaining people with whom you are doing business that is a reasonable expense, and so should government officers be reimbursed. I do not think that the hon. member for St. Michael South was seriously saying that anybody on that side was making money out of trips abroad, he was merely, as he pointed out from reading debates, showing the member for St. Thomas as he then was how ridiculous it was for him to make statements like that year after year inside this House and out on public platforms, that all of us are professional men on this side, most of us in Cabinet are professional men who had given up our practices but not given up our practices notionally and

had people, surrogates, acting for us and still signing papers and that kind of thing, but actually giving up our practices lock, stock and barrel -- this has got nothing to do with explosives, it is just a metaphor that one uses -- giving up everything and then it is being suggested that we were merely going on trips in order to make money. He was not serious, that shows when the boot is on the other foot then you realise where the shoe pinches.

Now the Hon. Minister of Finance should not be reluctant to tell us what the rates are now, what the subsistence rates are, what the *per diem* is in the Caribbean, what the rates for hotels are in the Caribbean, because take us for instance who are members of the CPA. In all of my 29 years in Parliament I believe I went once on a non-Government trip out of Barbados other than my own private and professional trips, on a CPA thing, and therefore our rates as members of the CPA are affected by what Government members get when they travel, and we also want to know something else. I made a rule when things began to get tight round about 1973 that all Government Ministers including your humble servant should travel economy class when they were going abroad. My Ministers did not like it, members of the House on the opposite including the Hon. Minister of Finance thought it was somewhat undignified -- I don't think he actually said so, it might have been another gentleman who occupies a position a little more elevated than the one in which you are now sitting, metaphorically of course, I cannot remember who it was, but he said it didn't look good to see the Trinidadians and Jamaicans coming out of the front door of the plane and the Barbados delegation coming out of the back door. I said do what I do, rush up to the front and come out first, rush from the back to the front and play you travel first class too, but as Barbadians we had to cut the coat to suit the cloth, and I made all my Ministers travel economy class. They didn't like it, parliamentarians didn't like it. One of my Ministers said that he caught me travelling first class; he was coming back from a trip, I was coming back from England and when he got on board at New York I was up front. I can't help it if the people put me up front, but my ticket was an economy ticket. The Barbados taxpayers paid economy, but the pilot was a friend of mine. (A VOICE: BWIA). It was not a Bee Wee plane either. He called me up front, so he said I was travelling first class, and some of the Ministers were travelling in the back. I said, well if they decide that I should travel up front, as long as the Barbados taxpayers paid economy, so you better let them do it next time for you.
6.30 p.m.

So on one or two occasions I have been able to travel first class although paying economy fare. Perhaps we are so well off now that we can all travel first class. But certainly we as members of Parliament travelling on Parliamentary business -- the hon. member for St. Philip South is the most frequent traveller and he will be able to tell us -- but we all have an interest in knowing why this vote has gone up by $700,000; tell us whether it is due to inflation or the increase finances or increased cost of travel.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, before a formal reply is given I think it is but right that we have a free and frank exchange on this. I do not think it is popularly known that before any person travels in Barbados -- whether Minister, civil servant or Commonwealth Parliamentary Association or special visits to China -- a Cabinet Paper must be prepared in the relevant Ministry. A Ministry official, usually the Senior Assistant Secretary, has to submit that Cabinet Paper to the Permanent Secretary who sets out the cost of the travel in accordance with the scales laid down from time to time. The scales are arrived at from information sent in by the Missions abroad as to the respective areas where they operate. As a matter of fact, sometimes the information that is sent back has to be crossed-checked locally, with particular respect to hotel rates of such hotels with International booking agencies like the Hilton or Marriotts. Certainly in my Ministry a wide rule has been established that you check with the International Exchange Service of the Hilton Booking Service or Marriotts. So the rates are fixed by Cabinet from time to time based on certain information and you get the specific rates as fixed.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I am seeking some information. I see under this Head of Conferences and Delegations, looking at the marginal note, this provides for representation at and the holding of conferences and similar meetings abroad, and I would like to hear something from the hon. Prime Minister about conferences being held locally, especially in relation to the new centre we have in Barbados, the Dover Conference Centre. I would like some information as regards the cost of holding these conferences, the facilities offered, how good they are, how they cater to the delegates from overseas, how many conferences have been held at the Dover Centre over the past year and what are the intentions as to how many conferences are to be held in the near future. In addition to that I am particularly interested in the type of facilities given at the Dover Centre, especially the translation service and so on, and I am wondering if the Prime Minister can throw some light on this matter.

Going a step further, I am still waiting to hear whether Ministers are still travelling first class or economy class. We all know that civil servants also travel and use up some of this vote and I would like to hear from the Prime Minister what proportion of the vote is used by civil servants and what proportion is used by Ministers; and could the Prime Minister give us a projection as to the number of conferences which Ministers will attend in the coming financial year.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Minister of Tourism would know about the Dover Centre but I doubt the Deputy Prime Minister would be able to give the answer at once. But to deal with the question of rates: The rates were raised in July of last year. Everybody now gets US$40 per day for meals, – Ministers, Civil Servants and everybody. The Chief Justice, Governor General and the Leader of the Opposition get $35 a day subsistence; Senior Civil Servants get $30 subsistence and other civil servants get $20; that is to cover day to day expenses like laundry and so on. I think there is a general rate for everybody for travelling within CARICOM, a rate of US$30 a day for meals and US$25 a day for subsistence. Incidentally, it is totally unrealistic to think that you can buy three meals a day in Jamaica or the Bahamas for $30; I don't even know if you can do it in Barbados now. I bought a steak of fish in Baxters Road the other night for $5. People have money in their pockets and they don't seem to mind paying. A travelling allowance is some time given of $10 a day where internal travel is to be allowed for. These rates are not overgenerous by any means at the present time, and in one case that I know of small supplements have had to be allowed against the specific explanation of being out of pocket. In the case of major delegations which are going to be out of the Island for a week or more, sometimes the Minister is given an entertainment allowance for the entire delegation. This is specially for delegations that go to countries where we do not have a Mission; the Minister leading such a delegation will be given an entertainment of $500 out of which it is expected he will give general entertainment to the delegation and others. In countries where Missions exist, this is normally supplied by the Mission – although I would warn the Minister of External Affairs – they have been in very short supply of Remarque recently, a drink I am very fond of after a day's meeting and which I have not been able to get on the last few occasions in North America.

As far as conferences are concerned, the major conferences that we attend abroad are the UN General Assembly and the ILO. To the ILO we carry employees, the Barbados Workers Union, the National Union of Public Workers and others. Geneva is an expensive place and the Minister has to have an entertainment allowance and that by itself costs over $50,000. I am reliably informed that the Barbados Workers Union representative – at least the General Secretary – is more generously treated than the Minister of Labour. He himself once told me quite positively not to send him economy class as his organization will pay the difference; no matter who is going in the back of the plane, he is going in the front, Minister or no Minister.

On the question of first class travel as against economy travel, it depends on distance primarily. Travel within the Caribbean remains all economy class. For travel to Europe and points beyond we aim as far as possible to get people to go on Caribbean Airways which is economy, but first class is sometimes allowed. After an experience which the Deputy Prime Minister had flying all the way to Fiji economy class, with some physical discomfort, we have decided not to ask people to travel for two days in economy class. Travel to the United States, more often than not, is economy class; it depends on all the circumstances.
6.40 p.m.

Hotels are paid for in themselves. You do not get an allowance when you go to a Hotel. I will mention just at a personal level that I have had a very amusing exercise with the Hotel where I stayed in New York.

I had arrangements with the Hotel to get a discount and I paid a private visit to New York and stayed in a room in the Hotel. I had to get the room changed three times before I met one which was totally comfortable. *(Asides).* I paid for a single bed. I paid, if my memory does not defeat me, $68 U.S. a day, paying for it out of my own pocket. On one occasion the Government had to pay for me in that Hotel and paid $58.00. These are always parts of the game.

In other circumstances if Ministers were trying to rip off you might find situations where a Minister would say I want a suite where a Minister would not normally get a suite but the Prime Minister would get a suite. I want a suite at $250 a day and then if he has arrangements as I do have in New York myself, pocket the difference between what it comes to and what the Government gives but I do not think we have ever had any accusation like that for any public servant or Minister. I know of no such accusations.

The local Conference as far as I can understand, I know the Conference by the Commonwealth Law Ministers which is forthcoming and I believe that in this vote there is an amount and by saying this amount exists it should not be taken to mean that I am making an announcement that the Conference would come of. I believe that there is a substantial amount in this $1 million to make allowance for Caribbean Heads of Government Conference to be held in Barbados. The Conference may not come off and if it does not come off, the money certainly will not be spent. I think that is there.

I do not know if the hon. member is in a position to give details about using the Dover Convention Centre. I regret that I am not.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to enter this debate but after hearing the various people, I have decided to make a small contribution to the subject which we are discussing. I have heard some members who

spoke about first class and having travelled on a few occasions I am here to state that I do not remember if at anytime we did travel first class on any CPA Conference or visit or whatever it may be.

I want to say this now that I have noticed that many delegates from the developing or undeveloped countries in the Caribbean who have attended these Conferences that they travel first class and it makes me feel very despondent, worried and frustrated to think that we are in a better position financially and that such people have the prerogative to travel first class and we from Barbados travel at a lower rate.

This is something which we have got to think about and give careful consideration. When we consider that we are members of Parliament, we represent the people of this country and therefore we should project the image of this country. I do not think that if delegates were to travel first class that it would create any major difficulties for Ministers of Finance and therefore if we do not respect ourselves as Parliamentarians who else will respect us.

In this House from time to time we can see how the standards might be deteriorating but we are to ask ourselves who have contributed to it. Let us think about those small countries. Their economy, as we know, is by far below ours and from what we have been hearing from time to time from the Minister of Finance, I would say that things are not very bad in this country and therefore the time has come when we should respect ourselves, we should respect our positions and we should live up to that standard.

6.50 p.m.

For example, Mr. Chairman, two wrongs do not make a right. Every hon. member of Parliament should be given a diplomatic passport.

I am saying that it was not done in the past but because the former Government did not see fit to do it, I am appealing to the present Government to respect Parliamentarians and to give every hon. member of Parliament a diplomatic passport. Sir, when you travel, I am sure that there are certain Civil Servants who travel and they have diplomatic passports, I am not saying all, but when you pull down the standard of this House below the standard of the Civil Service, you are creating what I would call almost a crime.

Let us therefore, be not petty in our way of thinking. Let us therefore understand that when we travel abroad, we are representing our country and it is on us that others look, especially delegates from the smaller countries in the Caribbean. They look on us for leadership and we should at all times be able to display a full sense of responsibility as an hon. member of the House of Assembly, an hon. member of Parliament of Barbados. We should always be able to represent our country well, not only by contributing to debates, but to have the dignity and the honour that is demanded of us. It is therefore our duty to forget Party Politics, to forget hon. members of the Government or hon. members of the Opposition and to consider ourselves as the representatives of the people. I do hope that in future we will not have to be discussing such frivolous matters but that we would be able to do better in the interest of our country when we are called upon to represent it overseas.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member for St. Michael North Central asked about the local conferences. The situation with the Dover Convention Centre is that the Ministry books the Convention Centre and they apply to Cabinet for a waiver of the fees in connection with the Convention Centre but the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism insist however, that as a charge on each Ministry, there must be a reimbursement in respect of electricity and cleaning so that each individual Ministry who wants to use the centre, puts in as part of its cost of hosting the conference, the proportionate part of cleaning and electricity and there is a special metering arrangement for the air-conditioning that one can decide for pretty clearly after so many hours use, how much it has dealt with.

Now, last year, between the Government sector and the Private sector, it is estimated that within the financial year it was about 120 days' use of the centre for which Government would not have gotten the standard fees in respect of Government Conferences. There are a number of private organisations such as the St. John Ambulance Brigade and other charitable people who apply to use it and then Cabinet decides whether to waive the fees or not but if the fees are waived, again with respect to those organisations, they have to pay the cost of electricity and the proportionate cost of cleaning.

With respect to translation, the physical equipment is there for the translation, but the person who is sponsoring the conference has to hire the translators. We do not have translators on our staff. There are a number of people locally who have some skills in relation to certain languages and when somebody books the Conference Centre they are told of these people but they will have to make their own private arrangements with respect to translation.

That is a clear idea but when we come to the Head of the Ministry of Tourism, I would have more details for you but that is the general principle under which it is operated.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I have not made a contribution to the debate on this Head and you will forgive me if I return to this – Conference and Delegations. Mr. Chairman, I really consider that it is a non-point to make when we have to discuss the mode of travel of Ministers of a sovereign Government. My position on this was made known to the previous Prime Minister and my colleagues on two grounds and could be made known I suppose, to the present Prime Minister and his colleagues. I have probably travelled the most as a public officer and Minister combined with the possible exception of the former Prime Minister. I have travelled more than anybody in Barbados at the moment. Fortunately or unfortunately, I had the responsibility to go to practically every city in the United States of America and perhaps nearly everyone in Canada in pursuit of the lawful business of this country and then for a number of reasons I had to continue the same thing as a Minister in the former Government.

Mr. Chairman, I do not like to fly. Flying in an aircraft is a psychological problem for me and it seems that the nearer I am to the tail of the aircraft, the bigger the problem is for me. The fact is that if we in this Hon. House of Assembly now, in the past, or in the future are going to take up a lot of time discussing whether Ministers should travel First Class or not, perhaps you are not ready. If the state of finance in the country is such that you cannot travel properly, then you should not travel and I would not believe that any member of the public out there wishes its Ministers to represent it in such a way as has occurred from time to time where Ministers in foreign countries are behaving like foreign aliens.

7.00 p.m.

I make no apology when I say that on one occasion when I was in Brussels I went at the behest of I do not know if it was a senior civil servant or if it was the Cabinet because I was not here, it was determined even though it had been discovered that more money was required to pay the hotel bill that no money would be sent, and I have had the rather dubious distinction of being in Brussels a Sunday without any money to buy food because we had had to take the money that had been allocated for food to pay the hotel bills so that the honour of Barbados would not be impugned with people leaving Brussels and not paying the hotel bill. I do not believe that that is a matter that needs any levity in any House of Assembly. That is a matter that interferes with the integrity and the mentality of the country which is describing itself as an independent country, and it is a matter which we ought not to be engaged in discussing whether we should travel first-class or second-class.

Mr. Chairman, you will forgive me if I tell you that my father had a birthday yesterday; he was 74 and last night after nearly 42 years I discovered that his great grandmother on one side died at 99 and his great grandmother on the other side died at 96. Do you know what that means, Mr. Chairman? It means that both of them were slaves; it means that it is only two generations, at the most three generations back, because both of them would have been born in the 1820s, and as I understand it the slaves got freedom in 1834. The historians would tell me if I am right. Therefore it means that my father knew his grandparents who were slaves, who had lived in slavery, and it is not so long ago, and here we are now representing the people of Barbados and we are discussing whether we should travel first class, and we get some second rate people that come out here from all over the world as advisers and we treat them as if they are royalty, and then we wonder about whether we are representing people.

I do not believe that that is a debate that I wish to participate in at that level. Let me say that when I was in the Cabinet I took my own money and supplemented as best I could when I was travelling outside the Caribbean because it was my personal problem, and when I could not deal with that I did not travel.

There are one or two Ministers on that side who have said to me privately how they feel. I don't know why they do not get up in this House of Assembly sometimes. (Hon. L. R. TULL: I said that three years ago.) I am not talking about you. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, so much for that. I just want it to go on record what my position is and if that position means that the people of St. Michael West would not elect me, so be it. I feel that there are some matters on which all we do is disturb the people when you talk about them in these terms. I do not believe at the same time that the information which the Prime Minister has given us is adequate in the context of the questions which the hon. member for St. Michael South asked, and if the Prime Minister gives us what the rate is, that does not satisfy the questions which the hon. member was endeavouring to ask, and I am putting it to the Prime Minister through you, Sir, that it is precisely earlier today I talked about having these debates printed. I am putting it to him that if that question should come back to haunt him, it is merely because at a previous time out of partisan puerility he allowed himself to stand up in here in the process of making what can only be described as cheap political points and attacked the then administration in terms which I am sure now embarrass him.

I should like to know if the Attorney General is having us represented at the Law of the Sea. I should like to know if we are being represented at the current session of the Law of the Sea and how. (Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: You want to go?) The record will show that I do not beg to go anywhere, man, even when they will call me up and tell me they want me to go to this place and the next place. Ask anybody and they will tell you I tell them "no thanks".

Mr. Chairman, I am reading page 6158 of the House of Assembly debates, Second Session of 1971–76, Tuesday 16th March, 1976. "I do not want to overburden him and I know I am very near the end. Conferences that I see that we are major contributors to include the Law of the Sea Conference. Think of all the money that has been spent indulging the Attorney General in a hobby reading about the Law of the Sea. There is a limit where we have to say Barbados cannot afford to have our necks broken by an item such as Conferences and Delegations, which is, perhaps, in a way a concealed addition to the External Affairs budget and a most undesirable one, Sir."

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of information, is the hon. member reading from the debates of the House or the current Minutes of the Cabinet?

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member is saying that he has not changed his position and that it is now his present Attorney General who has taken up the hobby, I understand what he is saying. But the hon. member who was speaking at the time is a Mr. Adams. Now, it is this kind of debate then which comes back to haunt us now and which leads on this side an hon. member such as the hon. member for St. Michael South to raise the kind of question. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: We are not sending anybody to the current Law of the Sea.) That is even worse. He now tells us that he is not sending anybody to the current Law of the Sea. I do not believe that the reason why he is not sending anybody to the current Law of the Sea has anything to do with money at all, as the Attorney General will confirm. *(Asides)* It has something to do with money? Well this is a very spotty administration, an extremely spotty administration. (Hon. L. R. TULL: This Attorney General knows the law of the sea; the others had to go to learn it.) Well, you see, Mr. Chairman, it is that kind of statement that demonstrates clearly the mentality of the present Government at least as expounded by the Hon. Minister of Education. Now hear this, Mr. Chairman. He says that the current Attorney General knows the law of the sea and does not have to go to learn it. He is correct. The current Attorney General knows the law of the sea of 1958. They are in fact meeting now to change the law of the sea so that they will have a new law of the sea, and that is why it is imperative that somebody should go. The Attorney General himself would not have got up and said that because he has a more progressive concept of the law than does the Minister of Education. The new law that they are trying to put together requires that Barbados be represented and when Barbados as a coastal state in 1978 passed a territorial sea Act extending its territorial sea, that in 1978 passed a Marine Act extending its sea to 200 miles, and the Minister of Education who is responsible for leading and enlightening our young comes in here and says this Attorney General knows the law and does not need to go to learn the law, I feel saddened that the Minister of Education would demonstrate such a meagre capacity to understand the progressive development of the law of the sea as to make such an asinine statement even though he could not possibly have meant it seriously. My friend the Attorney General would explain when we come to the appropriate Head why he has not seen fit to send somebody to the law of the sea, because we have persons stationed as close as London and as I understand it this Session is being held in Geneva. (A VOICE: From here.) You mean you are sending nobody from here? This Government makes some strange statements. I am certain they have said they would have to send somebody if for no other reason than attending from the London Mission to at least collect the papers.

We are in the very peculiar position, Mr. Chairman, in that respect of having very little expertise in the field, and the one individual in whom reposed a large amount of the experience and expertise required by Barbados has now gone for what reason I do not know, but that person has now gone off into private practice and therefore his expertise is somewhat lost to the Minister of External Affairs.
7.10 p.m.

The other expert in the field is now an hon. judge in Belize, the hon. George Moe, judge in the High Court in Belize, an acknowledged expert on the law of the sea in the context of experts in Barbados on the law of the sea. Now here we have the Minister of Communications and Works while discussing the law of the sea asking me to tell him of a case or a brief. I would ask the hon. Attorney General to whisper quietly to you and explain that the question of a case or a brief on matters of the law of the sea would not arise in the way you would ask the question. We are not talking about marine insurance.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I just want to draw to the hon. member's attention that they have always ruled that you cannot reflect on judges not only locally but also in any other part of the Commonwealth, so I take it that the hon. member has no intention of reflecting on any fellow Commonwealth judge.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I have no intention of reflecting on any judge in the Caribbean but I would speak about the expert to whom the then hon. member for St. Thomas sneeringly referred, the then Attorney General, whose ability as a draftsman has not been questioned by any and whose capacity as one of our experts on the law of the sea has been demonstrated and who has been praised by people who know in international circles for his very lucid and clear expositions in this particular area.

Mr. Chairman, suffice it to say that this vote on Conferences and Delegations has been attacked by the

hon. members over there when they were over here. Now that we are over here we are seeking enlightenment. We asked a simple question, we have not attacked them, we understand better than they did because we have had the experience of Government. The hon. member who travelled 22 hours to Fiji, who when he got out was more like a vegetable than a person, will now understand what it meant to have been sitting over there doing these kinds of onerous tasks in that context. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we have reached the agreed time and at this stage I beg to move that we do now report progress to His Honour and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the time being 7.15, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

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

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply. To that is now reverts.

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

Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Head 15 – Cabinet Office – was called.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to speak on this Head?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my very grave concern over the escalating cost of maintaining a ministerial system in this country, because I am committed to the concept that when people accede to ministerial office their primary purpose is to serve the country for the period that they are Ministers and they should seek minimum reward during that period. This country is faced with many problems affecting the poor. There are many people on starvation line; there are many people today who cannot afford one square meal each day in a seven day period and have to skip two days, sometimes three days in order to get a square meal four days out of the seven days. I need not reflect on the effect that this will have on their health mentally and physically; but when, Mr. Chairman, one sees that under Statutory Personal Emoluments expenses have escalated from $346,000 to $784,000 in a matter of two years, one begins to wonder how many of us are really committed to the concept of service rather than to the concept of gain.

Mr. Chairman, I am particularly indignant about this matter for two reasons. The present administration when they were in Opposition took the view that an expenditure of $346,000 was too much. They have said that the rate of inflation in Barbados was in single digit figures until 1979. The highest rate of inflation that they have officially presented to this country was 13% in the year 1979. This expenditure also occurred, Mr. Chairman, in a situation where the present administration not only put the lowest paid workers in the country, the workers in the Ministry of Communications and Works on a four day week because they said they did not have enough money to pay them, not only a situation where they initially said that they would be no increase in 1977, then said they could only afford a 5% and then due to the pressure put by the Democratic Labour Party and by the Workers' Union organisations they were able to get a reasonably satisfactory increase in their wages, but what did they do for themselves?

I am shocked, Mr. Chairman, to have to even mention in this Honourable House that you found a situation where salaries of Ministers have been increased, and I think the minimum increase was somewhere in the region of 50% and in many other areas as high as 85% increase in salaries. I am trying to find the exact amounts here, but I will find it in a minute or so. For example, the former Prime Minister after serving this country for fifteen years when he relinquished office was earning a salary of $33,600 a year. Our present Prime Minister after a few months in office increased his salary to $50, 400, an increase of 50%. Our Deputy Prime Minister – the constitution as far as I know does not permit any Deputy Prime Minister anyhow – but I mean the hon. member for Christ Church South Central; his predecessor who performed his functions was satisfied with $24,000 a year and he is now getting $43,200 a year, an increase of 80% on his salary, and the other Ministers have had increases of 65%. What kind of social justice is this?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, on a point of order, I hope the hon. member will also continue with the backbenchers and members of the Opposition who also got increases on which he made it clear that he was going to give his to charity. At this time he draws it from here every month. Let him continue with the backbenchers and members of the Opposition. Don't let him just finish there. He was supposed to give his to charity and up to last month he drew it from in here and I have not seen it in the papers, and knowing him as flambuoyant as he is he would have all the papers with his picture handing out cheques. So continue from there.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I believe in charity. Charity is an on-going process, but I do not believe in having your picture in the paper when you are dispensing charity on a day to day basis. What I do with the increase that I got which I did not ask for, which I fought against on the floor of this House is my business, but I can assure this Honourable House.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, he is not to finish there, which he did not ask for, which he fought against, but which he still receives. Let him continue that way.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, there are certain types of characters that it is best to ignore. For personality, structural, emotional and other reasons it is better to ignore such persons. However the general comment I am making is that in a situation where this country has been asked to tighten its belt, Ministers have voted themselves this kind of increase and worse than that, they themselves are aware of the serious burden of income tax on all categories of workers in this country, and they have made sure that they protect themselves against the worst effects of the income tax burden in this country by making sure they have allowances varying from approximately $24,000 a year to $9 600 a year tax free. Now if you were to convert that into what level of income someone earning $50,000 or $43,000 or $39 000 would have to earn additional in order to have $24 000 or $9 600 net you would then see what is the true size of their particular salary when compared with the ordinary worker in the community.

10.15 a.m.

But, Mr. Chairman, it is not only in the area of salaries but also under the Heading of Conferences and Delegations. What is even worse than that, let me tell you something, that you have in your Manifesto that you would not vote yourselves as a matter of principle any increases unless there has been an independent commission. Any reasonable person would have assumed that you meant that you would set up a commission and that you would accept the recommendations of the commission. I would concede you set up the commission, but you ignored the recommendations of the commission, and not only ignored them, some of you came in here and abused the Commissioner and then proceeded to vote for yourselves. It is the kind of lawyer's trick that you will get. Mr. Chairman, I don't think I need to make this a document of the House, but if I can find the exact page, the exact words in that Manifesto were as follows: "Again as a matter of principle no salary increases will be voted by members of the House of Assembly except after an independent review by a properly qualified outside body." Now any reasonable person would conclude from that that Government will accept the recommendations of an independent outside body, but you will hear the lawyers get up in here and say that they did not commit themselves to what they said, that they mean after in time but it does not mean that after they would be bound by any recommendations by any outside independent body.

Then, Mr. Chairman, under the Heading of Conferences and Delegations.

(At this point Mr. Chairman asked that certain remarks be expunged from the record.)

Dr. HAYNES: Another infelicity, another malfunction, Mr. Chairman, against the public trust certainly exists where a political party campaigned in an election, they told the people that Ministers of Government were travelling about too much, that they would not stay at home and do the people's work, that they were subsidising their incomes from the *per diem* allowances that they got when they travelled and every single person in this country felt that as a matter of principle that the new administration when they got the opportunity would cut down on the frequency of travel and certainly cut down on the amount of money spent under this vote.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. HAYNES: Time, Mr. Chairman, is a very serious thing, isn't it? But the vote has gone up from $525,000 to some $1 million now. That is the situation here now and I would like the hon. member for Christ Church South Central whose constituents informed me that the only time they can get to see him is to wait in the lobby at the airport, that they are bound to pick him up there from time to time, so let me know whether or not the *per diem* allowances have been increased and to what extent they have been increased between 1976 and now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. HAYNES: One more point please, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have always likened the member for St. Michael South Central to

the educated Eric Sealy of public life. We heard a speech here this morning in clear keeping with the kind of nonsense you hear on public platforms, and I have a transcript here of the meeting at Redman's Village. The same thing he said in here this morning he said at Redman's Village.

Now, Sir, the hon. member is critical of members of Parliament getting an increase in salary. It is the very hon. member who is sitting on his left that stood up in here and put a strong case for an increase, his own very colleague, and I am expecting to hear his colleague this morning get up and defend himself in here, because it is a criticism of his very colleague who is sitting on his left, when he, the member for St. Michael South, put a case for an increase in salary along with the member for St. Philip South. Both of them, Sir. It shows you quite clearly that the members on the other side have no clear cut policy as to where they are going. You have two members in the Chamber this morning from the Opposition putting a clear cut case for an increase in parliamentary salaries simply because there was an increase overall in the cost of living in the country. This is so at all levels throughout the entire world, not only here in Barbados, but the cheap gibes that you get from the mouthings of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is testimony to the behaviour that you have on public platforms every night from both himself and Eric Sealy. I hate to put the name of Eric Sealy in the annals of Hansard, but there are times when you have to make mention, you are forced to make mention, you must make mention. The hon. member sat down in here and made it abundantly clear that he would not draw a single cent from in here, that he was against the increase in parliamentary salaries.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never stated in this House that I would not draw a single cent, what I stated was, and my position then and now is that it was virtually raping the public purse.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am going to challenge the hon. member now on the floor of the House that he has drawn his salary, the increase, every month since there was an increase in salaries, and I am going further to challenge him that he cannot produce any organisation where he has made a contribution of the net amount every month. I challenge him on that. He cannot call any organisation in Barbados that he has given the difference between the old salary and the new salary. I challenge him to made the point.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have pointed out that my donations to charity are entirely a personal matter and certainly I concentrate on individuals rather than organisations. That is my position in respect of charities, but I also make sure that it is not a matter of public knowledge when you give to the poor and deprived, I do not wish to have anybody humiliated by having my picture in the front page of the Advocate or anything like that. That is between me and the recipient. That is what I believe in as a fundamental principle.
10.25 a.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Thank you very much; he says he does not contribute to any organization, only to individuals. We know who, not the Salvation Army, nor the Seventh Day Adventists, nor the A.M.E. Church, nor the AYPA, not even Rev. Holmes Williams, but only to individuals. We know, the individuals. Haddock is no longer with you, he is working; Parris is working, so he is not on your bread line. But the individuals that I am sure you make your contribution to is Mr. Eric Sealy your buddy. *(Asides)* You said on the floor of the House that you make a contribution not to organizations but to individuals; and Mr. Sealy is one.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member may be mistakenly misleading the House, but I can assure this House that I make no contribution to Mr. Eric Sealy or his political party, and I believe that the "Beacon" itself came out with a statement recently that I did not make any contribution to him. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please; let us get on.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I want to be very serious. If you were to take a poll through Bridgetown and ask if a man – not the hon. member for St. Michael South Central – a man by the name of Dr. Haynes – has ever given Eric Sealy money, I believe there would be a 90-10 vote in favour. This is acknowledged in Barbados; whether it is true or not it is acknowledged in Barbados that you pay Eric Sealy money to go about and curse people.

Now, Sir, the hon. member talks about the increase in the Conference vote. How can one sit down and decide that you can attack the Conference vote when you know that there has been an increase in air fares, an increase in hotel accommodation, in food at the hotels, in car fares – *(Asides)* You are still the medical adviser to Caribbean Airways; if you had any common decency you would resign; but you are not going to resign; you get eight to ten free trips a year.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I never went around cursing Freddie Laker until he got a knighthood.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You get at least eight or ten free trips a year. I do not know what is the cost of air fares from Barbados to Europe on Caribbean Airways – I

understand it is a thousand dollars, and that is tax free. You can fly all the way to Europe...

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have travelled on Caribbean Airways in a matter of four years on three occasions, I believe; twice to Europe and once on a visit to Baltimore, I think; so I don't know of these six or eight trips a year he is talking about. I can afford to pay. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, that is no point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I do not know if you can afford to pay as well as before. But we are here to stop the drug movement; there is a little stoppage of the drug movement, that is all I have to say.

Now, Sir, if you examine the hon. member's arguments about the increase in the conference vote – we have a battle going on with the Minister of Finance whenever a Minister has to travel; you have to fight him to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is important to Barbados. An example here – the Law of the Sea Conference. Even the hon. member on the other side said it was important for us to go but the Prime Minister said it was not important at this time; and you are here quarrelling about the Conference vote that it has gone up by 50% or 60%, when there is an increase in air fares, in the cost of hotel accommodation, the cost of food and so on. And I go further. We are members of more organizations than you were in 1976; that is also part of the answer to the increase. But you are blowing hot air; the same thing you said last year at the Estimates you are saying again this year. But I want to hear you on housing and about the economic policies of the Government, not nonsense about Pele and the Deputy Prime Minister's son and a big car and a lot of jazz, and that the car got burnt. I say to the hon. member that he would be better off if he would pick the subjects he should discuss in here. I was very surprised yesterday to hear that as Shadow Minister of Finance – there was a reshuffle and close to the end he came out as Shadow Minister of Finance – and I thought I would have heard a big speech on the economic policies of the Government; but you sat down and let a sixty-two year old man get up and ramble all day, and now you come talking about something which is so evident because of the increase in fuel, in hotel accommodation etc., and you are quarrelling about an increase in the Conference vote.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there comes a time periodically when it is necessary for us on this side to expose intellectual dishonesty, distortion of fact and things of that kind. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central got in here today and said that since we have been in power we have increased the cost of government in this country. That is a lie. The Estimates of Expenditure 1975–76 show that the cost of Ministerial salaries was 0.37% of the revenue and 0.34% of the expenditure. In 1980–81 it is 0.31% of expenditure. It is therefore very simple to see that the proportion of taxation that is needed to support the Ministerial establishment in 1980–81 is less than in your time.
10.35 a.m.

I have always said that it is due to those who have to preside over the affairs of this country to be adequately remunerated because I feel that it is wrong to put your hand in the public pot. The hon. member's Party is now standing convicted of having Ministers who put their hands in the public pot. What is more, the Hon. member's Party covered it up for seven to ten years.

Yes, the hon. member talked about Ministerial salaries under the Democratic Labour Party. They did not need any money at all because they had access to the public pot and they used to put their hands in it and carry it away. What is more the Cabinet, the then Cabinet knew that there was a member putting his hand in the public pot and carrying it away, using public funds for his own profit and they covered it up. That is what I call a standard. *(Asides).*

Look in today's paper. The evidence is out. In 1969 when we came in here and moved the Resolution and pointed out that they were putting their hands in the public pot, what did we hear from the Leader of that Party over there? "You are bringing the wrong Resolution at the wrong time and at the wrong place." All the time they were putting their hands in the public pot and now the time has come.

You stole more than the whole Conference vote, Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely no qualms about the state of the Ministerial salaries. We said in our Manifesto that we would have a Commission appointed with a view to determining comparability in Barbados. We did it.

What is more, Mr. J. C. Cameron Tudor put in a memorandum to that Commission and said that the Prime Minister should get over $60,000 and the Deputy Prime Minister over $48,000. He also continued with the distortion of facts which is a repeated formula to him that hitherto a Minister used to get a special allowance as Leader of the House in addition to his Ministerial salary but he does not know although it has been pointed out and he refuses to give the facts that this Administration as a result of the recommendations of the Nicholls Commission created the office of Deputy Prime Minister and withdrew the allowance for Leader of the House.

(Asides). It does not matter if you get more or less. We will deal with that.

Now we have repeatedly pointed out and this is where the great distortion takes place. Only an intellectual distorter would deal with this. The last time prior to the salary increases in Barbados in 1979 that any Ministerial salary was increased was 1973. Five years in that period of time they had two Public Service revisions.

He comes and brings his comparisons but he does not relate his percentage comparisons from 1973 to 1979 because he wants to mislead the public but I say that the public will be the judge. They will know that they did not need a salary increase. They used to put their hands in the public pot.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I was asked a question by the hon. member for St. Michael South West and I should like to reply to it now.

Barbados has been represented at every Law of the Sea Conference since the new negotiations on the Law of the Sea began seven years ago. Since I became Minister responsible for matters affecting the Law of the Sea I have not myself personally attended any of the Law of the Sea Conferences but our team has normally been led by the Solicitor General, the Senior Crown Counsel, Mr. Walker; one or sometimes two representatives from the United Nations Mission including the Permanent Representative, and Professor Ralph Carnegie of the University of the West Indies.

We are now being represented at the Conference which began in New York a few days ago and which will conclude on April 3. Our Representation includes Professor Carnegie but does not include a Legal Officer from my Ministry. The Permanent Representative to the U.N. as well as three other officers there compose part of the Government's delegation.

Our reason for not sending an Officer from home base is that the Conference vote is very low at the time and therefore Government has had to economise on the number of persons attending Conferences. I expect that this will not be the last of the Conferences to conclude the final International Agreement of the Law of the Sea.

I expect that the Conference in Geneva in July will be significant for us and then perhaps the final Conference in Caracas next year to sign the Agreement. It is at that Conference, the final Conference, that I think that the Government should be represented at Ministerial level.

We have, however, continued to monitor all discussions of the Law of the Sea and particularly to fight for the Barbados position in relation to sharing the resources of the sea bed. We have been very interested in the work of that Committee, in the extension of the Economic Zone for 200 miles, a subject for which we have already legislated ahead of the final conclusion of the Conference of the Law of the Sea and of course also of safeguarding the position of disadvantaged states such as Barbados in relation to the resources within the exclusive Economic Zone.

Barbados has always presented a brief on this matter which is being up-dated from time to time and both my predecessor in office and myself have been maintaining a close personal interest in matters dealing with the Law of the Sea and I think we have both in our respective ways tried to give what little ability we had to the problems that come before the Law of the Sea Conference.

I consider the Law of the Sea Conference important, Sir. We are after all a very small Island but we are surrounded by the sea. Not only do we depend on it for fishing rights which are crucial and important but we depend on it for the natural resources, the sand; and it affects the Tourist Industry and we are of course, interested in the question of pollution. It also seems to us that we seem to benefit from the development of a Sea Authority and the resources, manganese and all of the other resources of the wider sea area at large.

I should disclose to this Committee that the Government of Canada is generously offering us assistance in looking at the area of legislation and corresponding territorial plans in the Caribbean to help us ourselves lead or assist the Caribbean or Caricom countries in looking at the regime of the sea which is necessary for this area.

Sir, I thought I would clarify this position to the hon. member who I thought quite properly asked for our position on the Law of the Sea Conference.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of External Affairs, like the Ministry of Caribbean Affairs and External Trade, are probably among the heaviest users of the vote on Conferences and Delegations. The vote is also of course, used by other Ministries concerned.

I can state, for instance, that the cost to this Government of partially servicing the United Nation's General Assembly, the cost from the Conferences and Delegations vote is in excess of $50,000 and the principal reason for this is that we have had to second to our U.N. Mission at least one officer and sometimes two in order to be able to man the various Committees during the General Assembly and that any Ministerial presence at the Conference has been a maximum of ten days and more often between five and seven.

It is not satisfactory but it is what we are able to afford in the context of the economy. Indeed we have a proposal from Australia that Parliamentarians should join the various Delegations attending the U.N. General Assembly.

10.45 a.m.

We would welcome the precedent which is followed by Australia, Canada and various Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries in having persons from both sides of the House as part of the delegation to the United Nations. Unfortunately, if the attitudes of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is systematic of the state of politics in this country, and I do not believe that it is, then there is very little hope for this sort of approach to matters of great importance to this country. I rather think that an approach which I heard from the hon. member for St. Michael South West and which I constantly hear from the hon. member for St. Michael South is the correct approach on matters such as this nature because whenever there will be changes of Government, from time to time, I am sure once we remain a democratic country, it is important that people should recognise that when you go abroad you are not going on a luxury trip. I have not found any of the trips luxury trips. Like the hon. member for St. George South, I found myself out of pocket from my own personal funds in the first couple of years in Government, in trying to maintain Barbados' good name and spending from our own pocket where the votes were not adequate. I know the Government had to revise the sort of figures that are given to Ministers on trips such as this.

Mr. Chairman, let me give you an example. When I went to La Pax, Bolivia I was given an entertainment vote which I used as part of the lobbying process having people in to talk or meeting another delegation for breakfast session and standing breakfast, they have stood it for us. We have to return that sort of thing. I used this as part of the process and then it came that we got Mr. Ambassador McComie was elected as the number two in the OAS Secretariat and we found that there were delegations giving a reception for Ambassador McComie and the Barbados Delegation which had landed the candidate had no funds to give a reception. I had to get Ambassador Jackman to commit the Ministry and I subsequently made further representation and got money for it but I do not believe that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has had the experience of the hon. member for St. Michael South West, or the hon. member for St. Michael South, despite the fact that he aspires to power at any cost and will use his position without any concept of sticking to the truth, he would use any distorted argument to gain power within his own Party and in the country at large and he poses a real threat to democracy in this country, with his brand of politics. The pretence that he poses a real threat because he does not come with fair argument at all at any time, he comes with what he thinks is the popular feeling of the day regardless to whether it is based on fundamental truth and fact in order to advance the country and he is the most dangerous person for the preservation of democratic institutions in this country today. Power at any cost is the price that he has. In the process, he is going to step on a lot of heads in the country.

10.55 a.m.

These words will go down in the Hansard and I will bet you, I may not be around, I may not even be in the House of Assembly, but I will bet you that these words will prove prophetic that the day that Barbadians, either the Democratic Labour Party or Barbados make the mistake of allowing the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to lead this country is the day we will be on the downward trend forever and ever because he has the wrong brand of politics. There is no compromise in his type of make-up; there is nothing that can be fairly said or anybody in his type of make-up, and I see this trend happening in Barbados, and it is wrong regardless of where it comes from. The hon. member for St. Michael South West and myself were talking yesterday. How come that we can be generous to each other sometimes as friends, generous to each other in life, and when it comes to argue on the people's business we make them believe we are sworn enemies, and he was citing an example. The thing is one of these days the Democratic Labour Party will no doubt become the Government of the country again, and we will become the Governnment of the country again because that is democracy, but we cannot gain power at any cost by pulling down our people, by pulling down our institutions; it is wrong in Barbados, and that is why I deprecate the type of political statements I see the hon. member making about people's children on platforms and that sort of cheap gibe, unbecoming of him. He should know better. Somebody has to tell him.

Mr. Chairman, I challenged him to a public debate before. I hope he will accept it, not by bringing any paid people around the platform, but by debating issues fairly and honestly in this country.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about salaries. It is not often that you have heard me speak in this House between 1971 and now about salaries. Sir, it is very obvious that if I was in private practice today like the hon. member is in private practice, I would not need the sort of salary that a Minister of Government would need to get. That is obvious to anybody. It is only a blind fool who would refuse to see that. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is making obviously over $150,000 a year in private practice, so what does he want $12 000 for. I used to give mine to institutions. Why doesn't he get up and say that nothing prevents him from practising day in and day out so that he can make $150 000 and then come and pretend that he does not

need the money. Of course he would not need it in these circumstances. Sir, when I was in private practice and merely representing the country it did not matter to me whether I got $7 000 from the public because I gave it back. He must not get in here and say otherwise. Let him tell the truth; let him bring in his income tax returns. Let me get his books and see how many clients he has. That is what I want to hear him talk on. He is making at least $150 000 gross in this country every year, and giving people outside, poor people the idea that he is the great I Am and that he is so good that he does not need anything from anybody. He couldn't have accumulated the wealth he has in Barbados in the short time he has unless he was earning money in this way, and I congratulate him for his medical skill, but be frank and honest.

Let me give the hon. member an example. I represented the Crown in one case and in that case the bill put in by the lawyers on the other side was $250 000 plus $50 000 that they had got otherwise. The Court reduced it to $65 000 plus the other $50 000 they had had. $150 000 for two lawyers for a case that lasted in Court for three days. In the present Commission of Enquiry, the Pele enquiry, the bill submitted by one of the lawyers whom the Government has got to pay for, you know; you all go around and give the Government a hard time on this Commission of Enquiry because we are paying the lawyers and we appointed the Commission. The bill is $27 000 for 27 days. That is more than my net salary that I take home after being a Minister of Government for a year. That's a fact. Let us deal with a few facts in this country. That is more than I take home as net salary for a whole year because I believe the income tax on this is something like $15 000 of my salary per year, for a whole year in Barbados and it is dishonest of people who are self-employed professionals to get in here and pretend that the ministerial salaries are so high and unreasonable in view of the burden that you are carrying.

I negotiated for the Government in relation to the Port Contract and saved the Government $US½ million. The fee charged by the lawyer on the other side was $40 000. There was no fee for us and he lost. I negotiated for the Government the Orion Bank contract and we got the terms changed. The fee charged by the solicitors for merely perusing the deed that we drafted was $30 000. Now what sort of intellectual can you get if you are asking Ministers of Government from that side or this side whenever they come over whenever that might happen to say that that is an unreasonable gross salary in circumstances when you are running a country? It is the cheap type of politics that you all must deprecate, and I warn the hon. member, you may smell power at any cost, but power can destroy and it will destroy you in the process. I warn you.

I told you already. I have respect for him as a doctor and he knows as a friend, but in politics he has shown himself a strange guise, an unusual guise for a man. What is the hurry? Why don't you wait and learn and be patient and humble? You must not assume that you know more than anybody else. There are people on the other side including the hon. member for St. Philip South that I would prefer to go along governing me now than you because you are rash and brash. You have no discretion, none whatsoever; that is your problem. Do not in the process of building yourself up end up tearing down this country, its institutions and its people. That is my last warning to you.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, we have had a debate which has raised a number of issues this morning, and I would like to say this much. I do not believe that my position on ministerial salaries is any secret, and I believe that if parliamentarians spend their time tearing down each other and making all types of wild accusations against each other, the only sufferers in that particular exercise will be the institutions of the country, the ministerial system, the Cabinet system and the institution of Parliament itself, and when we get on to that road it is very easy, not difficult at all, to leave the path of democratic institution and get on to the high road or low road of some anti-democratic system. So we have got when we speak in this Chamber to speak with a consciousness of our responsibility as leaders in this country, and to ensure that we do nothing to pull down the institutions which have served us well in the past and which can serve us better if we had a better Government.

Now I raised this question yesterday and when I raised the question as to whether attendance at conferences forms a substantial supplement to Ministers' income, over there they never got the drift of the question I was asking, because I was not saying that Ministers were paying themselves too much or that the allowances were necessarily too high. I was showing the type of hypocrisy and I am using the word that that side practised when they were over here. They accused us of paying ourselves too much and of putting our hands into the Conferences and Delegations' vote to increase the salaries that we were getting. Now that is the type of charge that they made when they were over here, and when they got over there what did they do? They were not in office for very long when the allowances were increased. There were those of us who had served the country in ministerial office for several years, and they had only got in a short time, and having accused us of all types of dirty deeds over here as far as the hospitality vote and as far as Conferences and Delegations' vote were concerned, they went and hiked these allowances, and that is the hypocrisy that I was trying to highlight. Be it far from me to say that Ministers are paid too much or too little. I have enunciated a principle in here which I firmly believe in that would get us out of this morass of trying to tear each other down when we come to discuss these matters. Let us face it. This country, if it is a

democratic country needs a political directorate, needs a ministerial system of Government, and so long as you have a political directorate which is in charge of the political administration of this country, there must be some relativity between the salaries paid to your top permanent or public officials and the Ministers in your Cabinet. There must be that type of relativity and I maintain that a formula can be devised where if you have the Permanent Secretary in a Ministry just as you have a relativity between the Permanent Secretary and the Senior Assistant Secretary, that you need a Minister who is in charge of that department according to the Constitution of this country, there must be that type of relativity, and just as you have a relativity between the Minister and the Permanent Secretary, you need one between the Prime Minister and the Ministers. I believe the difference between the Permanent Secretary and the senior assistant secretary must be between 20% and 30%, and I believe that right now roughly speaking the difference between the Permanent Secretary and the Minister is about 20% to 30%, somewhere in that region, and I believe that the difference between the Minister and the Prime Minister is somewhere in that particular region. Whatever it is we must work out a formula and stop this tearing down because the people who are suffering are the institutions of this country. I say no more on that particular matter.

I wish to refer to another matter. Let us get off from that type of controversial matter that does this country no good.

11.05 a.m.

I want to know in the spirit of open Government, speaking about the Cabinet Office, what is the policy of the Government in terms of the release of official documents relating to the Cabinet Papers, Papers of the Executive Committee and those types of documents. It is time that those documents be made available to the public and to researchers and scholars who may wish to examine our system of Government. I believe that some consideration has been given to this matter in the United Kingdom – we follow what we like or we believe that we follow a Westminster model – and in that country I believe it must be about 30 years for the publication of official documents. If we had a 30 year system the documents for the year 1950 and before should be available for public scrutiny for those who are interested through the Archives Department or through some other appropriate mechanism for examination and research. I believe myself that 30 years is too long a period for such important documents to remain in the morgue or wherever they may be resting. I believe we can come up with a period that will meet the demands for some type of holding back of these papers perhaps in the interest of those persons who may still be in active political life or whatever the considerations may be, but there are those of us who are interested in interpreting developments in this country and I believe that a policy in keeping with the vaunted principle of open Government should be worked out on this and that the Government should make some statement on it. I don't want to hear that this does not take any priority, but we are going to come back to that a little later as to what takes priority and what does not take priority.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, in contributing to this Head I would say, Sir, that parents and children differ in discussion but in the end they are still members of the same family. Husbands and wives differ in their method of approach to life and in some cases they fight, quarrel, disagree for a short period, but in the end there is still peace and harmony in the home. Teeth and tongue may clash, you still have to eat your meal. In this case I have to differ to a certain extent from the speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, but in making my constructive criticism I do so in good faith.

I must admit that under the former Government the salaries were inadequate, while we were called on to make a big sacrifice we found it actually impossible to perform our duties satisfactorily to our constituents. I, Sir, am speaking here from experience, having served in this Hon. House for several terms. I gave my wholehearted support when we were considering the revision of salaries, and I would be a hypocrite if I did come in here and change my views on this particular matter. If we as Legislators do not set forth a good example to the public, as Legislators we are pulling down the image of this country. It is known that when certain professionals are members of any Government, and especially those who hold ministerial positions, that they are making a big sacrifice to represent the people of this country and in running the affairs of the country.

11.15 a.m.

You may get someone who comes out with a nonsensical argument by stating that no person is compelled to offer his services and therefore they must be satisfied and make a big sacrifice because it was their choice. Now I don't see it that way; I see it this way – that a legislator should be paid a reasonable salary so that he will be in a position to represent his constituents to the best of his ability and also to live to the standard which is expected of a legislator. I agree *in toto* with this as expressed by the hon. member who just sat down who dealt with certain aspects of the matter. The time has come when we should be non-partisan when it comes to dealing with the emoluments of legislators. When we come here and discuss this issue and those who have left their homes and are sitting in the Gallery to witness how we carry on the deliberations and then hear such criticism of the few dollars we receive monthly, it pulls down the image of this Honourable House. These are matters which a legislator or any perspective candidate should discuss on the public platform. But when we are

dealing with the Estimates I think we should not waste time on such frivolous matters when there are such important Heads in which both sides of the House would need to make a contribution. We must take into consideration that we have a time limit and that at the end of five days, irrespective of what we discussed or not, that is the end of the matter. Therefore I have not come here this morning to criticise any increase of salary. I came in here actually as a pauper and am going back out as a pauper. It is fortunate for us that we have a pension scheme. When therefore I hear people criticising the salaries which are paid, it worries me to think that those people are not fully aware of the responsibility which representation, if you are doing it well, calls for in the nature of sacrifice.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I am saying here and now that as long as I am in here, whether it be for a week, a year, six months or ten years, I will at all times give my wholehearted support to any revision of salaries regardless of whether it comes from that side or this side.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to get into the debate. I am not a Cabinet Minister, never had that experience and am not keen on having it either. But I would like to agree with the last hon. member who spoke.

I think the general public, indeed the Nicholls Commission itself, never understood fully the burden of responsibility that members of Parliament have while in office. Anyone in this House can attest to this. Your telephone rings from 5.30 in the morning until 11 at night. Last night my phone rang at twenty five minutes to twelve, someone asking about a house. As a back bencher you perhaps have your professional practice to carry on; you may set appointments for clients in court; at the same time you have to make yourself available to your constituents. You cannot institute a system of appointments for constituents; you cannot tell constituents to come at 2 o'clock on Wednesday. When you are canvassing you do not make appointments; you just knock at a door and ask for a vote, you go sometimes when the people are eating. So you too must be accessible at all times. There is no system of Local Government now in Barbados, so M.Ps find themselves having to deal with matters which if there was a system of Local Government will come under the purview of a Local Government body – a pothole, a house to be repaired, a street light etc., – and at the same time that you are dealing with these matters you have to be paying regard to the complexity of contemporary government, you have to be apprised of all kinds of development in the world. You must find some time to read; you have reports and the mass of documentation from overseas agencies, etc.; you have to keep up with these things if you want to keep yourself informed.

11.25 a.m.

You have Committees and Meetings. When you are in Government, you have greater responsibilities than a member of the Opposition. Some of us have files to deal with. Some of us have Corporations to run and before the last increase I know what I was getting or what was deposited to Barclays Bank to me was $708.67 per month and I could do one individual Divorce per month and the Registrar of Taxation would allow me $750.00 so there is no way that the remuneration which MP's get bear any relationship to the work and the hazards involved.

On top of all that they have to put up with a lot of ignorant abuse especially from members of the other side who should know better and who go out on Sunday nights and hold meetings. It is all well for the hon. member for St. Michael, before I came in here this morning I heard him outside on the loudspeaker. It is all well and good for him to say do not tear down one another.

When is the last time that this Party had a public meeting at which it is alleged that we were tearing down the other side? The last public meeting was in September last year but since then virtually every Sunday night members of the other side of the same colour as me and you, Mr. Chairman, walk about this country and pull down our own colour. They do not realise how destructive we are to one another as a people and what we are doing is broadcasting for all and sundry saying you see when you put black people in power, you see how they behave? You don't realise the psychological damage that they are doing to themselves and ourselves.

If my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael South is today calling for a truce, stop the political abuse and the vilification and let the example be set by the other side. I heard last Sunday night was the last of the current round of meetings. It does not have to be the last. You have it within your power and within your own reins to raise the level of political debates in this country.

Instead, Sunday before last I was buying newspapers in Tweedside Road from Bannister. I went into a shop and in the presence of ten people Eric Sealy came in there and spoke to me and Eric Sealy said for everybody to hear, I will use the words, Sir, "Tom is doing a good job. He told the people in the shop so." He then went on to explain that when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, *(Asides)* I am dealing with the Cabinet Ministers, when the DLP had Ministers in Cabinet.

When they were in power he abused them because he does not want any seat in the House of Assembly. His

function is to attack whoever is in power but he made a number of other observations, for ten people at least to hear, around that size bottle of Cockspur. I was drinking some and the rest too.

He said this. I asked him, *(Asides).* I am speaking about tearing down, Mr. Chairman. You allowed the hon. member for St. Michael South to talk about tearing down. He said in reply to this question from me, "Eric where are you having your meeting tonight?" This was last week Sunday, not this Sunday now. I am talking about the one before. He said, "Who me? I am not having any meeting tonight. My second eleven is having a meeting tonight." The second eleven was the DLP.

No wonder that members of that party have said that they are getting disappointed because their platform is now sounding very much like Eric Sealy's. Now the hon. member for St. Michael South has asked us to stop tearing down. Who is he appealing to? He must appeal to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who at their meeting in St. Thomas said this kind of thing.

"Bree St. John on the other hand is staying silent." He is attacking a member of the Cabinet. Listen to the level, Sir. "Bree St. John is loosing weight – *(Great Laughter)* – I saw Bree St. John on Television the other night. He talked one way and was steering the other way." You mean he is a madman? You are implying he is a madman?

I do not know what is going on. I have no idea of what is going on, nor am I the kind of person, I know many of you have children. I see many mothers in this audience and I am not the kind of person to call childrens' names on platforms. Listen for the innuendo. "I know it will tear apart the heart of any mother or father to see their children become dope addicts and possibly become murderers." There was laughter and applause when he said that. Laughter and applause. That was the level of the innuendo in that last part about becoming dope addicts and murderers.

Now most of the remarks that have been circulated in this country have abated since the hon. member for St. Michael South East went to the Commission and volunteered finger-prints and they have forgotten him and are now searching for somebody else in this Party to accuse and implicate in the Pele business. When you ask for the truth or you make an appeal for higher political content of platform speeches, it must start over there. It does not now lie in the mouth of the hon. member for St. Michael South to make that appeal in the light of that kind of statement and others coming from the hon. member for St. Michael North Central who had been himself a Cabinet Minister.

Some years ago, let me put it this way, Sir, in more than a month, five weeks ago the other side at a meeting in the Silver Sands area and if he wants to interrupt me let him get a point of order. I am going to deal with him. They had a meeting in the Silver Sands area and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central encouraged the people in this country not to cut canes. Now you will recall, Mr. Chairman, this is 1980 and that Party is now encouraging people not to reap the cane harvest.

Some years ago I recall, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, as he now is, but then as Prime Minister, went into a canefield with a cane bill holding it the wrong way around with a watch on his hand pretending that he was cutting canes. It was out there in the *Nation* for everybody to see. In those days it was alright for them to encourage people to cut canes. They are no longer in Government and so without one thought as to what damage a statement like that can do to the national economy they are giving open encouragement to people not to cut canes.

The member for St. Michael North Central should have had a better prospective of national development than he currently has; as indeed the member of the Opposition said in St. Thomas, "It is shocking in this time to hear people calling on black people to go and cut canes and telling black people how important the Sugar Cane Industry is to their likelihood." That coming from the Shadow Minister on the other side in 1980, why did he not so advise his colleagues when he was a Cabinet Minister before 1976? Why did he not encourage the hon. member for St. John with that kind of admonition when they were in power.

It is alright for them to talk that now, Sir, but it is only idle. We are in grave dereliction of our duty as MPs, people who represent people, people who should be able to put in perspective for the people we represent, to continue to talk this kind of cheap, idle nonsense.
11.35 a.m.

The ultimate result of this is that we are continually keeping our people in a state of ignorance. One of the functions must surely be to educate the people whom you represent about politics, about how the economy is run, about the deterioration in the social services, if you think you have a case that Social Services has deteriorated go out on your platforms and say it. Why do you have to drag down people? Why do you have to encourage those people whom you represent not to go and cut canes? Why do you have to make insinuations against the members of family of the people on this side? No one on that side could ever say that they ever heard me on a political platform being scandalous. *(Asides)* I am talking about myself. I try to keep my debate at a reasonably high level.

Issues are boring, that is what you say. They will say issues are boring because they want something to liven up the crowd. Issues have no right being boring if they are approached in a statesmanlike manner. I am sure that the quality of brain power that is there on both sides is able to raise the standard of political debate in this country and keep it at a level that we can be doing something for our people. I am not saying that the Opposition must not be critical, I am not saying that you cannot poke fun at a fellow. Of course you can. That is part of the hustle and bustle, part of the roughness, that one expects in being a politician.

But to call people who do not even like to drink, drunken and slimy. What kind of slime? If I want to be nasty I can tell you about some who are slimy. They get into all that kind of low down talk about people whose reputation abroad and in international agencies is second to none and compares most favourably to some of your own members when they were in Cabinet. To do down these people who have the highest respect abroad is only ultimately to destroy Barbados.

I will second the appeal that was made by the hon. member for St. Michael South only on the condition that they set their standard because it is they who have been tearing down every Sunday night with the assistance twice a week of their first eleven.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not mind speaking after or before Sir. I have one or two small things to say. I really have nothing to say about ministerial salaries. I know that I pay something like $25,000 a year in income tax and whatever salary it is I get, and I do not believe that the Ministers are over paid. I am shaken when I see how much they have to pay in income tax and how little they get back. I am not dealing with that.

The Conference Vote. I think it is worthwhile saying, in parenthesis, the situation may very well have been that at one time, some Ministers used the Conference Vote as a supplement to income. It was widely accepted. They certainly used the Hospitality Vote years ago as a supplement to income and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition put an end to that. At one stage, Ministers used to get $100.00 a month out of the Hospitality Vote unknown to Parliament. Mr. W. A. Crawford brought out the story when he resigned from the Cabinet and a couple of years after, that was put an end to. There was a salaries increase, maybe not as much as a couple of years, maybe a year. I make no apologies to the hon. member for St. Michael South for saying that the Hospitality Vote was used as a supplement to Ministers' income. When he was in politics, I do not think he was then Personal Aide to the then Prime Minister, I think he was still a teacher at Harrison College, this issue over the Hospitality Vote came up and it was widely accepted as truth and was terminated.

As far as the travelling was concerned, I have explained to the hon. member yesterday, I do not know why he brought it up again today, we are not idiots on this side. We saw his point perfectly well. We did not think it was worth picking up, but I explained yesterday that my remarks dealt with a particular case, where a Minister went away for between six to seven weeks to Tokyo and drew a very large sum of money at the time when it gave the appearance of being a supplement to income rather than a necessary ingredient to travel on Government's behalf. I believe that I am entitled to speak like that because I have resolutely set my face against Ministers going away for more than two weeks, even at conferences that last a month and beyond. Their Civil Servants have to go, they then go for two weeks at a maximum and the Civil Servants can stay but even that I am hesitant about because no more than Ministers using the travelling vote as a supplement to income, do I want Civil Servants to use it. We have heard so much Mr. Chairman about the Travel Vote and Ministers that you really would think it is nothing but Ministers who travel.

I note here, I opened the page at random, it seems to be Page 18 of the Travel Accounts. This would cover the period 24th January to 14 February of this year:

A meeting in Caracas on the environment, 3 Civil Servants, $5,600.

A meeting in Guyana on air fares, 1 Civil Servant, $900.00.

A meeting in Trinidad, a veterinary convention, 1 Civil Servant, $1,600.

Officials of the Caribbean Community Law of the Sea, 2 Civil Servants, $2,099.

Standing Committee for Caribbean Foreign Affairs in St. Lucia, the Minister of External Affairs, his Permanent Secretary and another official, $2,000.

Meeting of officials responsible for Industrial Planning in Barbados, that is here in Barbados itself, that is a meeting we are arranging. In other words, people are being invited from outside at our expense, no Minister, $22,050.

Meeting for Disaster Preparedness planning in the Caribbean region in Washington, 1 Civil Servant, $1,053.

Seminar on Vocational Training Strategies in Suriname, 3 Civil Servants, $1,500.

Seminar on Transnational Corporations in the Tourism Industry, New York, 1 Civil Servant, $292.00.

Now I opened that Page at random. If hon. members want to call another number -- it is Page 18, if you want to call Page 8, I will turn to Page 8, Page 11, whatever Page you feel to call, I will turn to it and you will get an idea of the nature of the vote.

Page 15:

London, Port Manager and Deputy.

Costa Rica, Permanent Secretary, Education.

Lome, the Deputy Prime Minister and Mr. Harris.

New York, 1 Civil Servant.

Antigua, the Leader of the Senate, the Director of Finance and Planning, the Governor of the Central Bank and another Civil Servant.

Guyana, Mr. Justice Williams.

Caracas, 1 Civil Servant.

Caracas, 1 Civil Servant.

The Caribbean Group for Co-operatives here in Barbados, $800 to bring people from outside.

They are two pages at absolute random from the breakdown of the Conference Vote. I sincerely hope that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is now sufficiently well-informed to be able to make an intelligent comment on that vote and not merely to accuse the Government of abusing the vote.

The hon. member for St. Michael South asked about the use of Cabinet Papers by Historians. There is no rule at all in Barbados and I recall, it may be as much as 10 years ago that I wanted to have access to certain documents for historical purposes. I was then preparing something. I am still in the process of preparing it, on election in Barbados.

11.45 a.m.

There is no thirty year rule at all; indeed there is no rule at all, and I recall that it may have been as much as ten years ago I wanted to have access to certain documents for historical purposes. I was then preparing something and am still in the process of preparing it on elections in Barbados, and I asked the then Minister who was Mr. Philip Greaves if he would make the documents available and he said certainly. In fact the documents could not be found then and they could not even be found when I became the Minister, but I think that that in so far as they expressed a principle, it is a useful principle to follow that there are clearly certain documents in the absence of the enunciation of a fixed policy which should be made available to people seeking to write something, even perhaps newspaper articles, or studies or books or serious history, and I give the House the assurance that any application from persons for these purposes will be met sympathetically while a full policy is enunciated. Certain documents cannot be obtained.

There are a number of documents which were kept at Government House and which I understand, these are matters of considerable importance and substantial in quantity, were destroyed or returned to Britain in 1966. These essentially would have been documents that the Governor would have had instructions from the Colonial Office should more properly form part of the Colonial Office archives rather than ours. This is of course not the first time that historical records in Barbados have been removed to Britain. I believe that various parish records were taken back in the 1830s, so that there is a very incomplete record of baptisms, for example, from certain parishes such as St. Lucy, because the ones that remained in Barbados were destroyed and the others were taken to Britain. Files have been taken back to London during colonial times. So I cannot promise a historian that if he applies for something which would be of great importance to him that it can be found.

I should however inform the House that there is a Freedom of Information Act which has been drafted and circulated to Ministries and which will allow members of the public to have access to Government files on terms similar to the access granted to them in the United States of America under the current Freedom of Information Act in that country. There has been some resistance to some of its provisions. Members of the civil service have indicated that civil servants might find it very difficult to minute in a frank and open way files that they do at present if it was known that members of the public would be allowed access to a file saving only those matters which are in their nature secret. This draft is going the rounds at the present time and I can't tell hon. members at what time it is likely to reach Cabinet far less reach the House, but I mention its existence so that the hon. member for St. Michael South may be aware that the Government is not sleeping on the problem of freedom of information. In the interim period he must apply or advise those who require information to apply to the Cabinet Office for permission to have access to certain documents. In the short rather than in the medium term he can expect the Freedom of Information Act which will release most of the information required.

Mr. Chairman, finally to enter into a more controversial area, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. members for Christ Church West, St. Philip North and St. Michael South about respecting

ourselves, and indeed St. Philip South, in their pleas to all of us to respect ourselves politically on platforms and not drag down public life in this country by dragging down the characters of those to whom we may be temporarily opposed. I will not go over the speeches of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central which have been so thoroughly canvassed in here. I will however just take an example from another speech, the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central made on an occasion outside this House, and I take his speech in particular and I am going to say why.

A little more than ten years ago I understand that a female relative of that hon. member was strangled in Barbarees Hill. The murderer was never discovered. Her name was Grace Caddle. At a political meeting shortly afterwards the hon. member who perhaps was then going through a period when he had recently been removed from the Senate or something, was heckled to the effect that he knew something about this matter. It was put into circulation in the ranks of the Barbados Labour Party and all of us dismissed as disgusting any idea that we should try to start a rumour about Dr. Caddle as he then was when he had lost a relative who had helped him at some stage in life. I remember it vividly because there was an exact parallel between what was done to the hon. member for St. Michael South East and what could have been done to that hon. member at the time, and yet that hon. member could find it possible to say at a political meeting that if an ordinary man in this country had been guilty of such an act, referring to the murder of Pele, the police would already have found him, he would have been arraigned in court, another set of people like yourselves would have pronounced him guilty and all like now his neck would have been broken and his bones would have gone to dust to dust in the grave. Crowd uproar; man shouting "talk yuh talk!" Why is it they have taken so long to find the culprit involved or responsible for this ghastly act. Why do they have to go to that extent of bringing people from overseas at heavy expense to the tax taxpayers of this country to sit and preside over a farcical show. Tell us; and while we are here let us ask Mr. Henry Forde if it is true that he is the second cousin of Hayacinth Goring and let us ask Mr. Clarke if it is also true that he is a godfather of the same lady. I want to know because when we have reached a situation in this country where the ordinary man cannot be assured of justice, when we have reached a situation in this country where certain political people can commit murder in this country and get away with it, I am not safe, Dr. Haynes is not safe, Mr. Tudor is not safe, Mr. Walcott is not safe, none of the political opponents of the Barbados Labour Party can any longer be safe in this country.

If a member of my political party ever makes a statement like that on a platform, it will be he or me in the Barbados Labour Party. It is a statement of a political animal.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, on a point of order, I notice that the hon. member always qualifies his statements, on a political platform, but he allows members of his party to make more wicked statements than that here in the House, the member for St. Peter and the member for St. James; the two of them. *(Asides)* I am not talking to you, man; you are not worth being noticed. I have dealt with you with stony silence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please! Address the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You know I always address the Chair. I did not want to get into this kind of thing because we should be discussing the Estimates, and I have asked you several times quietly since I came in here this morning. The Estimates should not be used to answer statements made on political platforms. Let them go on public meetings. I do not attend the meetings.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member were here earlier.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I came in here to do the Estimates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And had heard the contribution of.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You should have stopped them then.

11.55 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please let the Chairman have his say. That is very much out of order. I am sure the hon. member knows better.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I know better.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I have had my say on that particular matter and I am going to say this too. I believe the hon. member is on the side of the angels in this. He can have a very bitter time in here and on political platforms but not bitter to the extent that we have seen his would-be disciples, the acolytes, the proselytes at the gate of Kampala that put out the venom and

spite and hatred, kill, burn. That is the doctrine of the new-found Democratic Labour Party model 1980.

Mr. Chairman, they are really all the points that I can remember that have been raised and the hon. members are free to raise others, but they are all the points that I can remember that have been raised under this particular Head.

Dr. HAYNES rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that second speeches are allowed, but all hon. members must understand that they must not be provocative nor abrasive.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have entered public life and there are certain fundamental principles which in my view constitute integrity in public life from which I will never deviate. Members on the other side have risen with righteous indignation for the simple reason that I dared to come in this Chamber and stand up and say that not only by their words but in their Manifesto they made it perfectly clear that Ministers of the previous administration were being overpaid and that they would not vote themselves an increase in salary except after *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. The rules of relevance do apply.

Dr. HAYNES: There is another further point. The hon. member for Christ Church West said I earn $150,000 a year. I hope it is a half million dollars a year and not $150,000, but the point that I wish to make is this, that you cannot compare or even relate what one would earn in the private sector or in their professional capacity when you come to serve the public. It is a matter of sacrifice, it is a matter of dedication, and I do not wish to see ever developed in this country an army of professional politicians because in the long run it will do no good for the country.

He also sought to make comparisons between inflation rates between 1973 and 1978, but what he omitted to say was that all them over there were not Ministers between 1973 and 1976, they were earning money from a different source, from their professional practices and otherwise and would have cushioned themselves against any inflationary effects during that period, and the only relevant period must be the period between 1976 and 1978, and my contention is and will remain and you could never remove me from the principle that when poor people in this country are put on a four day week by the Minister of Communications and Works, given a 5%, and then this Government can come and vote themselves increases within 50% and 85%.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is repeating the same things he has said before.

Dr. HAYNES: I am replying to statements that have been said about me. Another point too, I heard also some statements made about remarks made by myself and the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. They say we go on platforms and abuse people, but I am not afraid to tell the people of this country that the Prime Minister of this country only a few weeks ago got up in this House and shouted across and said that I, not only a *bona fide* physician, a member of the Royal College of Physicians, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, twice committed to the Hippocratic Oath, that I gave my uncle an injection that killed him. He said so. (Hon. L. R. TULL: You talk out your patients' business, though). Now can you get lower than that? I am not afraid, let the public hear it. Some of them came inside here and said that I peddle dope in Barbados. That is what they have said inside here, so when you are talking about decency let it start there. They are two serious and worthless accusations, Mr. Chairman, that should never be made by any respectable person in this country against another fellow politician, so when they come with their righteous indignation about remarks made about them, remember what you say about other people. (Hon. L. R. TULL: You talked out your patients' business on public platforms. I still have the tapes). Produce the tapes any time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just answer the Estimates, all of this doesn't come into the Estimates.

Dr. HAYNES: Let me reply, Mr. Chairman, they have got to be replied to because they cannot come in here and give the impression that they are clean, that their tongues are clean and that they do not make these kinds of nasty remarks about members on this side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please, this is the Estimates we are dealing with.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, a *sotto voce* remark in Parliament may not even be in the Gazette. I do not know whether it will be or not, at least it will not be in the hon. member's speech. I think the record should show that I did not accuse the hon. member of killing his uncle, I referred to the rumour; no more than I have accused the Leader of the Opposition of murdering Mark Stokes, but that will be in my speech. I did not accuse him, but it will be in my specch, the only reason being that I am quoting somebody. I said something like why you don't mind what they said, and so on, and the hon. member got up and made a defence and said he did not kill his uncle.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is taken, and I as Chairman will now say this. We have had the last word on

all of this. I am sure that the country does not like it, it forms no part of these Estimates, and I rule that this should cease immediately. I will not entertain any further discussion on any matter or the matters which you have just referred to.

Dr. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and in winding up I must say that once again I feel that those of us who believe in integrity in public life must recognise that when we take political positions, when we commit ourselves to a reduction in expenditures, that we cannot then come before this Hon. House showing an almost hundred percent increase in expenditure in these particular areas and do not expect to be taken to task for it, because unless we respect the people and we go to them with honest promises and honest positions, then that itself will do more to undermine the democratic process than anything said within this Chamber.
12.05 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has not replied to the fact that he is guilty of gross distortion of fact when he makes the point in relation to salaries. I have pointed out repeatedly that in 1975–76 the total Ministerial salaries were 0.34% expenditure and that now it is 0.31%.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, are you getting less money or not?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is the true basis of comparison; we are talking about the cost of government and it is a distortion that the hon. member persists in.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There can be no point of order on a point of order! Please take your seat.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, one point arising out of the argument about the relativities between the cost of ministerial salaries and the private sector, the view of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is one which is really consonant with the view of the governing class and is an outmoded concept which he uses in such a way to make it appear that by paying proper salaries you will only get professional people coming into public life. On the other hand, there is a grave danger that if you do not pay proper salaries you will only get in public life people like himself who say they can make $240,000 a year.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said that the hon. member came in here and said that I made $150,000 and I said why not say half million.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. It is the view of the Chair.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the hon. member makes half million I am pleased; if he makes $150,000 I am pleased. I know he says he has 15,000 clients on his roster, so that if he has those, on any reasonable assumption and using the present figures – and medical charges have increased on a higher percentage than other charges that make up the cost of living index – it is reasonable to assume that a professional person in his capacity can reach that level of remuneration. What I am saying is that it is a mistake in judging salaries at Ministerial level not to take into account various facts, one of which is that whether you like it or not, the people who run the government of a country have an overall responsibility for the economic welfare of the country. Secondly, it is necessary to safeguard the public first, not only as to whether you give people exorbitant salaries but also whether you give them such low salaries that you get the position where people are putting their hands in the public purse. The hon. member has sat down without replying to the very serious allegations contained in the Housing report. I want to make that point.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not here to.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We are talking about ministerial salaries and I cannot argue the point unless I can refer to the reasons why you must have proper salaries in a government; it is therefore not relevant for the hon. member to begin to say that people who come into public life must make a sacrifice. I heard the Rt. Hon. member for St. John speak yesterday of the amount of sacrifices he made in giving up a thriving practice he had.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. I never spoke yesterday about my private practice or anything like that; the hon. member must have been dreaming. I am not saying that I did not have a lot of people that I worked for; but I did not say anything about giving up any private practice. I said that I worked for some people for reward, and I said inside and outside of this Chamber that I worked for other people without reward, and those who were in here understood what I was speaking about.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member said he made a sacrifice by working for some people without reward. The clear indication is that in going into public life he made a sacrifice. Sir Grantley Adams made that sacrifice too – a tremendous sacrifice, and if anyone looks at his death duties affidavit they would see that for the years he was in public life his remuneration was less than that of those who succeeded him. The hon. member for St. Philip South when he left office as a Parliamentary Secretary would obviously have been getting less than a Parliamentary Secretary gets today, and that was the case that was advanced for allowing people on their retirement to draw their gratuity and pension on the basis of salary existing at the time; and there is some force in that

argument; and it would be wrong if you gave the impression in this country that politics must be segregated from the general development of the economic well-being of the country. I could go back tomorrow to private practice and make the kind of salary the hon. member spoke about, having regard to the fees I now see being charged in the profession. But that is not the point; it is not whether myself or the hon. member or any other hon. members are in a position financially to make the sacrifice; it is that the job must carry adequate reward so that not only members like the hon. member who is a wealthy person or myself will go into public life; there must be room for other people as well who may not have a profession but still have obligations and are doing the work. There was a suggestion made by the hon. member for St. Michael South and it is one that we should try to adopt. I agree with this suggestion that there should be some form of relativity agreed on between the salaries of those who are at the top of the Civil Service and the Ministers who have responsibility for them, and we should therefore get it out of the public domain to continue bickering over salaries. It is an easy thing to get on a public platform because one thinks it is popular. The hon. member must notice that I spoke only once in this House on salaries and the point I made then was that the discussion should not be limited to a few people. That is the only point I have ever made on the debate on salaries. If the hon. member wants to hear a record of the speeches I made on salaries he can come to my library and hear the tapes which I keep of my speeches. So I want to say that I welcome the suggestion by the hon. member for St. Michael South and hope that in next year's Estimates and the years to come we can get beyond the point we have reached today.

The question that Head 15 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 70 – CABINET OFFICE – CAPITAL – $122,000

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this Head will go some of the way towards making it possible – once the Government Printery gets over its staffing difficulties – to ensure that they have enough equipment to meet all the demands made on the Printery. Yesterday was stricture day; perhaps today we can spare a few kind words for the staff of the Printery who have absorbed a great deal of extra work and who no longer are asked to work overtime and who have therefore been doing rather more work within the same staff structure for a considerable period.
12.15 p.m.

One of the bottlenecks in addition to the sort of bottlenecks unique to a Proof Reader in a specialised Department is that the machines are getting old. The Automatic Composing Machines are getting old. We bought some last year and I would like to thank all those concerned with getting them into operation so quickly but I am informed now that all the old machines, the ones that were working before the new ones, have broken down.

The man who apparently has been repairing them has left the employment of the Suppliers and so they have had more difficulties and so I think that when one considers the amount of work the Government Printery can do and the amount of money it can save the Government, capitalisation of the Printery is appropriate at this time.

The large machine which was bought some time ago under the previous regime is still resting there in the garage at Government Headquarters because the Government Printery has not been able to find space to put it and we are hoping that in the near future we will be able to give it a little more space as well as these new machines and generally not only the House of Assembly but its productivity can thereby be improved.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

The question that Head 70 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 16 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Head 16 Prime Minister's Office – in the amount of $478,311 – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is a vote for the Prime Minister's Office. It is not particularly a large vote nor are there any new programmes that I can identify.

I beg to move that Head 16 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 71 – CAPITAL – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Prime Minister's Office – in the amount of $9,000 was called.

Rt. Hon.J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is related, Sir, to the Electoral Office to buy a van to assist in the Electoral Programme. I would like to urge all hon. members to ask their constituents to go and have their photographs taken in the course of the Registration exercise. I think we may have reached over 100,000 photographs now and I think

the last figure that was told to me is 212,000 registrations. They might have gone up a little bit beyond that but we do have to aim at registering the entire Island.

There is one point which I would make in relation to what the Leader of the Opposition, Rt. Hon. Member for St. John, did say about people coming to this country and being registered. That is quite true but they are not being registered as electors. Everybody has to have a National Registration Card in order to work in order to pay National Insurance but the rule that you have to be in Barbados for three years is still in force and indeed we will now find it easier to maintain the qualification period than we might previously have found it because the date of issue of the Registration Card will be the control which will be entered into the computer and the person who has a Registration Card would not then be able after six months or a year to go and say that he has lost his passport but he has really been here three years because the computer would have already had the date that he officially would have been in Barbados as a result of the Registration system.

The Registration system will fortify the laws protecting the Electoral List. They will not in any way derogate from it and the fact that they have ID Cards, I have said more than once and I say again, will not mean that you are entitled to vote. Americans will have to get ID Cards if they live here and are working here and are settled here but they would not in the ordinary way be entitled to vote because our Electoral List admit Canadians and not Americans as the case may be as with other nationalities.

The Cards will be in existence but they will not give you the right to be entered on the Electoral List. Even though in the old days possession of an ID Card was supposed to mean that you were a voter, there are cases where people have turned up at Polling Stations with ID Cards and have been refused to vote but that, of course, was just an error. In future there will not be in anyway a guarantee that possession of a National Registration Card will entitle you to vote.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, what I have just heard from the Minister does not reassure me and certainly does not reassure the members on this side or the members of the public. What he has done is to admit that people coming into this country for less than three years, even people who come in here for one week, it is possible that they may be in possession of what he pleases to describe as a National Registration Card. What the Minister is saying, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Minister in charge of Electoral Affairs is saying that it does not necessarily mean that they would get on the voters' list.

Let us now use Barbadian parlance that everybody can understand. Do not let us shround it in a lot of mystery. The point is that the Card that they will have, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the information coming to me and to us here in this Chamber by the Minister himself will not differ materially from the Card which people over the age of 18 will be carrying. The only differential which he pointed out was that people over the age of 60 will have a different colour Card. Therefore, if I may use a metaphor, they have got the thin edge of the wedge in to the foot or a foot in the door.

Now what can prevent them from voting? Only the discretion of the person who is doing the enumeration because a lot is going to depend on the integrity, honesty and understanding of the people who are carrying out the enumeration. On none of the three counts can I go to sleep and sleep quietly and be assured that the quality of the people who have been selected will satisfy the three criteria which I have just enumerated. I want to be as neutral as possible in choosing my language.

What I am saying is this. From the reports which have come to me in my constituency; from my personal experience in the parish of St. Michael and the parish of Christ Church, I am not satisfied that the enumerators are literate. I am not satisfied that a person who cannot spell the word "Victor" is a literate person because that is one of the easiest words in the English Language to understand and when you hear an enumerator is going around and asking a person who they are supposed to be enumerating how to spell "Victor", that is one of the most phonetic and easiest words to understand. They cannot spell that. The quality of literacy is one which must be impeached as far as I am concerned.

12.25 p.m.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not referring to the hon. member for St. Michael West.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Does the hon. member spell Victor, "Victor" or "Viktor"?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not know there was another spelling. This is a new one to us Barbadians. It must be for the enumerators *(Asides)*.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. How is Victor spelt in Germany and Scandanavian countries?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am dealing with Barbados and do not let us be frivolous now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There are people in Barbados who spell the name "Viktor".) Order please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I challenge the hon. member to produce to me in the voters' list in Barbados one person with the name Victor spelt "Viktor", in the 1976 voters' list. *(Asides)* We had about 130,000 people registered in 1976 and not one of them with their name spelt so.

I am saying that if you gave everybody who comes into this country, visitor, resident and national alike, the same registration card, the danger is there because when the discharge of the enumerator is interposed between that and registration, no computer in the world – as a matter of fact, we had an hon. member in here the former hon. member for St. Andrew, Mr. Homie Corbin, let us say now they were the most honest people in the world who were doing enumeration – he said here in the House, one day when he was being frustrated from making a speech by the interruptions of an hon. member, he said then that there is no physician in the world that can write out a prescription for ignorance.

Let us say that the enumerators are honest people, I am not entirely satisfied about that, we have not been given a list of enumerators. It has not been published as far as I know, I have not seen the list nor the criteria by which they were selected, or anything like that. But what about their ignorance of what their functions are and we are going to find ourselves in a situation where, I do not want to use the expression, Tom, Dick and Harry because that was used here in a more derogatory sense about emigrants going to England when it was said that taxpayers' money was not supposed to be used by every Tom, Dick and Harry to go to England. I mean people who come from outside willy nilly who, we have been told here today will get National Registration Cards. You cannot enter into the United States on a vacation for three months or six months and pick up a National Registration Card in the United States. That is something which is reserved for people who have been granted Landed Immigrant Status, or persons who are United States born citizens or naturalised citizens of the United States of America who have taken out their papers.

I am saying here now that the general public is not very happy about the whole exercise. There is too much confusion and the more explanations we get, the more confused we become. There are some people who are resolute, like myself, who decide that we are going to vote. We do not know how we are going to do it, but we are going in, we are going to present ourselves and we are going to vote. If they do not want to register us, I know a few people like me who have made up their minds. I am not going looking for any enumerator or Electoral Officer. We had a law here that a register will be kept automatically up to date and revised. You did not have to go through any formalities, or form fours, saluting, line of three, forward march, back step and landship parade. No nonsense like that. People, as they became the age of voting would transfer unto the register. Everybody over the age of 18, whilst, if you come in from England to reside permanently you could go and get yourself registered. You did not have to go through all this tedium and all this exercise that for a multiplicity of reasons we are going to have one registration number which we are going to use for the hypothetical Health Service Scheme whenever it comes. We are going to use it for voting, people who are not nationals of Barbados are going to have the same weds as people who are nationals of Barbados. What advantage is it for me, born, bred, brought up, educated, worked, give my service to Barbados, what advantage is it to me to be a Barbadian? I do not have any prerogative over anybody who arrived here on LIAT 331 last night at 8.30, never having been here before. They can go and register this morning.

I pointed out here the other day that we are making a million dollars out of work permits. I hear that people who have been here three or four days are getting work permits. Work permits are being used now as a source of revenue for the Government and are not being used now to prevent foreigners from taking jobs that Barbadians can have. I pointed that out. You cannot stop me from saying so. Any Government that is making a million dollars out of work permits must be sharing them out like when you are playing poker or five something in the ocean, I do not know what it is that they play in the ocean or deuces wild or the fiery cross. These are expressions I used to hear. You are sharing out work permits like you share out cards. You have your work permit, you can pick up yourself and go back to the place that you came from and when you hear the bells ring for election you can come back here and vote probably subsidised by somebody else, vote on that day, drink some rum and go back to where you came from. That is bad. People in the country are saying that it is bad because now, we can be out voted by Vincentians and Dominicans.

There are more Vincentians and Dominicans in the Building Industry as you know Sir, than there are Barbadians today. You cannot get Dominicans and Vincentians to cut canes because they are working all year round in the Building Industry. Let us have a systematic programme for recruitment so that we can identify them but when they are coming here, changing their names, and getting registration cards, we do not know what is going to happen.

We hear about high rise apartments being built in certain parts of the City to bring back in people. All that kind of gerrymandering and manipulating going on and we are concerned. We should not have to spend all that time in a democratic society.....*(Asides)* I would like to assure the hon. member that there is one constituency I am not worried about, that is St. James that is settled. *(Asides).* You are worried about St. John so that is

mutual we are on good ground. I have perfect understanding about the situation in St. James, so I am not worried about it. There are the other marginal constituencies that I have to be concerned about. St. James is not a marginal constituency.

The whole electoral system is now in a state of congestion. This year, we are going to have a national census and in the middle of that, we have this exercise going on which is not completed.
12.35 p.m.

What I would like to see and that is what I would suggest to the Minister is this: let us have a separate book now, not only for the candidates. I am trying to compile one, but I would like it to be an official one. Let us have a separate book now clearly setting out the electoral position as the members of the general public, what are their rights, what is the purpose of the existing exercise, what are your rights now, what are your duties, and what is going to happen on voting day, what is the latest day that you can register to vote, whether you have to go and register to vote, your name is already on the register, whether you are going to be entitled to vote or not. I know that I am voting, but don't worry about me; but there are a lot of small people out there who are perturbed who do not know in a so-called democratic society whether their fundamental rights are being eroded if not taken away altogether.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the opportunity has come for a very clear statement on the position because as is usual the other side are determined to distort what is the true position in here. The law relating to elections is contained in the Representation of the People Act. That law was passed previously by the Democratic Labour Party, there has been no amendment to the law. There have been no amendments to the Representation of the People Act. The criteria and eligibility for voting are very clearly set out in the Representation of the People Act. We heard this charge of gerrymandering during the by-election too; we heard all these charges. As I have repeatedly pointed out, the person who was the Chief Electoral Officer under the Democratic Labour Party regime is the same person who is now the Chief Electoral Officer. He has been working in elections in this country for a very long period of time. He is fully aware.....you are saying you used to give him directions? That is what you are saying now? We don't have to give him any directions. The law is there. I know you gave him directions. You say he was leaning and he can get directions. I know that was your habit of giving him directions.

The basic position is, Sir, that it is nothing but misleading the public to state that this Government has amended the law interfering with the criteria for voting. That is simply not true. As a matter of fact any person who is interested in these matters can go and get a list of the present state of each constituency in Barbados. All hon. members have to do is to get their lists and ensure that they keep the list so that when the new list comes out which always happens, there is always a new list at a period of time when there is an election and you have the same opportunity to make objections as was done during the by-election, you have the same opportunity to make representations that people who are eligible to vote will be able to vote. So what is all this talk about? Hon. members are deliberately trying to sabotage the Government's scheme for a national health service. That is what the other side is trying to do; deliberately trying to confuse the minds of the public.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, the hon. member cannot make a statement like that, that we are deliberately trying to sabotage the scheme for the national health service. We are not discussing a national health service, not even as an expression of opinion. That is imputing improper motives and under the Rules of debate you cannot impute improper motives to another member, and he has imputed it on everybody on this side. That is all I am saying. That is ridiculous.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I withdraw the word "sabotage". They are trying to obfuscate the minds of the public around here with a view to preventing the early implementation of the national health service.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: When the hon. member uses the word "obfuscate" that shows who is trying to obfuscate because that is obfuscation.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The other side is deliberately trying to confuse this issue, they and their spokesmen in the newspaper. The criteria for voting is contained in the Representation of the People Act. There has been no amendment and hon. members on that side know fully well the duties that have been cast upon the Chief Electoral Officer in this country, the statutory duties and responsibilities, and that is the position. In any event under the system of identity cards which was introduced by the hon. member's party when it was in power, it was always contemplated that after the lapse of a number of years one would have to have new ID cards because people change their features with the advance of age. You said so. If you go through the debates it will be seen, and we are at this time using the opportunity to ensure that we have a national system of registration; but it is not going to interfere with anybody's right to vote. We want everybody on the register and we are not going to do to you what you did to us three weeks before one election, change the boundaries. That is what is worrying you. You feel that you are going to get the same treatment that you dished out in 1971. That is what you feel. TheDemocratic Labour Party feels that when they use the word "gerrymander". In all the political history of Barbados

there was never a greater gerrymand than took place in 1971. Everybody knows that, a gerrymand in which there was an election in which everybody knew that there were Ministers in his Government who put their hands in the pot and he did nothing about it. The greatest coverer up of dishonesty in politics in Barbados is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I am not withdrawing that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I object to that. I think the hon. member has to withdraw that because that is really unparliamentary. He should withdraw those words, Sir. I am asking you to ask the hon. member to withdraw those words because that is really beyond now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Of what does the hon. member complain?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He said the greatest coverer up of dishonesty was me. That is precisely what he said. Those were his exact words. The greatest coverer up of dishonesty is the Leader of the Opposition. He has to withdraw that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I said the greatest coverer up of dishonesty in the history of politics in Barbados is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. That is what I said. The Commission proved it. We moved a Resolution in here in 1969–70 calling on the Hon. Prime Minister to dismiss Joy Edwards for stealing Housing Authority money. The hon. member came in here and said we moved the wrong Resolution at the wrong place at the wrong time. He was the Prime Minister, the hon. member was a member of the Cabinet and he did not dismiss him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Leader of the House, did you say that the hon. member .... *(Asides).* Order please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, now what is the situation?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You cannot make a speech now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: What is the situation if like the hon. member, the hon. member for St. James, the hon. member for St. John ....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I object ....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: You cannot rise on a point of order on a point of order.

Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW: I have objected. You cannot make a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Both hon. members please sit. I ask the hon. member on what do you rise?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That he cannot rise.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We will not have that behaviour in here. One hon. member cannot say that he rose so that another hon. member cannot rise.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: To point out that he cannot rise according to the Standing Orders.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: An hon. member stands on a point of order. Will you please take your seat?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, I did not really hear what the hon. member said, but I gather that the accusation is that the hon. member is alleged to have said that another hon. member participated in a cover up. Now with ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must understand I myself am trying to get to the root of this and the facts, and I cannot do so with interruptions.
12.45 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I saw with my own eyes the hon. member produce a letter from a person relating to one of the charges that the Hanschell Commission has found true. I am saying I saw the cover up, I saw him with the forged letter myself, and heard him say that it was Joy Edwards that carried away the compressor.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I heard the hon. member say that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Prime Minister, please take your seat. *(Asides).* Order, please! I must ask the Hon. Deputy Leader of the House, the Hon. Leader of Government Business and Leader of the House, if in his remarks which up to now I am not even clear that I heard, did you accuse the Leader of the Opposition of being dishonest?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, Sir, I said he was the Prime Minister of this country.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is the end of the matter.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What are we talking about, Sir? This is fact. In a previous Session of this House, the Opposition, Elliott Mottley moved as the member for the City a Resolution in here calling on the Prime Minister.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already spoken and decided on that question. You may carry on with the debate now.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We want to hide the truth? We want to hide the historical facts that as Prime Minister of Barbados at the time you had a Cabinet Minister in which the allegations were brought before you, who had used his office to enrich his pocket.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All of that may be true but it does not have anything to do with this matter. Please!

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It does, because it shows the type of conduct of the hon. member; it shows the class of man he is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not attacking personalities now.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not attacking personalities, I am only analysing personalities. A man is known by his deeds, so that when the hon. member makes the accusation in here that we on this side are guilty of gerrymandering, I am only trying to point out to the public in clear and simple terms the class of accuser.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I am in the unfortunate position in dealing with the speech of the Rt. Hon. member for St. John of having come to the conclusion that he believes everything he said in that speech and that he believes everything is well founded, and it is always difficult to attack a sincere but profoundly wrong argument. The hon. member seriously seems to think that something is being done in respect of national registration cards that is not commonplace in other countries that have social security systems. If the hon. member will cast his mind back to the years when he lived in Great Britain, he will recall that when he first went there he would have been given an aircraft identification card, he would have got an officers' card in 1945, and when he left the Air Force and went to university he would have been issued with a green card, the number probably began with EX, an identity card which he would have carried with him in Britain for a number of years. Now, coincidentally, he could vote, but the same card would have been issued to persons who entered the university with him having been in England two weeks in September 1949, the same card.

When I went to England I distinctly remember that for a couple of weeks I had no card and a card was issued to me about three days after applying for it, when I moved to the City of Oxford. In the United States there is no such thing as a national registration card, and indeed there is no longer any such thing as a national identity card in England any more. In the United States there is a social security card and anybody who is entitled to social security gets a card, anybody who pays it and is entitled to benefit, but there is no such thing as a national identity card. They have green cards. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central can tell the Leader of the Opposition how you go about procuring green cards for relatives. You have alien landing cards and so on, but our card..... (Dr. HAYNES: I can't bother with you). The hon. member agrees with me.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. I told the hon. member I cannot be bothered even to reply to what he said. I never said I agree with him, because I have never obtained a green card for anybody anywhere on this planet at any time in my life. Not even myself.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I will take the hon. member's speech in the same sense as I took his note that he hadn't spoken to his cousin, Hyacinth Goring, since 1976. I can even give the hon. member the time and place of a telephone conversation you made to her in New York last month and tell you what you said on it. Not from this end, but somebody at that end took the note.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. The hon. member is mistakenly misleading the House. I have made no such telephone call to anyone in New York last month or any time have I spoken to Miss Goring in the United States, nor have I spoken to her since September 2, 1976.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me state here now. *(Asides).* Order, please!

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I won't go into that now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Between the lady's lawyer and the hon. member I would not know who to believe.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will hear and entertain no more remarks of this kind.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: All right, Sir, but between the lady's lawyer and the hon. member I would not know who to believe. But getting back to this matter, being a little more serious, I think the hon. member should not have said that, Sir. It is not really of any importance except as a reflection on the hon. member's credibility. Whether he spoke to her or not, very few of us in here would believe that you have a cousin who is an enumerator for you on Election Day and that you never spoke to her when she was in trouble. None of us in here would believe that; a cousin close to you that you know quite well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on with the Estimates. These things have nothing to do with the Estimates and I will not entertain them.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am sorry, Sir, they can be struck from the record as far as I am concerned.

12.55 p.m.

The hon. member for St. John has not grasped that the National Registration card is in its function a social security document which relates to ancillary purposes such as census purposes, electoral purposes, a form of identification for voting, identification purposes for old age pension, for privileges situations such as travelling on buses and so on; but its basic purpose is registration for social security; all other purposes are ancillary and the hon. member must get it out of his mind that there must necessarily be a connection between voting and ID cards. It is a new concept but the hon. member is not so old that you cannot teach him a new concept at this stage; at least I would hope not.

The hon. member said "What then prevents him from voting? Only the quality of the enumerator," referring to the annual landed immigrants. This was always true that only the quality of the enumeration system prevented the wrong people from voting. There was nothing to prevent a dishonest enumerator, except the system, from registering a newly landed person and making him a voter; but the system has always been administered extremely restrictively by the Chief Electoral Officer – perhaps too restrictively – at least that used to be my opinion when people sometimes in the course of an Immigration inquiry claimed that they had been here for so many years but did not have a stamp in their passport and that kind of thing. I would consider that the Chief Electoral Officer should accept other evidence, perhaps a national insurance card, to show that the person had resided in Barbados for that period of time; but I believe that in those days there might have been instructions that persons illegally in Barbados should be discouraged from going on to the electoral register. I have not gone back to those days because I think it would undesirable for me to search back all the files from my position of authority and privilege to find out what exactly was going on in the days when I was in an adversary position. But I think that the system was rigid then and I have no reason to believe that it is any less rigid now. A card will reveal where you were born and I am sure that if you don't have a form of registration or birth certificate to show you were born in Barbados, the Chief Electoral Officer takes every conceivable precaution to ensure that your name does not get on the electoral list. I therefore think that that can be safely dismissed as a serious ground of worry in the mind of the hon. member. In any case we are dealing with very small constituencies; I believe the hon. member when he says the list would have very little difficulty in trying to identify the people. Certainly, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who was himself so vigilant in the recent bye-election...*(Asides)* There is a story of two people living in a funeral home that I have been hearing over and over again, but I believe it exists only in the fertile imagination of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central; but it is better that we should get a story like that, however apocryphal, before the eyes of the Chief Electoral Officer than that it should be thought that if you try to slip one through it will get through. This is a case where a false story might actually contribute....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. This is not an apocryphal case, because I had to check that list and one of the persons was employed in Black Rock. This is a fact. Three of them were living at Danesbury and were registered at Hinds Funeral Home. This was a discovery that I made, because I happened to know one of the gentlemen working as a gardener for a friend of mine and living at Danesbury, and I believe two of them came from Dominica and one from St. Lucia. So do not try to criticise the hon. member because the two of you had a disagreement in here today.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I accept the hon. member's explanation, but you now force me to give another example about the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. The story is not entirely apocryphal – only semi-apocryphal; but I can give another: There is a solicitor extremely well known to the hon. member and to me – I think I can say a personal friend for many years – a person with very strong political connection, very strongly in our favour in 1966 and a member of the Committee we appointed to examine why we lost that election; very strongly in the Democratic Labour Party's favour in 1971, 1976 and 1978. Now he moved out of his constituency. He was living outside that constituency for a period beyond the qualification period; he would not have been entitled to vote if there had been a proper objection. I personally, not as Prime Minister but as a person trying to support a candidate, drew this to the attention of officials of the Chief Electoral Office, but he still voted. So you can see that even after everybody knew about it and the Chief Electoral Officer knew about it the man was allowed to go and vote.

Dr. HAYNES: I am surprised that the hon. Prime Minister should take that position in respect of a solicitor whom he knew to be a supporter of the Barbados Labour Party when he had the name of a doctor removed who he thought was a supporter of the Democratic Labour Party, just before the bye-election; you took personal steps to have that doctor's name removed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member has missed the point; I also tried to get the solicitor's name removed. What I am saying is this: You go through the voters list and if you see a person is ineligible it is your duty as a citizen to try to have the name removed. The hon. member went to a lot of trouble to get the name of a colleague in the same line of business removed. I don't think there is anything personal in all of this.

I have discussed this matter with the people concerned, but one must not magnify these stories into accusations of electoral malpractice. One hon. member knows a gardener who does not live in a particular area anymore; I know of a lawyer, the hon. member knows of a doctor. But this is part of politics in every country where elections are held and it does not necessarily imply fraud.

This is about what I would have to say on this point, and if there is no other contribution any other hon. member wants to make I would beg to move, Sir, that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again. 1.05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman, has reported progress to me and has asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the time being 1.05 p.m. I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2 p.m.

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

The question that the House be suspended until 2 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER, suspended the House accordingly.

On Resumption –

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 71. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the debate of these Estimates so far seems to me to be the opportunity to reply to statements made on political platforms and I will not indulge in anything of that kind.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not debating political patronage.

Dr. HAYNES: Right, Mr. Chairman, you have my full assurance in that matter.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central has stated that there have been no amendments to the Representation of the Peoples Act since this Government took office. I distinctly recall, just before the St. Michael South Central by-election, certain amendments were passed in this Honourable House dubbed as the Ritchie Haynes amendments which have had some significant effect on the capacity of Representatives to monitor the progress of names added to the List of Voters in their constituencies.

I refer, Mr. Chairman, to the abolition of the Mounted List, a step which I gather was taken for administrative reasons but does make it somewhat difficult for a representative to know what is going on between one January and another January in respect of representation within his constituency. The January 31st List is out now and I am quite satisfied with what I see has taken place within my particular constituency.

The second important amendment was that the period during which one would register for voting was reduced from six weeks to nineteen days. I am not quite sure what particular number of days. The justification for that was that it allowed more people to register at the last minute and whereas it did not cause any particular confusion in the isolated case of the by-election, I am not so sure whether this might not cause a problem when you are dealing with 13 constituents, not to mention 24.

The third point I want to raise, Mr. Chairman, is the status of the present registration that is going on. One has already dealt at length with a wide range of malfactions taking place. I do not propose to deal with that matter today.

However, despite the question from the hon. member for St. John, despite a reply from the Hon. Prime Minister, despite the fact that this matter has been debated to some extent in this Honourable House before, it is quite impossible for anyone, any member in this Honourable Chamber to go to his constituent and tell him exactly what is the purpose of the present registration.

Now, what have we heard from the Prime Minister today? We have heard that it is for the National Health Service. We have heard that since it is being done under the Statistics Act, the Registration cannot be used for the purpose of Elections. We have heard from the same Hon. Prime Minister that the Representation of the Peoples Act can be amended to make a Registration which is done under the Statistics Act eligible for the purpose of Elections.

Mr. Chairman, there is no clear statement. I have listened to the Hon. Prime Minister very carefully on every occasion and one cannot get the answer "yes" or "no". Is the current registration programme that is going on in Barbados is this for the purpose of Elections? That is the question that we want answered and we want it

answered in a simple word "yes" or "no". I did not say "yes" and "no" I said "yes" or "no".

Mr. Chairman, we have heard that the purpose of the registration is to allow you to get day-to-day statistics of unemployment. I have heard the hon. member say in this Chamber that with this registration that your Statistical Services can be so refine that you can get almost day-to-day figures on unemployment if you so wish. Of course, the hon. member's memory seem to be a bit blurred. He was reputed at one stage to have a good memory but I heard him get upset because he was mistakenly told that I referred to him as being drunk which was quite untrue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please leave those things out. Let us get on with the debates.

Dr. HAYNES: I was not getting on to that. I simply wanted to remind the hon. member that in Lightfoot Lane in 1976 he said I was drunk and fell into the gutter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking hon. members for the benefit of the community and especially so for the benefit of the Youth Organisations which have come out strongly in favour of good behaviour in Parliament and outside to contain themselves and restrain themselves from making statements which will lead to disorder and this sort of thing.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I can only agree with your concern but I think it is nice to refresh the memories of certain persons from time to time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The incident of which the hon. member refers to is entirely a figment of his imagination. I did say in Kensington New Road in 1960 that he was in a shop in Baxters Road when his cousin Slims Haynes fell into the gutter. I have never said anything about the hon. member falling into the gutter. Certainly not that I recall.

The talk was about how he perhaps wished to scorn his cousin who was in the gutter. That was the talk and if the hon. member reminds himself he will remember that his answer to that was that Slims was not his cousin. Not that he did not scorn him when he was in the gutter but that he was not his cousin and if the hon. member really turns everything over in his mind he would remember that he was standing up in the cross lane in Kensington New Road. It would be about this time exactly 10 years ago.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This reference should be kept out of the Estimates. Please continue the debate as you were going on.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, should I correct his memory? Just give me a little latitude for 50 seconds and no more to correct that statement. That is all I ask.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me appeal for one minute and remind hon. members that there is a time limit set on on the Debate of the Estimates and I believe that it is in the interest of the country at large that we get along as speedily as possible with the whole business we have to do. I must say that we are wasting time on matters which are totally irrelevant and have nothing to do with the Estimates and the business of the House at this time.

Dr. HAYNES: I am very glad that you have reminded the other side of that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue.

Dr. HAYNES: Now there are two particular instances which I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister responsible for the Electoral Office. A Vincentian came into this country on Saturday. That same Vincentian got into trouble on Monday night. That same Vincentian was arrested by the Police and deported.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have heard all of this before. This has all been commented on in this Chamber.

Dr. HAYNES: I have not mentioned this in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not by the hon. member may be.

Dr. HAYNES: And by whom?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Another hon. member. I am just reminding the hon. member of the question of repetition.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this has not been mentioned in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Carry on. This is a new situation?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this is a new situation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is a new situation. Nothing to do with the Estimates?

Dr. HAYNES: No, it is referring to the Electoral Office. There is something wrong.
2.15 p.m.

A Vincentian can come in here on a Saturday, get into trouble on a Monday night, be arrested on the Monday night in Nelson Street, be deported on the Tuesday morning and they found the yellow slip where he went and got fixed up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please let us continue.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, that would be a rather.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. I would like to get it right. The Hon. Member first said he came in the country on a Friday and got into trouble on a Saturday and was deported the Monday. You stopped him when he repeated himself. He said he came in on a Saturday got into trouble on a Monday night and was deported the Tuesday. I want to have this checked because I want to know if our Immigration Authorities are really so efficient that a man who gets into trouble on a Monday is deported the next morning.

I would like to ask the Hon. member for the name of the person, the nature of the trouble and all the details because I am going to have this checked before closing time today. I want to know the name, any details that he can have, which will give me the opportunity of finding out if it is true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the Hon. member have the name please?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Even if he gives me the date, I will find out if it so.

Dr. HAYNES: He had the card in his pocket, that is a fact and that is your problem to find out.

There is a second situation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a limit to what can be said in the House of Assembly without substantiation. There is nothing destructive of the Government in what the Hon. Member says.

If a man comes to this country with the intention of staying illegally no doubt, he is as capable as the next person of going to the Electoral Office and registering. I want to know if this particular incident happens to be true. I want the date, the name, the constituency, anything at all, any details that can be given to lead me to believe that the Hon. Member is not telling a flagrant and wicked lie to the House of Assembly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: I will continue with a second case Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must intervene at this point. We cannot carry on a debate in this manner.

An Hon. member makes a serious charge against a Government Department. I believe it is only fitting and proper that the Hon. Member substantiates these charges that some arrangement could be taken. I am calling on the member for St. Michael South Central to give the facts in writing also to substantiate them.

Dr. HAYNES: I have given the facts as I know to this Hon. House and it is a matter for the minister responsible and the department to investigate, not for me.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, no Hon. Member can come in here and invent a story and then say – we have to investigate. If he even says the year in which it happened I will have, in this Hon. House, details of every Vincentian deported before four o'clock. Just tell me the year. You know why he cannot tell you because he knows it is a lie.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have given the information that I am prepared to give. It is for you to find out. That is your job.

I will go on to a second case. There is a second case also involving a Vincentian. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: You are a liar)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Asides, Asides.

Dr. HAYNES: You can shout across and call me a liar if you like, there is a time and place for everything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Let it be understood that your language must be Parliamentary. All Hon. Members.

Dr. HAYNES: I did not use a bad language Mr. Chairman. There is a second case where another Vincentian came into this country, he went and got registered and on him was found the yellow slip, a piece of white paper with the name Lionel S. Craig, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to the Hon. Member for St. James?

Dr. HAYNES: I do not know. I will not say so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I asked the Hon. Member.....

Dr. HAYNES: No, I am not referring to him because I do not know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Continue.

Dr. HAYNES: Lionel Craig's name was on the piece of white paper and the Permanent Secretary and telephone number and certain correspondence that is of a highly compromising nature.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. If the hon. member would give way I could help him Sir. I hope he will produce those documents because at Redman's Village this is what he said, Sir:

> "Now I have some documents in my hand here. The first document those up front can see it is a yellow card. This is a receipt of registration of a Vincentian."

You were showing the people the receipt of the registration, so you have these documents on you today.

"On this piece here those who can see it, a name Lionel Craig, Minister of Housing and Lands, telephone number 72430".

Sir, I am asking the hon. member for St. Michael South Central please make the same paper and the documents that he was able to show the people at Redman's Village, a document of the Hon. House. That is all that I am asking of the Hon. Member, Sir. He had them on him then, I believe he would have them on him now Sir. I am appealing to him to make them a document of the Hon. House, the registration, the calling card, it was yellow now it is white. Whatever you have, make it a document of the Hon. House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point of explanation has been noted.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The second one is not a slight accusation because it is that a person who is a criminal seeking to come into this country apparently had a letter of introduction to a Minister and a Permanent Secretary. These are not easy accusations to deal with. I can only presume the Permanent Secretary would have to be the Permanent Secretary of Defence and Security or possibly, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Housing. You cannot make these accusations, at least you can make them but you must substantiate them, Sir. Just a moment Sir, I have the file of all persons deported from Barbados since we have been in power. I have it here in my hand and indeed I am going to look at it, God knows why because when you make these irresponsible statements you should be condemned if you cannot produce the things.

I am going to treat this very seriously Sir. I am not accusing any hon. member of lying but if a member of Parliament either invents or repeats such viciously slanderous accusations and cannot justify them, this Hon. House would have to look very seriously at that person.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, to continue my speech. That was the second instance that has been brought to my attention and I think I have fulfilled my duty to this Hon. House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have been accused on the floor of the Hon. House today as a man called Lionel Craig who was involved in something with a Vincentian and at Redman's Village in St. Thomas, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central held up two documents. According to him, one was a registration receipt of a Vincentian and the other piece of paper bore the name Lionel S. Craig, telephone number 72340, Ministry of Housing and Lands.

I am submitting to this Hon. House Sir, that the hon. member should submit the same registration receipt and the same piece of paper which he had on that occasion to the Hon. House here today, or he stands condemned before the Public Gallery. That is where he stands condemned as a blatant liar if he cannot do it.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would not even ask the hon. member to withdraw that unparliamentary statement. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The Chairman has to ask me, not you.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. An hon. member cannot expect to come into Parliament and be making charges which cannot be substantiated.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, if you listen carefully.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would not be interrupted. Further, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, I must warn you in future when you make charges of a serious nature of this kind, you must be able to support them. I must also let you know that your time for speaking has expired, 15 minutes, and I have made due allowances for the numerous interruptions we have had from both sides.
2.25 p.m.

This debate must be brought to a conclusion.

Dr. HAYNES: May I finish my speech, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have two hon. members on their feet. I will not have it. The Chair is prepared to accept the wind up speech of the Minister, but before that I want to know if any hon. members wants to make a final submission without recognition of what has gone before. Does any other hon. member wish before the hon. member winds up to make a contribution?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to finish in one minute what I was saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let it be understood then.

Dr. HAYNES: I just want to clarify the one point. I said that I had a yellow slip of a Vincentian, that I had a piece of paper on which the name of a Lionel Craig and telephone number and Permanent Secretary and the telephone number were written. Attached to it were some other documents. The hon. member got up and said that I accused him in something with a Vincentian. What I am saying is what I have, a series of documents. I do not have them here.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, I am prepared for the hon. member to bring the documents in here before the end of the Estimates. I am going to challenge him to bring them in here. I challenge the hon. member to bring them in here. I was in here for 13 years. You are a joker in here. I know my way around here. I know how it is to hold up a piece of paper and say this is information. All these school boy tricks; I ask you to bring the documents. Produce them. You are just a fabricator of stories. That is what you are.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat.

Dr. HAYNES: I would like to assure this Honourable House that what I have said is absolutely and totally correct.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And you will substantiate it. Order, please. The Hon. Prime Minister will wind up this debate now.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, for my guidance, the Hon. Prime Minister is winding up the debate on Head 16, is that correct?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Head 71. Sir, inevitably the attention of hon. members is focussed on these extraordinary accusations that have been made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. Obviously I cannot have easily available details of all deportations. I can have a list. The only deportation that I have been able to trace of a Vincentian which was carried out on a Tuesday during the last two years took place on March 20 last year when a person named Niartus A. Harry was deported. Nobody has been deported to St. Vincent on a Tuesday this year, but that is but a very minor statistic. I will not call the hon. member a stinking outrageous liar if it turns out a person had been deported on a Thursday rather than a Tuesday; but you see, Sir, we really run up against some difficulties here. Where you have unbridled irresponsibility sustained by a personality so pathological in its obsession with self that it cannot understand what it does to the self-respect of 23 other people that have to share the House of Assembly with it, you really have a great deal of difficulty in handling it. In all my experience in Parliament I have never known anybody who has not been ashamed to get up and say something where he could have been so immediately be proved to be at the least irresponsible and at the worst viciously untruthful. Of the people I have to deal with, not even Cameron Tudor, I have never known anybody who would come in the House of Assembly and produce a story about a Vincentian committing an offence on a Saturday, charged in two minutes starting from Friday, but then changed to Saturday, being picked up the Monday and deported on a Tuesday, saying that he has proof, and then getting up and saying these are the facts. You are not talking to a dying patient now, telling him he will get better in order to make him feel good. Doctors are trained in the arts of certain types of dissimulation, but the House of Assembly is not the Intensive Care Unit or the Delaware Clinic. This is not a place where you tell lies to people to make them feel good or to make them feel that you are a good doctor or a good politician as the case may be. This is a place where we do not make statements like that.

I have said to the Chief Immigration Officer – the functions changed I believe on Friday, the change over took place just a few days ago – who is responsible I imagine for all deportations. I shall also tell hon. members that to the best of my knowledge the only members of this Government who have ever signed a deportation order are the Deputy Prime Minister and myself, and every deportation order which has ever come to me contains on it an outline of the reasons why the deported person is being deported. Previously deportation orders used to be issued by the Commissioner of Police. The law was changed in 1975 and from 1975 to the present only the Minister deports. It is not a particularly onerous job because we do not deport that very large number of people, but it is a job since it involves people's rights that I think ministerial intervention can reasonably be applied if called for in each case.

I can only tell the House that I have never heard of any case where a Vincentian came, got into trouble with the police the night before and was deported the next day. The cases that come are people who were deported before, people found in criminal circumstances, people who have overstayed their leave and hidden from the police. In more recent times there are people who have come here on 17-day vacations and then you find them working.

Now I refrain from dealing with the hon. member for St. John, not that he said anything scandalous, but I refrain from dealing with the point which he raised about illegal immigration because it is really not the Head. The argument is to do with illegal immigrants seeking to

register for election purposes, and therefore I was hoping to confine my remarks to that, and I have to apologise to the House if I have stretched a little wider than that.
2.35 p.m.

But something so outstanding as a man being in Barbados for two days and getting a slip to register for electoral purposes, in other words, without a work permit, without a residence in Barbados, because somebody who comes here for 17 days is not going to be registered, he has no residence, he is only here as a visitor. Somebody who could come here on a Friday and by Monday night has a slip, I would be interested in this because I am Minister for electoral affairs. When an M.P. finds this out his duty is to write to the appropriate authority.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has a pen. When he was given some quite false information about a car belonging to Mr. Denzil Agard being levied on and being taken away, he communicated some quite false information to the Director of Public Prosecutions and asked him to take action. They talk about interference in the course of justice. You can interfere apparently by saying that a Magistrate should have answered a letter from the Commissioner of Police, but you cannot interfere by putting a lie down on paper and communicating it to the Director of Public Prosecutions, but I am suggesting that if the hon. member had information, true or false, he would not hesitate to communicate it to the Minister responsible for electoral affairs, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Chief Immigration Officer, or even to the DPP. He is welcome to write the Director of Public Prosecutions, I hope he will reply to it. Last time he treated him a little contemptuously and I would not necessarily support that, but there must be a very strong feeling when somebody who occupies a high station in society demeans himself to put a lie down on paper, that you should treat it with the contempt it deserves, but I still think it deserves an acknowledgement, and I hope that whoever he writes to that it will come to me. I am anxious to find out about this, if true. I am more anxious to find out about it than to prove the hon. member is a liar.

I think that members of the public can judge the hon. member's credibility as a politician, I think so. I am not interested in doing that, you can do that by picking up the Official Gazette in which he has made any speech and prove it, any speech at all, but you cannot make accusations. I mean, I believe that the Permanent Secretary of the relevant Ministry is probably sitting in the House, certainly he is around the House; the Chief Electoral Officer may be sitting in the House, but you cannot make these accusations and have the nerve to get up and ask for a chance to finish a speech and say 'I am telling you the facts'. If you are telling the facts, the truth has nothing to hide, you don't have to hide the truth, it is lies that have to be hidden. The hon. member has sat too long up underneath Mr. Cameron Tudor, the hon. member is taking his lessons from a very wrong teacher indeed. There are 23 of us in here and we deserve to be treated with more respect than this, we deserve to be told what facts the hon. member has in his possession so they can be checked, and we also... *(Asides).* By producing the cheques, and we also of course reserve our position to add our contempt to that of the Director of Public Prosecutions to the hon. member.

The question that Head 71 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Head 37 is the next Head now, Sir. You want debate, let us get some debate now.

HEAD 37 -- MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Subhead 1 stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Subhead 2 stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Subhead 3 stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Subhead 4 as amended stand part.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that, and I would like to remind the Opposition that this is Communications and Works, which we expect them to give us a full dressed debate on, Sir. We are waiting, Sir.

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that sub-Head 5 stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that sub-Head 6 stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that sub-Head 7 stand part.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the function of a shadow Minister there is no remuneration for such a position, but I have found myself placed in that category. When my party in the past was running the affairs of this country I did not have those duties to perform and I was placed in a junior position. At this particular time I intend to deal with the various subjects and I would like to speak firstly on roads.

Mr. Chairman, I think that all hon. members of this House are fully aware of the deplorable condition of the various highways of this Island, and therefore when I speak here today I want to assure all hon. members that on this occasion it is no parish pump but that I speak in the interest of all the inhabitants of this country. Now we have noticed that the conditions of our roads is deteriorating daily; especially at this time when we are reaping the cane crop it is noticeable that they are becoming worse. This brings me to the point that when the rainy season comes, what will happen to the roads. I have noticed that the present Government has been building a number of new roads, but we cannot afford to build these new roads and not repair the old ones that we use daily. The fees for vehicles have been increased and therefore we expect that the Government would consider the highways as a priority. For example, if you travel on certain highways you must at some time or other damage your vehicles. This can also create another problem – accidents which might not have occurred if the roads were in better conditions.

Mr. Chairman, when you consider the money which is being spent on the new roads which are being built or will be built in this country you can almost come to the conclusion that we are building these roads at the expense of repairing the other roads. It is therefore our duty, and especially the duty of members of the Cabinet who run the affairs of this country, to see that these highways are kept in fairly good condition.
2.55 p.m.

Now, Sir, I would feel that if the Government takes special interest and consider their roads as a priority, it may be possible to give out some of these roads on contract so that the repairs can be dealt with expeditiously. This is a very serious matter and while I must admit that we are concentrating on building new roads, I must say this that with the funds which were disbursed in the past, we concentrated on both old and new and therefore it does seem or appear to the people of this country that we are becoming very callous about these roads.

Land Tax has increased. The amount for vehicles has increased and therefore Government must deal with this matter immediately. I have been hearing criticism about the materials used on the roads. Well, if the material is inferior, we should go all out to get better materials and to keep our roads in order.

I have dealt, Sir, with the highway, the main roads, but let us have a look at the roads, the tenantry roads and also subsidiary roads. To say that those roads are in very bad condition can be considered as a conservative way of putting it. I cannot find words to describe the condition of the subsidiary roads, the tenantry roads and other roads regardless of the names we give them.

Now in these roads people must use them daily and I want to draw to the attention of this House that it is the very poor people, people who are in the lower brackets who have to use these roads. Some of them have deteriorated to such an extent that it is a problem for Doctors even to attend patients, although in many cases Doctors in this age demand in most cases regardless of the condition that you get the patients to their office and we still have the poor among us.

We have the agricultural sector. Fortunately or unfortunately, I reside in that area.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more. Oh no I am sorry, please carry on.

Mr. WEEKES: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as I was saying fortunately or unfortunately for me I live in an agricultural sector and daily the people complain to me about the road in that particular area. I will repeat again that this is not a parish pump and I am not being insular but I am drawing the matter to the attention of the Hon. Minister whose portfolio deals with roads and I am fully aware that he should understand the sad plight of these poor people.

In my area, he or others may say that I was Parliamentary Secretary and that I should have seen about that

road and kept it in a good condition. Now I want to say this that when I was appointed as a Parliamentary Secretary I was not only appointed to deal with roads in my area and especially where I live. I was appointed to deal with roads throughout the Island and when we consider that vehicles must travel on these roads to transport the canes of the peasants, you will understand, Sir, that at the end of the crop season you will see that these roads will be in such a condition that even the children who have to travel daily to school and back will not be in a position to even wear their shoes through the various districts in these roads.
3.05 p.m.

I also think and I feel it is incumbent on the present Government to do everything possible to alleviate the hardship which these poor people suffer. While it is a fact that the highways, the main roads must take priority. I do hope that a reasonable amount of funds has been allocated for the repairs of such roads. I must admit, that due to the new method in which the Estimates have been prepared this year, I am not in a position to state, or to be aware of the amount of money which will be spent on these roads but Mr. Chairman, let us get back to the highways in which all must travel. We will find out that it has not been so with one Government but it has been so with all the Governments, that they do not get votes by repairing the highway. We have got to understand that with increased taxation, we should still keep those roads in order, so as to avoid accidents and repairs which motorists have to deal with from time to time with their various vehicles. All of those things have got to be taken into consideration.

While we consider that roads do not, in many cases, pay big dividends to Government, we must also consider that they are essential to the functioning of Government because when you take into consideration the transport system of this island, we will find out that repairs must be done to the buses regularly, which in some cases, should have been avoided but through the bad conditions of the road. I do hope that the Hon. Minister will accept the facts and will accept my criticism about the roads in good faith.

Now, I would like to continue with National Insurance.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute please. I think it is about time you did wind up your contribution now. Your time is up.

Mr. WEEKES: Thank you. Finally Mr. Chairman, I can only appeal to the Minister to recommend to the Cabinet that priority be given to roads and to do his utmost on behalf of all inhabitants of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member.....

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, just two small points. I am not complaining about Communications and Works. I am dwelling on a matter that concerns drainage in Worthing. I am sure that all hon. members and most people in Barbados, at some time in the rainy season, have driven on the main road travelling from Bridgetown to Oistins.

Recently, the Ministry has been there working on this road and in fact, every year you see the workmen from the Ministry of Communications and Works working there.

I have recently been informed Mr. Chairman, that the reason for the blockage of the drain running off the water from the road to the Graeme Hall swamp is because someone has built on what was a natural drain. As I said already, I am not complaining to the Hon. Minister but I am drawing this point to his attention because I get telephone calls every rainy season, everyday, about the road. They are not going to vote for me again even if they never voted for me and there is a long speech, old women, old men, supermarkets, hotels, everybody rings to tell me that the road is covered in water five inches deep and if traffic passes everybody gets wet. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to investigate this matter as to whether the drain has been built on. The drain runs from the main road to the swamp. The workers of the Ministry of Communications and Works go there and do their best. If it is so that someone has built on this natural drain, I believe the law stipulates, or the law could be enforced that such a person would have to build an alternative drain. I am drawing this to the Hon. Minister's attention because it is a source of no end of annoyance to me that people keep ringing me and telling me how their children got wet and their grandmother got wet going to church and everything else. If it is so that someone has built on the drain.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. WARD: Of course the Hon. Minister can talk and hear at the same time. He is the only one capable of doing this including other things. If he would give me a hearing and pay attention to what I am saying for a change and get this drain situation in Worthing cleared up, I would be very grateful to him and I would give him every word of praise. But get these people off my back that complain about the water in the road and get this matter of this drain from Worthing to the Graeme Hall swamp cleared up or otherwise have a new drain built.
3.15 p.m.

Point number 2, Mr. Chairman, does not deal with the constituency in which I am at all, but it is of interest to us all. Just about where Westbury Road crosses President Kennedy Drive, I believe there are two dealers in second-hand car parts. There may be one operating

on both sides of the road or there are two on the same side of the road, but in any event these dealers have gone so far now as to put cars on the sidewalk, dismantle them on the sidewalk and sell the parts or repair them on the sidewalk.

Mr. Chairman, it is a source of congestion in that area. Pedestrians who are not in my constituency but in the constituency of the hon. member in the Opposition, and constituents going to and from Church have to walk in the road, and apart from that there is a constant traffic jam, and you are aware, Mr. Chairman, that this road, President Kennedy Drive, is used for quite a bit now of the goods transported from the Deep Water Harbour to Roebuck Street going up King Street and so on. (Mr. TAITT: With 1,600 children.) That's correct; 1,600 children, which means they are not properly represented. He should be saying this, not me. In any event, Mr. Chairman, apart from pedestrians definitely during the day and night there is a tremendous amount of congestion in the area, and I do not believe firstly as I said to the Minister – I am not sure whether this is his department or police, I am not too sure – but I do not believe that the laws of Barbados permit people to dismantle cars on a sidewalk, and also vehicles parking around the curb. On both sides of the road sometimes the vehicles will park causing this congestion.

So Mr. Chairman, I am appealing to the Minister. In this case I have to appeal because I do not know if it is his responsibility and he may flick back the ball to me and say it is not his responsibility, but if it is roads and congestions, roads are bound to be his responsibility, and I am appealing to him to take care of these two matters.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with two specific areas which fall under this Head. Since two previous speakers dealt with roads, I would want to raise the other point first, and that is the one dealing with street lighting. I am very concerned about street lighting especially in the industrial areas where you have large numbers of female workers being exposed to would-be rapist assailants. This is a matter which as I said concerns me or bothers me and I think it should be the concern of many Barbadians because more and more girls are employed in the industrial estates and we have seen where there is inadequate lighting in these industrial areas. As a result of this inadequacy we find a number of reported rape cases or attempted rape cases, and I do think that if we are to take the contributions which these young girls or females are making to the industrial and economic advancement of our country seriously, then we must do everything in our power to make sure that they are not molested and that they can walk to and from work especially when they have to work on night shifts in a very peaceful manner.

Although I know it is the concern of the Minister responsible for Communications and Works to have this situation rectified, I would want to impress upon him the urgency of an exercise in this direction. It is indeed urgent. And we can look at some of the industrial estates. If you were to look at Wildey which has become a very fast developing industrial estate, the situation there is extremely serious, so serious that some parents have got to go on evenings and on nights to collect their daughters in order to save them from the molestation of some of these rapists. So I would hope that the Minister take this as a priority, and as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry responsible for industry, I would be following up this development with the Minister responsible or the Ministry responsible for street lighting.

Now that leads me to the question of roads. Now we must look at the situation of roads. All of us in here and people on the outside would recognise that there has been a deterioration of the roads, but we must also realise that it is not the Minister of Communications and Works that is responsible for this deterioration. We have got to examine the factors without bias, Mr. Chairman, before we can criticise, and most of the criticisms are criticisms that are not really reasonably justified. We must understand that some of the roads that we now speak about that have fallen into disrepair are roads when they were built it was not conceived at that time would be taking the amount of traffic, the volume of traffic, and secondly, Mr. Chairman, the weight of the traffic that we now have on our roads, and if these factors were not taken into consideration, if allowances were not made for these factors, then we must bear in mind that with the introduction of the volume of traffic and the weight of the traffic, then we would have some of the roads being damaged.

In addition to that we had a lot of rainfall last year and that excessive rainfall has contributed to some of the damage that we now see or that we are now trying to rectify. So there is another factor and I can whittle it down to a sort of engineering problem where I have seen some roads in Barbados that are not correctly drained; and when I say correctly drained, Mr. Chairman, I would want to explain this because if a road is built in such a manner that the water settles in the centre, it means that after a period of time that water will help to crack up the road, and the engineering problem is here that when roads are built some endeavour should be made to make the road slope at both ends so that the centre of the road is higher than both sides to give an idea of what I mean. In that way the water will not settle in the centre of the road but will slope off and go to the drainage which is on either side.

That takes us to another serious problem, the inadequacy of drainage. Mr. Chairman, the position is that some of the drainage that we are now asking for was

taken out of existence in order to accommodate wider roads, no doubt to accommodate wider traffic and as I said more traffic on the roads. So in so doing draining was taken up, hence leaving no room at all for expansion, and the only solution to that would be for the Government to acquire the land immediately adjacent to the road so that they can build tunnels or drainage. 3.25 p.m.

So these are some of the problems that we are confronted with, and I would suggest that these are areas that can be looked into. We have got situations where wells were built a couple feet away from the existing roads, and as soon as the wells become flooded or as soon as they filled up, as some of them are not cleaned as often as they should be, then you find a situation where the excessive water then seeps on to the road. It either cracks the road or it causes a blockage in that particular area, and I think I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that Communications and Works should be very vigilant in this area and there should be Supervisors reporting regularly to the Ministry on the condition of drainage and not leaving it for when there is heavy rainfall, because this is what we have seen. If there was a continuous surveillance of some of these areas – the wells, the drainage and the roads – then we would not have a situation which we would term acute.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, it is a matter for the Ministry to look at, and none of us should try to seek narrow and cheap political mileage by condemning the Minister as we have heard on public platforms, and even from some of my colleagues. I must say that, saying he is inactive and he is not doing anything. This sort of criticism disturbs me because I know that there are some other inherent problems which need to be looked at, and I want to give the Minister my assurance that he has got my support because he has been doing a wonderful job in his Ministry.

With that, I hope the few pointers that I have made will help him to carry on with the very good job which he is doing at the present moment.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, it is all well and good to describe matters of roads and bus stands and car parks and so on as parish pump politics, I don't agree with that conception of MCW. I would like to suggest that roads are one of the areas in which the taxpayers have a direct interest, because as a result of the collection of taxes taxpayers expect certain basic social amenities. They expect a reasonable standard of road, they expect a pure and healthy water supply, they expect reasonable lighting. They may seem like parish pump matters, but they are also matters of expectation in the eyes of the taxpayer. It is therefore crucial for a Government to have a clearly defined strategy in respect of Communications and Works.

Mr. Chairman, I have a criticism to make on the strategy adopted by the Ministry of Communications and Works. It has nothing to do with the present Minister, I am criticising the Ministry at the level of strategy and I am criticising the Ministry of Finance and Planning also. I represent a rural parish, there are lots of small things that mean a lot to people in rural parishes. Many of them have been neglected for years, they have been without proper roads, both main roads and subsidiary roads, they have been without proper street lighting, many areas are still without proper water facilities. If you deliver those basic amenities of life to a lot of rural people you will be making a great impact on their daily lives which they will appreciate.

The Government has a strategy that road building must be in terms of what is called productive road building, building these highways and roundabouts and so on, but at the same time as this may be a useful and desirable exercise in terms of the strategy, it is my contention, Mr. Chairman, that the planning was wrong. Tenantry roads which were not going to fall under the rural development integrated programme, or whatever fancy term it is called, those tenantry roads needed to be done. I saw no clearly defined pattern of attack on relieving the problems in the tenantry roads.

Now I have a number of subsidiary roads in my constituency that I have written about to the Ministry. I have identified the worse which over a planned period of three years could have been done, but instead I have found – I am not accusing any particular Minister, I make that very clear, I am looking at the strategy or the planning within the Ministry and the Ministry of Finance and Planning, because I believe the two are inter-connected – but over the period I have not been able to get vital roadworks done in my constituency which would be of assistance to the poor people. I get some grit and tar thrown beside a major road and rolled down. That is what is there, but in Pollards people can't leave their houses and get to Vineyard unless they walk through mud. In the two roads in Blades Hill, No. 1 and No. 2, they are so narrow now because of erosion of water running along the edges and eating away the edges that two cars could hardly pass. The edges needed to be shored up and a proper road constructed in Blades Hill No. 1 and No. 2. Eastbourne Road is another that only wants resurfacing, and the edges of the road aligned. Those are about four. Then in lower Marley Vale there are 40 houses without water. There is no main which passes the road below Mr. Neville Maxwell's father's house and runs back to St. Catherine's Church. *(Asides).* But don't mind that, 15 years under the Dems and they never did it, but we have been in power four years and I have been drawing it to the attention of this Government for that period of time, and look what I find, Sir. Despite the fact that people have sent in their petition to have the 40 water connections, work could have started

on the 31st January this year, according to my information from a gentleman in the Waterworks Department, they were ready to put dow the main.
3.35 p.m.

Work should have started on January 31, this year, according to may information, but MCW did not align the road. There is no coordination. How can the Water Works be ready at 31st January to put down the main but when they come and check they are held up because the road is not aligned and I am asked by a gentleman from the Water Works to call MCW and tell them the road wants aligning. Why call me and not the Minister of Communications and Works? But I am the representative for the constituency so the people contact me. And I want to be able to tell the people that they are going to align the road by the 1st April, whatever that means and work should then start on the mains. But in the meantime there are fourteen houses affected.

Now where I am critical of the strategy of the Government is that a lot of the areas which were neglected under the last administration should have been areas of first priority under this Government. The other side did not do it for fifteen years; we campaigned and told the people we would get these things done, but I don't see anything done, and something has to be done else the people will tell me "You have been in Government for five years and nothing has been done." What must I tell them "Give me five more years?" You don't want that kind of politics these days.

There must have been some strategy worked out between the Ministry of Finance and Planning and MCW as to which roads and areas have priority. My personal criticism is that I think the priorities should have been in giving the basic amenities – tenantry roads, water, light, etc., – to the poor people who did not have these things for fifteen years, and leave out some of the main road work.

Now it will probably be argued that MCW does not have the manpower. I know they have been having difficulty with technical assistance – they did not have engineers, surveyors and so on; but if they do not have it, give the work out to private contractors. The country is not bothered too much, I imagine, whether government delivers a road but whether the road is delivered; whether by private entrepreneur or by the Government does not bother the taxpayer; he is paying his money and he just wants to know that the road is going to be done some time in the near future; whether by government or by private contractor is not his concern. So if MCW does not have the manpower capability, there is no point in telling anybody that we are planning to involve private contractors; that does not need planning; decide as a matter of policy that MCW cannot handle the work and give out some to private contract under a tender system and award some of the subsidiary projects and get them over with; that is my approach to the problem.

Mr. Chairman, I have sympathy with some of the problems which have led to the deterioration of the roads. The deterioration, in my view, can be attributed not only to excessive rainfall but also to a situation which did not allow for a constant system of repair. We had excessive rainfall in the last four months of last year. You would pass a place this morning with a small hole in the road, and because of the rain you would find when you pass back in the evening there would be a big hole instead; so anybody would have sympathy with the men of MCW who had to carry out the repairs. But I wonder if the maintenance workers in MCW have been deployed strategically on any planned basis. I do not know – I am a backbencher. But we have 850 miles of road and 1,150 workers in MCW. How are they deployed? What is the programme of activity that is chartered for them? How many are to work on how many miles of road, say, in Christ Church this month? How many to work in St. John, St. Lucy, St. Michael South? I would like to know because if I had anything to do with it I would have to conceptualize some system. *(Asides).* Yes I will conceptualize CBC; I have a concept of CBC which is satisfactory to the members of the Opposition, because Mr. Cameron Tudor had about eight minutes for himself on March 3 this year and you saw Eric Sealy on parade at the Malone Commission. But do not let us deal with CBC now; I hope to have a chance with that later this week.

Mr. Chairman, another of the causes of the deterioration of the roads has undoubtedly been the heavy traffic and the new type of vehicles being used.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time is up, but you can come back again.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, the problem about roads in Barbados is perennial and is a problem that has faced each representative in the House of Assembly not only now but at all times. But I think one of the problems is that the Ministry of Communications and Works always had difficulty in getting adequate funds from the Ministry of Finance for its works programme and this has been a severe impediment in meeting the demand as quickly as each representative would like. A lot of roads in Barbados have been done but in any survey in Barbados you will find as many roads still remaining to be done as have been done; everywhere there are roads which need to be repaired. In fact, in Bridgetown you only have to go in the congested areas to realise how great is the need for road repair. So in my view the main problem with the Ministry of Communications and Works is adequate finance for the carrying out of the work. There are other problems too, I do not deny that; but if you do not have adequate money you cannot

do all the work and do it as well as members of this Honourable House would like.
3.45 p.m.

Bearing in mind a heavy increase in cost of materials, increase of labour, and increase in many other things affecting delivery of the goods, one has to wonder if the amount of money voted here now will even do half of the amount of roads that are contemplated by the Ministry and if there is one thing I will like to see done is the Minister to make an ardent plea for an increase in funds so that all of us here can get our requests done in the very short future.

There are a lot of roads in Barbados now the condition of which are provoking concern in the minds of the people. There is no doubt about it. When we travel from St. Lucy to Bridgetown, Bridgetown to the Airport and beyond you are going to come across at some time some part of the road where the condition of the road leaves much to be desired.

The edges of the roads have gone so there are quarry holes in the roads. You pass and see pot-holes and people will tell you that their cars are getting damaged as a result of having to travel along those bad roads. Now something has to be done and it is for the Minister of Communications and Works and his staff in the Ministry of Communications and Works who will have to work out what is to be done and how soon they would get it done.

Another serious concern of mine is if you go down into Black Rock as you approach the junction of St. Stephen's Road, some work has been going on there for quite some time. It is provoking traffic problems. There has been a number of accidents taking place there and at the same time there is a big drop due to a ravine on one side which has been exposed due to the removal of the wall that used to be there. I accept that something has to be done to improve the site along that road but I am disappointed at the long time taken to correct this defect;

I believe that something should be done urgently because while a portion of that road remains unsurfaced when the rain falls on a good part of the road and you get back there you will find that you have more work to be done than you had originally planned for.

If you go to the top of Bank Hall Cross Road where it meets Hindsbury Road and Station Hill, there is another problem, Sir. There are at least three occasions last year when that section of the road, maybe about 30 feet, had been done and within three to four weeks after it had been done you will find that the road has broken down again. Something has to be wrong with the underlying material because I cannot understand how in such a short extent of time a section of a road which has been done can break down so readily.

This is a waste of your money because if at three times in one year you are going to spend money on that road and I take it you will have to do it soon again, you will find that you are spending money in one area only when there are other areas which are crying out for something to be done and I feel that whoever is looking at this problem has not really analysed the problem properly or in great detail to produce the correct answer.

Now when we go across to the junction at Halls Road, Belmont Road and Martindales Road, last year, if I remember right, in the Estimates was included a sum of $400,000 to put a round-about there. It has dragged on and dragged on and you wonder when it is going to come to an end. Nobody is going to criticise the Government for putting a round-about there but what people who have to use the road are concerned about is how long will they have to put up with that sort of inconvenience.

It is going very slow and you will find that as time passes by, I believe that not only the $400,000 will be exhausted but maybe a similar amount of money will have to be spent to get the road finished because the amount of work which has been going on there makes one believe that that money has already been exhausted. The Minister is shaking his head at me but what we want to know is how soon and what time in the near future are we going to get a good road and traffic is going to get back to normal.

The Minister will have a right to reply but I am just drawing it to his attention because this has been inconveniencing the people who have to use the road and part of the problem is that there has been no way of diverting the traffic from that area so that people would not be able to experience that inconvenience.

When we look at the conditions of the roads in this country something has to be done about them. There is no doubt about it and something has to be done soon because when we check out we find that there are some areas where nothing has been done for a very long time but I would like to admit that within the constraints of finance all of these roads cannot be done at the same time so one has to look for other sources of finance to be able to get these roads done as quickly as possible.

I do not know if the present Government has looked at the International Financial Organisations for assistance in getting these roads done because if you are going to rely on your revenue locally to make provision for the construction of proper roads, obviously you are going to take a very long time and regardless of who is in power there can always be dissatisfaction but only so much can be done. You can only do so much roads in a given year with the amount voted so you have to look for alternative areas and I hope that you all are

looking at the question of getting international financial backing for the construction of these roads.

Another problem that we are concerned with is why is it that we build roads and at the side of the roads you do not put any proper drains or upgrade the sides of the roads to prevent erosion. Erosion of the side of the roads occur not only when it rains but when traffic goes on the edge of the road, it breaks off and then by a continuous process of this going on over a period of time the actual surface of the road gets smaller and smaller.

I do not believe that it is a good policy to spend large sums of money surfacing a road and then nothing is done to the edges of the roads to protect them from erosion. I sincerely hope that the Minister will give careful consideration to that otherwise you will find again that you are spending money and in a very short space of time all over again there is going to be demands that these particular roads need to be done.

When you look at the question of lighting in Barbados, I will draw to the attention of the Minister that if you make a check there will be many lights in Barbados that are not functioning. I do not know what is the present policy of the Government with regard to lights but I do believe that the Light and Power Company is paying it on the basis of how many lights they have posted or have put up and if this is the case, then obviously you are paying for lights that are not functioning and then you are also paying for lights that are functioning badly because there are some lights which burn day and night.

The little mechanism that they have for switching on and off the light is no longer sensitive to sunlight and lights continue to burn day and night. I would like to invite the Hon. Minister to pay some attention to this because as one previous member has stated, the absence of good lighting in certain areas makes it uncomfortable for people who want to indulge in anti-social activities.

Going a step further, apart from the lights which are already in existence there are many areas in Barbados which need lighting. There are long lonely roads in the country area where people have to travel at nights whenever they go about their business to and from work and to church and unfortunately the electrification programme seems to have been concentrating chiefly in certain areas where there has been dense population but I do believe that there are other areas where the population is not as dense but these people do require some sort of lighting.

I hope the Minister will give due consideration to that but I believe before he can do that a proper survey will have to be made to identify the areas and not just depend on individuals coming and saying I will like a light here and I will like a light there and depending on how they are able to influence people in the Ministry to get a light there. A proper survey must be done because it is likely that when you do that you will find that some areas have too many lights and in some the lights will be removed from there and put into those areas where there are no lights at all.

The Minister must bear in mind that people in this country are paying taxes, heavy taxes, and there is no guarantee that they will not be called upon to pay higher taxes at some date in the future and they expect that the roads which affect them in many ways will be maintained in a proper state.

3.55 p.m.

I believe you can, but I also recognise as I stated in my earlier remarks that one of his problems may very well be inadequate financing and I hope he can put a good case because being a lawyer, he should be able to put a good case for increased finance for the Ministry of Communications and Works in this particular area. As regards the actual money that is now voted, a decision will have to be made whether the majority of this money is going to be spent on doing some tenantry and subsidiary roads, or whether the majority is going to be spent on maintenance of highways.

When I was in the Ministry of Communications and Works, the policy as I found it then, was to spend more money on the maintenance of highways. I shifted the emphasis and tried to get a large number of tenantry roads and subsidiary roads done.

I would also like to point out that during that time the Ministry of Communications and Works gave out some of the work to private people to construct roads because unless you do that, as I noticed in the previous years before I was there, very often, the financial year would come to an end, and money would still be available in the vote due to the fact that the Ministry of Communications and Works had not been able to exhaust it in the maintenance and construction of roads. If money is to be properly spent within the period of time for which it is voted, I still believe that private people will have to be brought in to assist the Ministry of Communications and Works in building and maintaining the roads. There is nothing wrong with that and as one previous speaker has stated, people are not particularly concerned with who are building the roads, they are concerned about seeing that the road is built. If the road is built, they are satisfied and in any case the credit will go to the particular Minister in charge of the Ministry, regardless of whether the workers of the Ministry of Communications and Works do the work or whether private tenders do the work. A problem which

was drawn to my attention, as the Minister of Communications and Works was that the Ministry has problems in going out to ensure that the work which is done by the private tenders is done according to the specifications laid down by the Ministry of Communications and Works. I do hope that by now they have solved that problem because no one is going to be prepared to accept as a plausible exercise for not giving work out to private tenders.

There was a large number of roads which were done by private tenders between 1975 and 1976 and they have remained up to date so far. I do not get the impression that they have eroded at the great rate and they compare favourably with roads done by the workers of the Ministry of Communications and Works. Another point one will have to look at very seriously in the Ministry of Communications and Works is the actual mechanics that construct the roads. There has been a big change away from that.

There was a time as I recall, when you used to excavate, put in boulders roll them into place, put in smaller stones, roll them into place, then you come up with your gravel, then you put on manjack or asphalt, roll, and sprinkle the dust on top. Nowadays, people go into areas, put down marl compress it with heavy crushers and they tell you that this system of road building is as good as the old system. If one looks at the results, one cannot be as sure that it is better because when one goes around Barbados some of the old roads, like the Pine Road and Culloden Road which were built along the previous method continue to maintain themselves and to stand up to the heavy traffic that has followed over the years. Many of the new roads nowadays do not stand up that long and we have to bear in mind that there is a heavy amount of traffic on these roads on a day to day basis and if you are going to build roads you do not want to build a road that you are going to have come back in another five or six years and rebuild. You want to build a road that is going to stand up for a very long time under all forms of traffic. When you are planning, you have to take into consideration the amount of traffic which will be on the roads, now and also in the years ahead and the type of traffic you are likely to have on the roads as time goes by. If you do not do that, you may very well be building roads for the present conditions and when conditions alter in the future, you will find that you are at a disadvantage.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister to look seriously at this question, the mechanics and the construction of the roads and see if they are as good as we are told that they are, and if anything needs to be done in ensuring that we do not go wasting money in re-building roads over and over again.

Another point that has to be seriously considered is whether or not the same form of construction which we would use for highways needs to be used in some of the smaller roads which would not be subjected to the amount of traffic one way or the other. If that is so, then you will find that you could do many more roads because the demands and the method of construction on the roads will be less expensive than the one you used on the highways.

I think again, when I was in the Ministry of Communications and Works, something was tried out in St. Philip to do some roads on a different basis and the best person to tell you about that would be the hon. member for St. Philip South because he was very much concerned and interested in that matter. I am stressing the fact that you cannot use the same form of construction for all the roads because all the roads do not carry that amount of traffic. Now, or in the near future, one will have to look seriously at alternative methods of road construction depending upon the location in which the road is sited.

I am not going to join in any heavy criticism of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works with regard to this particular matter because I feel he is aware of the conditions of the roads because I see he travels all over Barbados and he cannot escape the fact that a lot of these roads need repairing. What I want to hear from him is what he intends to do to bring the roads back up to the good state of maintenance and to do those roads which people consider to be urgent and touching upon their day to day activities. If he cannot assure the Hon. House when, or how, he intends to get these roads back to their previous conditions and maintain them, then he is due for severe and harsh criticism but until then, I am going to wait and see what he will come up with.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank You.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I believe that from time to time members of this Hon. Chamber have heard me speaking on this item of roads and drainage and I do not intend to repeat a number of the things which I have said.

I recognise that on occasions like these, members of the Hon. House often use the opportunity to highlight some of the problems existing in their particular constituencies with regards to roads and drainage. I had the benefit Mr. Chairman, of sitting today and listening to the hon. member for St. Michael South East and it is obvious, I do not know if you can call it a bit of a joke going between us particularly if I speak before him or if he speaks before me and today, I would want to pay him a tribute in that I think he has been here now for almost four years and I would like to say it is the most sensible speech coming from his mouth for the four years since he

was here. I would tell you why it was the most sensible speech which came from his mouth because I think he thought very clearly about what he was saying and he sought to identify the major problems in this whole question, the problem relating to roads and the condition of roads in this country.

I do not however, agree with him on the point that one should absolve the person who has the responsibility for the Ministry from taking responsibility for this because as we understand it from this side and certainly as the hon. member for St. Joseph well understands it, when he was in Opposition he used to criticise the various Ministers and particularly Ministers of Communications and Works under the Democratic Labour Party Administration and he was in the forefront of the attack by saying that the Ministers had to take responsibilities for anything which goes wrong in their particular Ministries.
4.05 p.m.

Today if we see that there are problems in the area of roads, problems relating to the Ministry of Communications and Works, he is at present sitting in that hot seat and he will have to take that responsibility. We did not think, Mr. Chairman, that in these Estimates 1980–81 he would have been in that hot seat judging from what happened towards the end of last year, because we saw that he made a very gallant attempt to escape the strictures of the Opposition by running away from that position and handing in his resignation, but for one reason or another he has not yet gone through with it, but we will hear more about that.

I would want to say, Mr. Chairman, that on this question of roads, and the question of street lighting and road signs and the over-all question of drainage which is contained in this section, these are matters which are of utmost concern to people in all parts of Barbados and I believe that as representatives who have been elected to come into this Chamber, it is our responsibility to draw whatever problems we see to the attention of the Government and hope that the Government would pay some attention to the problems which we identify, because these are real problems for people.

Now I think that members who have spoken so far have given a fairly clear indication about some of the major reasons for the decline in the roads in Barbados, but I do not think that the whole question of neglect, neglect which was evident particularly in the last three or four years has been sufficiently highlighted. It is fairly clear, Mr. Chairman, that the present administration had adopted a policy of not doing anything or doing very little to the maintenance of roads in this country, and they allowed the roads to get into a state of disrepair, and it has reached such a bad situation now that it will take a massive injection of money, millions of dollars, to put the roads back into what could be considered as a reasonable level the kind of standard that we in Barbados had become to accept as the normal standard. When we look through the provisions of the Estimates we do not see any major assault in this particular area, and I believe that we have got to draw this to the attention of the Government.

Now if you look for example, Mr. Chairman, at the Development Plan which has been recently put out by the Government for 1979–83 and try to relate it to what is contained here, you will see that whereas the Development Plan is talking about identifying areas, one of the criticisms which I would want to level at this particular Plan is that there is hardly any mention of any road improvement in the northern parishes of St. Peter and St. Lucy. But be that as it may, and of course one would question very seriously whether the Government will ever get the opportunity to see this particular Development Plan through its entirety because the election will be before that, but the point is, Mr. Chairman, that we must recognise that there is a need for some very serious attention to be paid in this area, and we are not satisfied that enough attention is being devoted in this particular exercise.

One of the reasons which has been advanced by the hon. member for St. Michael South East and the hon. member for St. Michael North Central relates to the size and the weight of the traffic which we at present have traversing the streets of Barbados, and it is fairly clear that with the large number of major roads constructed in this country people did not imagine that we would be into the age of container traffic so soon, and we have situations now where we have container trucks carrying, as you will very well realise as you are in this kind of business too, Mr. Chairman, that 20,000 and 30,000 tons one truck is pulling, and this therefore means it is imposing a very serious pressure on our road systems, and that is why when we say that a very serious and concerted attack has to be launched on the deterioration of the roads in order to ensure that they do not deteriorate any further, you will see the level of our concern. I think it is a point which should be taken as one which is given in good faith and one which we feel that the Government could devote some attention to.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, we have to draw the attention of the Government to this problem relating to the width of the roads in Barbados. The point has been made already and I would want to re-emphasise it. If you look at the kind of traffic using the roads now, even the motor cars, and most of the members of Parliament for example drive some fairly large cars, but there is a fairly large influx of American type cars, and even the smallest car in America when they are put on Barbados roads are pretty big, and I believe that there is therefore the need for a concerted attack on this whole problem of the width of the roads in Barbados. I do not think that we can any longer continue to exist with a

situation where we have, I do not know what is the average size of a road, 14 feet or 16 feet.... *(Asides)* 26 feet. I think that we will have to look very seriously at a road widening programme in order to accommodate this particular situation. The situation becomes acute particularly in those areas where the traffic is extremely heavy, but moreso also in some of the rural areas, and I can think of a number of roads in St. Lucy where there is also a need for this because at some times when, let us say, two buses have to pass each other, it is very difficult to pass. I would think that from a national point of view it is a matter which should be in the forefront of the Government.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, I would want just to refer to the other item under this Head, the question of street lighting. I heard the hon. member for St. Michael North Central saying that it would seem as if the street lighting programme has slowed down. I think, at least I am speaking subject to correction, I would say a little further, it has not slowed down, it has come to a complete halt, and I believe like you, Mr. Chairman, as a representative of a rural constituency....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That when they start they will start in St. George North.

Mr. GREAVES: That is the only change you will get to put in one for St. George North. I will transmit to the Minister that you want some lights in St. George North. Any particular area? Anyhow you will talk to him and he will handle you. I think that as far as the electrification programme is concerned, Mr. Chairman particularly in the rural areas, that more attention should be paid to these areas, for the simple reason that there are a number of villages which are apart, people do not live as closely as people living in the urban and suburban areas.

4.15 p.m.

If there is going to be any contact as we try to develop communities in the rural areas, then I think that people must feel a certain measure of security and safety if they have to use the roads, if they have to walk at night, whether they are going to Church or whether they are going to a meeting at the few community centres there are around the country or whatever, the point is that this type of security should be encouraged, and I would like to see therefore when the Government and the Light and Power Company resume the electrification programme much more attention being paid to the rural areas, and in this respect, Mr. Chairman, I would appeal to the Minister of Communications and Works to ensure that some work is done in some areas of St. Lucy. I would not expect him to do all the areas which are in need of electrification, but at least do some, because this is a matter which I believe every constituency should get a little piece. I am not that avaricious to expect that you will do all in St. Lucy, whether it is roads, lights or what have you, the member for St. Andrew handled himself very well so he would not need any of this, but you know, South East, North East, North West, South West and St. Michael West, every place should get a little piece because it is a national measure, and as the member for St. Michael North Central has pointed out, the taxpayers of this country come from all over the country and not from any one particular area, and one of the criticisms which I have always levelled under the Democratic Labour Party administration and under the Barbados Labour Party administration was levelled at the kind of development which one sees taking place is that there seems to be a preoccupation with developmental efforts in the urban and suburban areas.

Now, we know that in 1974–75 efforts began to decentralise, but it is not going as fast as we who represent the rural constituencies would like to see, and so I would hope that the Minister would be in a position to give us some greater hope to see the extension of these kinds of amenities and facilities in rural areas, and of course, particularly in the parish of St. Lucy.

On the question of road signs, this is a matter which sometimes evokes some public laughter and some public criticism. Often you see signs pointing in the wrong direction, signs upside down, and signs which would be giving directions are misleading the people who do not know the roads well, and generally speaking one finds that there is a general lack of proper signs in this country. I do not think it is going to be an expensive operation, but I think that some effort should be made to really put these problems, whatever they are, whether it is a question of putting additional signs, whether it is a question of turning the ones which have gone upside down right, but some person should be paying attention to these matters. They might be small, but I think that for a nation which prides itself on being a nation, then these are matters which I think indicate the quality of people who live in the society when one can regard these things, look at them and make sure that they are put right, so that this is a very important matter, this Head, and we know that often as we have pointed out people would want to do their little parish pump politics, but you will notice that I have not indulged up to now in that, and I would want to end off with reminding the Minister that I have for some time now been drawing to the Ministry's attention, not necessarily to his attention, because he was not always the Minister of Communications and Works, about the bridge in Pie Corner, which is the subject of a Question and I would not want to go into that, but I hope he will take the note.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has gone.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I believe that the Chairman would like us to have, not a formal suspension, but he

would like a couple minutes, I gather. I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 25 to 5.00, Sir, for ten minutes.

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

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

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply; to that it now reverts.

(Mr. ODLE takes the Chair).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee, and the hon. member for St. Lucy has concluded his speech. The hon. member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I shan't be long. A lot has been said about the roads in Barbados by other speakers and I would not want to dwell on the road situation in Barbados. I am still confident that our road system is perhaps better than most other countries in the Caribbean, and I believe our people will have to understand that as the country progresses improvements will be made in every respect. But certainly our roads are much better than some of the roads in the more affluent countries such as Mexico, North America, Central America and others. Those who go to North America frequently will know the condition of some of the roads, especially the East River Drive; our pot holes are nothing to compare with those on the East River Drive.

But what I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister is the question of the drainage system in the Island. I am very concerned and most unhappy about the drainage situation, especially in the rainy season, not only in the constituency I represent but throughout the entire Island. To be specific, in the Bush Hall/Bank Hall area there are a number of wells which are choked, and they are choked for a number of reasons. But be that as it may, it seems that the Ministry of Communications and Works is incapable of attracting people to clean these wells, and as a result the service cannot be extended sufficiently enough to clean a large enough percentage of wells in that area. In this connection we will also notice the problem of natural water courses in the Bush Hall area, and I can think of three water courses which over the years have become choked by indiscriminate dumping of all kinds of garbage by the residents of the area. And I would implore these people that it would be to their own advantage to desist from dumping things like refrigerators, mattresses, car parts and so on into the water courses which become choked as a result. The Ministry of Communications and Works has been most cooperative in some areas and have been able to move in and try to set up a salvage operation thereby in some instances the natural water courses which over the years received the water and prevented flooding in the area. Recently I have seen in the Press complaints that if a well was dug here or there the problem would be eliminated. I happen to live in the area and I know that the construction of homes in the path of the water courses has resulted in flooding in the area. But the present people involved in cleaning the wells in Barbados are not carrying out a satisfactory job. At Savannah Road for example it is almost a year now that people who have a contract have been digging a well and I doubt they have reached even forty feet; Today you see four or five people working, tomorrow you see one, and I think the Minister is right to explain to us and to the people of this country that he is having a problem in recruiting staff and that Barbadians are unwilling to help in the well cleaning programme. This is a problem for everyone, as in the rainy season children have gone to school in the morning on a normal day and in the evening after heavy rains the children have a problem in crossing certain roads.

Another problem that leads to flooding is the problem caused by workers of MCW who weed the side of the road but after a number of weeks we still find that the debris is left lying at the side of the road. Then the rains come again and the same debris flows into the wells. I would like the Minister to explain to us what is the policy where workmen have gone into an area to clean the street and the debris is not collected.

Another of the problems I face in my constituency is in the area of lighting, especially around Codrington Road and the National Stadium. The Police have been most helpful in trying to suppress the number of rapes and attacks on people walking on Codrington Road. Last year a bus service was introduced into Eden Lodge, and along the Stadium Road there are two bus stops, but there are still reports of people being robbed on alighting from the buses. There was a recent case around the stadium where someone was attacked but the case was not reported to the Police. I believe that if the Ministry of Communications and Works could look into the matter of lighting around the stadium you would not have so many of these inci-

dents, and I think this is where the Ministry can assist in alleviating some of the attempted rapes and muggings. This is a thickly populated area, but after 6 o'clock you see very few people, and after dark people have to be alighting from the buses and I would like to see the Minister paying some attention to lighting of the stadium road.

One of the hon. members spoke earlier about the car museum on President Kennedy Drive, which I must say is most deplorable. We spend money on tourism and even though we want to attract business it seems that the car museum is just a case of dumping things on the highway. I would like the owner to continue in business, but not on the highway. I do not know if it is the Minister of Communications and Works or the Minister of Health who should see about this, but the car museum should not be on the highway as it is an obstruction to traffic and pedestrians.

Mr. Chairman, there is only one more point I would specifically like to address to the Minister and it is one I have been continually asking about.
4.45 p.m.

I would like some road work done on two roads, one at Savannah Road, Clements Land where there are four streets or gaps as we call them and three have been done over a number of years and one is in a very bad state of repair. I would like the Minister again to pay a little attention to Clements Land where the people find it impossible to get in and out when it rains and where the grass is probably three and four feet tall during the year in the dry season and in the wet season it is impossible for them to get in.

I am intreating the Minister that when he has gotten through some of the work in other parts of Barbados, particularly so in St. Joseph, that he would pay a little attention to the St. Michael North East area. *(Asides.)* I do not have to get anything, I am just asking and I want the people to know that I am just asking the Hon. Minister and when it comes to a showdown, that will be here it was, in the Minister's lap. After he has gotten through with the work in St. Joseph to just attend to the people in St. Michael North East, in Spooners Hill, Jackson and around the Stadium Road especially Pioneer Road where people are living on mud.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, so much has been said so far that one would tend to feel that the Minister is seized with difficulties and problems but I think, Mr. Chairman, that traditionally Ministers of Communications and Works apparently have heard the voice of representation in this House and then they have left and gone to the Ministry only to come back the following year and hear the voice of representation.

Except in a very small way, I do not intend to address my remarks to the Minister because I believe that the whole Government has to take the responsibility for the situation which exists for which the Minister in his substantive role takes the up-front, if you will pardon my expression, criticisms but it is a question of a lack of a national policy with regard to these matters which have perennially been brought before this House of Assembly, not yesterday, and I want to stress the point, not since that Minister came in, or the Minister before him, or the one before him, or the one before him but I am making the point that these things have been said and if you go into the record you will see that they have been said so often that the time has come when one of the Governments should take a serious look at implementing a national policy in regard to the portfolio of the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to start at the bottom. I will start at the bottom with drainage. When you were a medium size boy, Mr. Chairman, you lived in a community where there was a lot of daylight or a lot of expanse between one area of say St. Michael or another. Although you are from a rural constituency, Mr. Chairman, you will know that it is even moreso in your area but in mine, where I lived, there were open areas. We could not be described as a suburban area or an urban area.

Bridgetown was something entirely distinct from the rural area surrounding Bridgetown. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central who himself made a passing remark about my representation of the 1,600 school children, I took it in the spirit that it was intended. He knows that they did not all come from my constituency. He would not know where they came from but he would remember when, for example, the areas stretching from Brightons going all the way up to Eagle Hall had a lot of open space and so the question of drainage was not a national problem.

You could drive from Black Rock Road, the main road whether the rain was falling or not falling. You could drive from Barbarees Hill whether the rain was falling or not falling, those who had motor cars to drive but a tremendous development occurred in this country in the last 20 years so that you will note that I am not ultimately being partisan. I am saying the last 20 years saw a tremendous amount of development taking place in this country. The entire pattern of the country has changed.

We have moved, to pardon the expression, from a horse and buggy to buses like M 58. We have moved to a position where even in the smallest house in this country there is electricity. There is to a large extent availability of water and other facilities usually associated with a developed country.

The problem is, Mr. Chairman, that we continue to have a modern day approach to the planning in regard to the development of the infra-structural areas connected with this development. Now, Sir, the whole area if you take the corner of Eagle Hall, and I am taking this as an example because it is an area that I know best, and you did a sweep with an arc that took in Bank Hall, Barbarees Hill, Goodland, Deacons Road, and you went down to Paradise, what you have there is what the geographer calls an alluvial plain.

An alluvial plain, Mr. Chairman, for the uninitiated is the mouth of what is usually called the settlement that occurs from when the river comes down. It brings with it certain particles. Those particles rest at the mouth of the river and you have spread out round and about the river a formation which constitutes an alluvial plain. So much for the geography lesson, Sir.

Now in the old days in Barbados they had streams that may be described as rivers for the purpose of this argument. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central is sufficiently old to know if there are rivers in Barbados or not but, Sir, on that alluvial plain now we have a tremendous amount of housing and in the modern concept that area is being asked to take perhaps more persons per square mile than it is able to support.

It is a fact of life and therefore the Government, whichever Government it is, must plan bearing this particular fact in mind. What we have had, Sir, is that in the old Board of Health days they had people who used to go around and speculate and in the course of speculation the concept of planning did not apply so they sold a lot of plots and bits of land without any planning for the amenities such as drainage which would be considered a natural concept in an area of large suburban or urban build up.

Now what have you got? We have two holes in an area called Alkins which are described as wells. There are not wells there are holes which were sunk by people to fool the people who were going to buy the land if they had wells. What we have are two holes. They do not run the water off. The result is that all of the land now taken up in housing, the water does not get a chance to settle as it goes across empty space so the water flows madly rushing and looking for somewhere to exit while it is on its way to the sea and it builds up.

It floods and it floods each time the rain falls and we who live up in the hills reflect on how awful it must be for those who live in the alluvial plains but they are the ones who week after week, so long as the rain falls, they must be contented with the inconvenience of this flooding. It is now beginning to affect the flow of traffic because the flooding has backed up from the little streets, the areas where people live. It is now backing up unto the highways.

4.55 p.m.

The area called Black Rock is impassable from Dodson Corner all the way to Eagle Hall and especially in the bottom.

If you check, you will see there is a trench which appears as the dividing line between the constituency of St. Michael South West and St. Michael West. It runs all the way through St. Michael North West and goes up into the hills. It is a trench that used to be clear. It has not be cleaned for at least 10 years and a whole set of bush and garbage forms an almost solid foundation. The result is that no water comes down that way.

I have heard that Government say that it is not interested in crash programmes. I am suggesting, that what is required, is not a crash programme but a programme to keep these channels clear. It is very crucial in the concept of drainage that we allow those natural courses to be kept clear and that is not a crash programme, that calls for a supervised programme because Mr. Chairman, if we do not have that kind of planned approach, we are going to lose firstly, the water – when we come to that Head we will discuss that – each time the water gets a chance to flow off as quickly as it does we are losing it because it does not percolate back into our system, it is flowing out to sea. Secondly, we are losing the top soil that is taken off when it floods and thirdly, we are having an inconvenience which is brought to all citizens, not only those who live in the area, what we have, is that those who live in the area suffer more than those who pass through. I think it is incumbent upon any Government to find a solution to this problem.

We have a difficulty with well diggers. It is a difficulty which I have been hearing about for more than five years. If we have a difficulty with well diggers, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Communications and Works to find an alternative to the well diggers. I am suggesting to the Minister that whether he has it in these Estimates or not, he should purchase the requisite equipment for the digging and cleaning of wells. If he has not included that in his plan, I am suggesting to him that that is one solution.

We have been promised wells in the Waterloo area, it is to the South of the area that I have been discussing. It is a flood area that is connected with the Halls Road area. It is a natural relationship with the Halls Road area and there is continuous flooding. We are now putting additional housing in that area, in the Peterkins area but we are not sinking any wells in the areas.

One of the technical people in the Ministry of Communications and Works went with me in 1975 and we agreed – let me pay a tribute to my colleague the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, I make bold to say that he is the only person who has been in the Ministry of Communications and Works as a Minister who appears to have grasped the concept of a national planned approach to this area and he agreed – he sent this technical officer to look at where the wells may be sunk. I did not ask him to do anything extra-ordinary just look and see technically where these wells may be sunk to preclude this continuous and incessant drainage problem which people who live in the area have to suffer from and continue to suffer from without any prospect of relief. We identified the areas where the wells would be sunk and fortunately Mr. Chairman, the candidate who was going to be running on the other side lived in the area where two of the wells would be sunk so it was all peace with both sides that the wells should be sunk. To this day, I have no evidence that such wells have been sunk. The result is, that water which should be taken off higher up finds its way down in Goodland.

The people who live in Goodland are from the low socio-economic bracket, Mr. Chairman. It means that their houses are damaged more easily than the house of any hon. member in here would be damaged. The flooding affects them more Sir and for that reason, I feel it is my duty to stand up here and say, I implore the Hon. Minister, take a look at it. I may be wrong. If there is a technical reason why not, I am prepared to abide by the technical people's reason why they are trying another system but let us have a system of some kind that will relieve that particular flooding.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Fifteen minutes. You are really going, you can come back on it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will leave drainage and I will come back on roads as soon as some other hon. member has made his contribution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to speak at this stage?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, as I rise and look straight ahead of me, I can see the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, he is able to make some notes, I have not even started and he is busily writing down what I am saying. I came to praise you today not to bury you. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: That is exactly what I am thinking Mr. Chairman. That Hon. Minister there, I have come to have a very high appreciation for him. I think that he is one of the most misunderstood Ministers who has ever held office in this Hon. House.

There are two qualities in particular that I admire in this Hon. Minister, which I have come to admire over the years that we have been associated in politics, one is courage and the other is imagination. You might not associate those qualities with him when you look at him but those who can get pass the surface and really examine the man and the personality will understand that these are two outstanding qualities in this Hon. Minister. Let me deal with the imagination first of all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Roads, drainage and imagination?

Mr. SANDIFORD: A lot of imagination for him to survive up to this particular time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That was a very beautiful introduction. Let us get to the roads and drainage. I see nothing about imagination under Sub-Head 7.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, even in your constituency it would take a lot of imagination to get roads into the condition that they are in now. This Hon. Minister always come up with a lot of ideas.

I recall that he had proposals for improving the system in St. Andrew by using some overhead plastic pipes to convey water. I do not know how far he has got with that particular proposal because when the roads and the land slip, it will take only a few minutes to stick back those plastic pipes with a little solution. I do not know if that plan has been implemented yet. I recall that in 1972 he proposed, from the Opposition benches, that there should be something called a public service vehicle authority to regulate a system of training for bus conductors and bus drivers. He did tell us, he had four years in transport and he knew about these matters. I do not know whether we have that particular authority yet.

He did also make a massive proposal that taxis should carry lights on the roof, a very good proposal, I do not know whether that has been implemented yet.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to interrupt the Opposition from speaking. If the hon. member would like to read Hansard when he gets to Transport, I can answer him but I thought he would start with Roads and Drainage, the Head we are under now. He can roam as far as he feels like roaming, he can go back to 1970, the day I came into Parliament but one thing I do not do is shift positions like they do over there. Let him deal with roads now, I will answer him when he is finished. When we get to Transport which is another Head we will answer that. There is no fear where I am concerned.

5.05 p.m

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sure the hon. member knows the rules as to time. Carry on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I do not mind what I have to say about the Minister, I will say it in the time that I have and I am certain under your guidance I will have some time after because you can speak more than once. I agree that he does not shift very much; I do not know if he shifted anywhere from agriculture. Having failed to get his ideas implemented in agriculture, he is now in the Ministry of Communications and Works, and that brings me really to his second quality, that of courage, because I have heard a lot of speeches coming from members over there and on the front bench. I recall the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance daring one of his senior Ministers who want to resign to resign now, and the words of the Prime Minister prevailed. But the present Minister of Communications and Works is the only member over there who has dared the Prime Minister to fire him. He said I am leaving your Ministry, I am leaving your Cabinet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I admire the hon. member. I admire many things about the hon. member, but it is taking him so long to come to the point, to get to the business of roads and drainage. I appreciate the poetry about the language and that sort of thing, but please, there is a rule with respect to relevance. Let us get down to the question of sub-head 7 – roads and drainage. Leave out the imagination for now.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I really cannot dissociate the question of the imagination because it has to do with the roads; we are travelling a long road, Mr. Chairman, a very long road. The Minister has taken a very long time to get to this question of roads; so I can imagine your exasperation that he has not yet got down to this question of giving us a better road system in this country. Now I said I have come to praise the Minister. I have complaints, yes, but I must say this much; I have complaints, but I do not have a tale of woe as other members particularly over here have this tale of woe. The hon. member for St. Michael South West has complaints about roads in his constituency. I must say in the good constituency of St. Michael South that when in Government we were able to get some roads done, and now in Opposition I have been able to get some more roads done consequent upon some questions being asked and some prodding and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I see repairs going on to the roads that I have asked about, some of them, not all. There is a lot of work to be done. I see equipment sleeping up in that constituency overnight, and I must say that some work has been done in St. Michael South. I still get complaints from my constituents and justifiably so, but I know that this Minister has dared the Prime Minister to fire him, who said I am going home if you do not give me the tools to do my job. When I heard the hon. member for St. Philip North talk about the need for work in his constituency, I almost told him to come into St. Michael South and let me teach him now it can be done, because this Minister is trying very hard, but he has to come up against a lot of obstacles in getting that work done. He encountered a lot of obstacles in the Ministry of Agriculture until the problems got too big for him and you know a lot of imagination for the problem of agriculture, and the Prime Minister decided that he would best be at the Ministry of Communications and Works. After all he had four years working in transport in Britain, and what a better qualification for the post of Minister of Communications and Works in Barbados. And even there the frustrations built up again, so much so that at your annual conference – we know what is going on too, you know, we know what is happening inside your own organisation – your own members are criticising you. The most criticism you got was from your own members, your own party colleagues. I have heard some of them in here today dealing with you. I don't know why you are the whipping boy, but I believe you are trying. They say when man have tried their best angels can't do more, and I don't believe that you are an angel and I do not believe you can do anymore either.

Mr. Chairman, as far as drainage is concerned, this is a hardy annual. Other members have referred to the question of drainage. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central has made a plea for the Worthing Road and he has left his own constituency – I do not know if he has any designs on St. Michael West – and want to speak on behalf of the constituents of my colleague here. He believes my colleague may need some support. I would like to say that there is a drainage problem in the St. Michael area, in the St. Michael South area, and I would be glad if the Minister would use these qualities which he has in great abundance, bring his undoubted talents to bear in solving the drainage problems that are in this country, but I fear that time is not on his side. He will need a lot of time, but I fear that time is not on his side. This particular Head deals as it does with drainage and when we come to the Capital Estimates I will have some more to say about that, but it also deals with sea defence which I have not heard anything about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is something about car parks and bus stands under sub-head 7.

Mr. SANDIFORD: No; I am dealing with the matter of sea defence, adequate defence against encroachment by

the sea on all sides of the Island. Some funds are provided in here for that particular item as well, and we would like to hear inside of this Honourable Chamber what are the proposals that the Government has for dealing with this particular problem. It is one of the complaints which reached the columns of the newspapers, and we would like to know what are the proposals for dealing with this particular matter. Far from getting any better, they seem to be getting worse, and we would like to hear from the Minister on these particular matters. Most of the rest that I have to say I will reserve for the Capital Estimates, but for the time being I leave the Minister to battle with the Current Estimates and his current problems.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken on this sub-head already.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, I have spoken on drainage.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But before you come back on, I think may be I should ask some other hon. member who has not yet spoken. Does any other hon. member wish to contribute? All right, the hon. member may proceed.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I believe that I have made my point with regard to drainage and I saw when I sat down that it is a point which had not gone unmade by the Minister himself when he sat in Opposition.
5.15 p.m.

Page 661 of Hansard, 1972. I am not going to quote the Minister, because my time is to precious, but I will refer the Minister to page 661 so that he can see what he had to say on drainage. You now have an opportunity to implement the policy which you were recommending, and if the Prime Minister will not let you implement the policy, tell him and the public where you stand and do not let him stop you from resigning if you want to resign, leave.

Mr. Chairman, the question of roads, I do not share the view expressed in here that roads is a parish pump. Whatever national policies they have, in the end the effect of those policies fall on the shoulders of the ordinary citizens of this country, and I represent a parish, St. Michael South West. It is a parish in their minds so far as parish pump politics are concerned. About three years ago, the very first Estimates at which the hon. member for St. Andrew was holding the illustrious portfolio of Minister of Communications and Works, I got up in this Hon. House and I charged that that hon. member had stopped work being done on roads in St. Michael South West. That hon. member, the hon. member for the City, another hon. member whose name escapes me, and some others over there shouted it was not true, it could not happen. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central had gone in his capacity of Minister of Communications and Works through that constituency and had indicated that he had included in his national plan provision for doing the work in Passage Garden specifically. Mr. Chairman, three and a half years later they have not put a single solitary grit, not one single solitary grit, in any part of Passage Road; not one.

Now, Sir, I do not believe, I refuse to believe that the people of Barbados can suffer because of how they vote, and if it was so the time has come for it to stop. It is wrong that the people of St. Michael South West must come to feel that the reason why they cannot get a single road done, not one. Three years I have been in here and it is a waste of time my trying to represent them if I come in here year after year and draw to the attention of the Minister that the roads have gone beyond the point of disrepair, they are now non-existent, in the 20th century, 1980, and one mile out of Bridgetown we have roads that have become health hazards, Mr. Chairman, roads where mosquitoes are spawning, roads where a drizzle becomes a flood. That is what we have one mile out of Bridgetown in 1980, and we dare to walk about telling people that we have a country that is developed.

I say that without reference to the specific Minister, that the Government, indeed all the people who are involved in this administration, stand indicted if in fact the reason why those roads have not been done, including the last 15 years, 20 years of Government of the people. I have no apology to make for that. Twenty years of Government by people like themselves, and people living one mile from Bridgetown cannot step out into the road and go and catch a bus. But the difference between that 15 years – and I have told them how I feel about that – is that three years ago you over there said it was not true you had stopped the work and that you would do it, and now three and a half years later I have to be standing up in the House of Assembly begging a Minister to please go and fix one single road a mile away from Bridgetown.

Mr. Chairman, I could accept that if I could look to some other part of the constituency and see that the reason why they have not gone to Passage Road is that they had gone somewhere else. I have told people in the constituency that it is not true that it has stopped. I believe that it is not true that it has stopped. I have to believe that, because if I do not believe I will lose total faith in the concept of Government in this country, but the evidence is piling up, Sir. Three and a half years later there is.....(Mr. SIMMONS: They will soon spite you too).

You must be interfere with them. Mr. Chairman, three and a half years later the roads in Alkins have not been touched, the roads next to the Eagle Hall Market are a disgrace to this country; Rock Gap, Hanschell Land, yes, either side, but we have a market where food is exposed every day and the people in that vicinity have to eat food that they buy out of trays, and we have a road right next to the market which when the rain falls helps to form a place for mosquitoes to live. It is disease ridden, it is an area that is a blot on the concept of public health in this country far less the concept of communications.

Mr. Chairman, as for Jubilee Gap, some years ago, in 1975 I believe, one of the Directors of Bosvigo Limited, a distinguished and eminent purveyor – Mr. Chairman, I will say what I have to say about what he purveys at another time – went and sat down with me in a Ministry because persons had made representation about the road that goes from Barbarees Hill through to Peterkins. Some people call it Jubilee Gap, some people call it Taylor's Gap. We went to the Town Planner and the Town Planner agreed that the Planning Committee agreed with the cutting up of the particular tenantry, and so far as I am concerned, the matter was settled. They have started to sell the land, but the road in Jubilee Gap continues to be nothing more than a cesspool. It is nothing short of a cesspool, Mr. Chairman, although it is supposed to be a road. If you look at the map you will see it, and right next to it is a baker's shop. It runs off Barbarees Hill, about one-eighth of a mile from the corner of Eagle Hall and you come to a baker's shop and you turn left, that is Jubilee Gap, and up there is nothing short of a cesspool, and I contend that in the 20th century it is nothing short of scandalous that we could have those kind of conditions in Barbados in that situation, and I do not accept whereas I might have accepted it in 1976 or even 1977 I do not accept any contention by them that I must look back. They told us that we must look forward, that is how they came to power. They went and told the people 'put us in power and we will take you forward' and what have they done? They have dropped the people down in a well and they have no cleaners to help them get back out.

Mr. Chairman, if I speak with some emotion it is because I feel. My representation is not merely a question of getting a political vote, these are persons to whom you give a commitment that you will try for them, and they have a right to expect from this House of Assembly and from the administration in this country that some small step will be taken to improve the standard of their lives. Instead of going forward we are going backward. I issue a warning to that Government, it is a short-sighted policy that suggests that where a person other than a member of your own party has been elected that you will do nothing in that constituency. It is a short-sighted policy. 5.25 p.m.

If you are following other people who did it, you are going to end up like two blind men in the same ditch. If you are following your own policy you are being dishonest because that is not what you promised the people; you told them you are going to do A and you have done Z. We cannot as ordinary people in that constituency look at a single solitary thing you have done which brings any improvement to the lives of the people in that constituency; and you told me three years ago that it was not true, when I have clear proof that instructions had been given by the former Minister of Communications and Works to stop all work in the constituency. And now the hon. member has taken over, a member who knows the constituency well as he had his roots in the constituency. *(Asides)* I am not going to deviate from that; I want to be on his good side. Just one road Mr. Minister, any road in that constituency that you do I will be grateful for, because those people have a right to believe in something in this country and they are fast losing faith, were it not for their representative to give them some consolation from time to time. The roads in my constituency deserve to be at least looked at and we have had officials from the Ministry of Communications and Works come and watch.....*(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, can I be protected from some of the hon. members of this House?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have one minute to wind up.

Mr. TAITT: The old people in this House of Assembly are getting more and more miserable as time goes on. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank those members of the staff of MCW who have taken the trouble from time to time to come and look at things in the area – mosquito – laden water, for instance. I hope they will find it possible within the parameters of their authority to go beyond looking at the water when they pay their visits.

Mr. Chairman, I know the hon. member will agree with me that this is the place to address grievances. He is a grievance to me; I am not able with him and I wish you would help me.

But I must wind up. I would like to thank those officials who have been decent enough to come and give the people some hope, and I appeal to the Minister to come and look at the situation in St. Michael West and the surrounding area. Some of your colleagues over there can get up and tell you, as I am doing, for they must feel the grievance too. I do not know why the hon. member for St. Michael North West would not get up and talk in here; he could assist me in bringing to the attention of the Minister the dangerous situation – it is a situation beyond neglect, it is dangerous; it is dangerous when you have a situation like that in my constituency with the possibility of the spread of disease because of

negligence of the Government. I feel the time has come for the Minister to break away from the policy of his colleagues and remember that he too has roots in that constituency and should do something to assist those people in believing once again in the paramountcy of the Democratic system.

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, I want all hon. members to know that I possess the ability to speak when I have to speak; but unlike hon. members on the other side, I understand what is meant by representation. You do not only represent constituents when you stand up in the House of Assembly and criticise a Minister. Instead of doing the foolish things, the hon. member was doing a minute ago, I took the opportunity last week to contact the Minister of Communications and Works and make a complete tour of St. Michael North West to show him the roads which needed to be done; and I have the assurance that these roads will be done. That is what I mean by representation.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way. I am a little concerned that he is suggesting that I have been wasting my time; that frightens me. Is the hon. member suggesting that anything said in here is a waste of time as far as the Government Ministers over-there are concerned?

Mr. ALLEYNE: That is a misinterpretation of what I said. I said I do not have to get up and waste time, because I recognize that if I have already spoken to the Minister and the roads are going to be fixed, I am only wasting the time of other hon. members who might wish to speak. I do not have to get up and ask for anything to be done because I make it my business to go out there and find out what the problems are and write the Ministry and get the thing done. That is what I mean by representation and that is all I have to say.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I must say it has been a tremendous pleasure to hear the hon. member for St. Michael North West speak in this Honourable House. I believe it is the second time I have heard him since I entered this Honourable House approximately two years ago.

However, to get down to the question of the roads in Barbados and the associated problem of drainage, I think that the presence of the wide gaps in the road, the presence of the pot holes and the presence of the infected cesspools referred to are a manifestation of the inefficiency, incompetence and lack of social conscience on the part of the present administration. In fact, they are bankrupt in respect of any concept as to what is required in terms of infra-structural development whether in social or economic terms. The roads in Barbados over the last fifty-years – until this present administration has come along, had been the best in the Caribbean. There are not many people who would realize that the old cart roads are substantially better roads that the present thin roads we find in some of the more modern developments. Successive administrations – and I must give due credit to the previous Barbados Labour Party administration – and the Democratic Labour Party administration recognized the importance of roads not only to the social development of Barbados but also to its economic development.

3.35 p.m.

The pattern of the distribution of roads in Barbados you will note very carefully has developed around centres of economic activity to begin with where you might find very good roads leading to nowhere but to a Plantation and then you get another type of activity related to housing developments and so on.

Now, Mr. Chairman, whereas the whole question of the social and the health effects and other problems relating to the deterioration of our roads have been raised by other speakers, it must be understood that the whole question of internal transport which is dependent on proper roads, properly serviced, properly drained, that this is fundamental to the economic development of this country.

Whether it be in tourism, whether it be manufacturing, whether it be the construction industry, whether it be agriculture, whether it is a loss in foreign exchange consequential on the constant breakages of parts of motor vehicles travelling on these roads, whether it would be dangerous to health but increasing the number of accidents on the road, in every single sphere of activity you will find that proper roads constitute fundamental infra-structure for the development of this country.

Now we must ask ourselves why have these roads been allowed to go into this disastrous state of disrepair. Much as I would like to attack the former Minister of Communications and Works and much as I would like to attack the present Minister of Communications and Works, I have to be very honest in this matter because it is but a reflection of the general Government policy that has taken over this country since the Barbados Labour Party took over.

They have failed to understand that whereas Government has a revenue collection function, they also have an important function on how they allocate the revenue which has been developed and the extent to which that is allocated. The infra-structural services, the social services etc., determine how the totality of the developmental picture in a country takes place because if you look at the Estimates over the past three years and when you account for inflation, and inflation has no doubt hit

the area of construction, and the area of buildings has been probably hit even more severely than food.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I may, I did not wish to interrupt you. The hon. member is performing very very well but this speech is really a second reading speech. This is for detail.

Dr. HAYNES: I am dealing with the matter in detail because it is a fundamental problem. There is no point talking about the roads outside the Honourable House of Assembly. The fundamental problem is the attitude of Government to the development and the attitude of Government to provide social and infra-structural services and utilisation of Government funds.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is dealing with broad, general Government policies which are perfectly in order for second reading.

Dr. HAYNES: But I am referring to the question of roads.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am only asking the hon. member to be specific.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I will be more specific in relation to the roads. I have pointed out that the roads are essential for the development of the infra-structure. I am talking not only about the roads in St. Michael South Central but I believe I have the responsibility to talk about roads throughout the country, including St. George North.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Car parks too.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking specifically on roads in the context of Government policy and it must be understood that the responsibility for the state of these roads is due to poor allocation of resources and the tragedy about it is this that whereas all sorts of excuses can be made by referring to heavy rainfalls, by referring to defective materials, by referring to increased traffic on the road as being causes of the deterioration. I must submit to you, Mr. Chairman, that the damage that has been done to the roads in Barbados it would probably take any administration in this country probably another five to ten years to restore them to the state that they were in five years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I am trying to draw to your attention that when you allow the roads to break down, when that surface breaks, it is essential that you should have the services in the Ministry of Communications and Works to go inside there and repair it as soon as possible and we have the appropriate materials to get it done.

Now I have seen many examples of this happen in St. Michael South Central. St. Michael South Central has been recently serviced with roads over the past years. My predecessor, Mr. Sleepy Smith, did a very good job as far as roads are concerned in St. Michael South Central. Now I think that it is a tragedy that because of lack of maintenance that they are falling consistently into a state of disrepair and causing considerable hardship to the people of the area and when the Government gets around to repairing those roads it would probably cost then ten times as much as if they had put in immediate repair services as far as those roads are concerned, instead of coming in here with weak excuses talking about it was the quality of the materials used on the road and that type of nonsense and asking us to accept that.

The fact is that whatever materials you have you have to patch the roads until you can get better materials. You just cannot allow them to deteriorate. You just cannot allow people to have their cars broken up and their springs broken up and any amount of accidents, cars destroyed, causing the country millions of dollars in foreign exchange because of inadequate roads destroying your whole internal communications structure, interferring with the proper communications relating to our industrial infra-structure and to your tourist infra-structure and coming here and saying that you cannot do anything for three years until you get the right kind of materials.

It is highly irresponsible and it shows lack of planning, a lack of understanding and indeed I am satisfied that it is not particularly the fault of those people who held those Ministries in the capacity as Ministers. The fault lies with the Hon. Prime Minister and his chief adviser, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central who believes he knows everything about everything on God's earth.

If those roads had been patched, if they had been repaired, we would not be faced with this position and I have already pointed out in this Honourable House that this kind of Capital Expenditure is going to be very difficult for this country to afford such an aggressive programme in repairing those roads in a short period of time unless we resort to an excessive or rather it is already excessive taxation, or to more excessive taxation or more excessive borrowing.

The fact is that there are certain things in life that when you allow them to deteriorate to a certain extent, then you have endless problems in trying to solve them. I am attempting, Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence not to confine myself purely to the problems of individual roads because I think that many members

have brought that acute problem to this Honourable House.
5.45 p.m.

I have tried to look at the overall perspectives relating to this matter and to challenge the Government to deny that it was not neglect, incompetence, failure to allocate enough funds to those persons who have had the responsibility for those Ministries and I think the responsibility must lie with the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Finance in the first instance. Not that I wish to give any support to the Ministers on that side, if they had the guts as Ministers, they would get up and say what their problem has been and they would get the support not only of this side but of the back benchers on that side, and may well be some of the front benchers on that side. Face the problems that exist and try to apply the remedies. Do not let us just deal with symptoms, let us deal with the basic disease process and I will end as I began, the infected cesspools, the pot holes, and the cracks are but a physical manifestation of what is going on in this present administration.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute please. I want to say that you are moving on very slowly on these Estimates, The Hon. Minister may continue.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am just on a point of order.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: There is nothing for a point of order. I am on my feet and I am not giving way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I want to enquire if the rule where an Hon. member in Committee could speak more than once still applies.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Hon. Minister can speak and he will speak. This does not deny him his right to reply. The hon. member has already spoken and he will have another chance too. We have been told this long ago, we all know the rules.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The hon. member who has just sat down has obviously hit upon a policy of criticising one way for one thing and swinging the other way for the other thing.

He started off the beginning of these Estimates by talking about the National Debt of this country and he followed in the same vein of the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition who keeps talking about the High National Debt. He starts off today on roads by saying that he blames the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and his assistant for not providing enough money for the provision of roads. He talked about Mr. F. G. Smith having repaired roads and he says those roads are now in a state of disrepair.

I rise at this point and they can talk afterwards because whenever they are finished, I am going to talk again. If Mr. F. G. Smith had carried out proper road repairs, as he is saying, any roads, based on the principles accepted by the Ministry of Communications and Works and the standards which they insist would last this country for a minimum of 10 years.

On that side, there is still an Hon. member who was Minister for Communications and Works. He said, you must not blame road making material, you must not blame the technicians at the Ministry of Communications and Works, you must blame the Government of the Barbados Labour Party. I have reached the stage in this Hon. House where I do not listen to anything that he says. I have written the last statement which caught my ear and it says this, "Why have these roads been allowed to go into this state of disrepair. General policy since the Barbados Labour Party took over power." He talks about the social, health effect, transportation problems and drainage problems of roads in this country.

I want to tell him that the same F. G. Smith, when he was Minister responsible for Communications and Works and I was in the Opposition, he told me, if he had his own way, he would build a road around St. Joseph because they do not vote for the Democratic Labour Party and they cannot get anything done. True enough, they got nothing done with 15 years of Democratic Labour Party policy. *(Asides).* You started to do the junction of Gaggs Hill and left it – I begged you, I asked you personally. They did Mapps Road for $15,000 for two people. Mr. Mapp, the Secretary of the branch of the Democratic Labour Party and Mr. Lloyd Smith, the candidate for the Democratic Labour Party. Fifteen thousand dollars for one piece of road, that is the only thing that was done in St. Joseph.

Let me go back to the record and let me tell the hon. member for St. Michael South Central – thank God the Civil Servants understand the effect of keeping records. I am going to read from the Ministry File 02250 P.S.M.C.W., this appears over the signature of H. Griffith and this is 22/7/1975:

> "Research has revealed that up to and including 1969, the contracts were worded thus, 'The contractor hereby agrees that the sources of supply of raw materials will be subject to the approval of the Chief Technical Director of the Ministry of Communications and Works and tests may be required to be taken by the supplier'. From and including 1970 the relevant clause was changed to read 'All materials shall be in accordance with

specification of the Asphalt Institute of America and the sources of supply of raw materials shall be subject to the approval of the C.T.D., M.C.W.' From the date of commencement of the purchase of vitreous products by tender, 1964–65, the Director of Highways and Transport sought and obtained approval for the insertion of the clause in the tender notice 'the material should be in accordance with the Asphalt Institute of America specifications.' "

In spite of this, I do not want to call the name of the firm in Bridgetown, in their submission from year to year, they always stipulated, "We feel that we should point out that to the best of our belief and at the time of writing emulsified asphalt with the Institute of America specifications are not being manufactured locally." I stop here and pause.

It was the Democratic Labour Party that entered into agreement with Mobil to be the sole supplier of road making materials in this country. In 1962, a long term agreement which last year, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and myself discussed with Mobil the breaking of that agreement because we said we were dissatisfied with the quality of vitreous product that were being supplied to fix our roads. You know what Mr. Felton, the manager told us, we have a long term agreement, you cannot import it from overseas. I told him when we import it you do what you feel like. Let him come back in here, he likes to talk and run outside because he believes when he talks late in the evening that the Press would pick up everything he says and the Government would not get a word in. That is why I am talking at this stage.
5.55 p.m.

It would appear that in 1970, and he said "See Minute Paper 3115/74 Minutes 36 – 43: In respect of a query from Crown Solicitor in connection with securities that the matter of quality of bituminous products was raised, leading perhaps to the amendment to the clause in the contract agreement. However the company continued up to 1973 to include in its tender the words "to specifications as established by the local refinery and as supplied to you during the years 1969 to date". Our supplies will be drawn from the local refinery. I have been in touch with management, Mobil Oil Barbados Ltd. who inform me that the source and quality of crude oil have changed in recent years. Apparently Venezuela is the present source of supply. He recognises that the emulsified asphalt as produced by the refinery varies, but this is also due it seems to the variation of the grade of crude oil received. It would therefore appear that there is no fixed standard. There has been an accepted standard during, between or rather the typical values as shown at 40."

Now, Mr. Chairman, a little later and this is about two days later when the then Permanent Secretary was dealing with the file again, this is what the Chief Technical Director said again. "I have already protested against the material being supplied now and during the last two to three years. What has been the result of that protest? There is no alternative except we import the material from overseas. If we reject the emulsified asphalt supplied, the road maintenance division would have to close down, except the section dealing with weeding and concreting."

Now let me go further. Mr. Chairman, in May 1976, this was the stock of road-making material in Barbados to do roads. Now when you talk about roads starting to deteriorate from 1976, they should tell you that they were deteriorating before 1976. It reached part way through its maximum point in May. (A VOICE: What is the point?) What is the point? You know what is the point. City, one barrel of RC 2; North-East district 15 barrels; South-east district 6 barrels, 2 barrels.

Now they all talk about the roads. Never since the Democratic Labour Party talked about doing subsidiary roads and tenantry roads have they ever done as many roads that have been done last year. Forty-three tenantry and subsidiary roads were done by the Ministry of Communications and Works last year. (Mr. TAITT: And St. Michael South West could not get in that?) No, you could not get one done; do you know why? The area you talked about in here was the area owned by the gentleman whom the Democratic Labour Party vowed they would never do anything for around Eagle Hall because of that gentleman. Look up your files and you will see. Look at the enquiries and you will see. You were a member of the Cabinet then and you knew quite well what was going on in the area. Don't talk about mosquitoes now.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, is the hon. member saying that because the area I represent has a large area belonging to one Hanschell that that is why he is saying the Democratic Labour Party decided that they would not do anything?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am talking about....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is plainly an interruption.

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir, I am raising a question under the Standing Orders.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Let us get ahead. We are way behind time. Let us not waste the time of the Committee.

Mr. TAITT: Ask the Minister to assist us in that regard then, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would you assist the Chair?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I was not a Cabinet member in those days, Mr. Chairman. If he were a Cabinet member and he does not remember, how does he expect me to remember? I would have to search the files and I have not got the files with me. I have not got that particular file. (Mr. GREAVES: Look at the one with the cows.) The one with the cows also includes the land at Mangrove. That is what you are to look for, the one at Mangrove with the piece of land and the connection in the Registration Office. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Lucy.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: That is what you have to look for, the land at Mangrove.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I will not have it.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: You want a file? I will give you the one on Mangrove soon. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Communications and Works as far as I am concerned does not operate on a hit and miss manner. I take the question of roads as a national programme and it worried me when I visited with several members of Parliament, as the hon. member has said, roads within one mile of Bridgetown where people are stepping out of their houses into mud. There are areas around Clapham, there are areas around Eagle Hall, as the hon. member has said, where people have got to walk with two pairs of shoes, one to walk out to the main road and the other to wear if they want to look decent walking the streets, and it didn't happen in 1976. It started before 1976, and I have set out a national programme for roads. I have told the Prime Minister in no uncertain terms that we must come to grips with the problems. In July 1979 I went to Cabinet and I said I needed permission to fix roads by private contract. I have compiled a list of roads that have to be fixed, Mr. Chairman. (Mr. TAITT: The Prime Minister should resign then!) No, because your administration left the country in so much debt that it is a miracle we have been able to fix any roads at all in 1979. (Mr. TAITT: So why you wouldn't resign?)

Mr. Chairman, starting in St. Peter, you see Hopes Alley; St. Thomas, Cane Field Tenantry Road; St. Lucy, Crab Hill, Rent Ground Road, Norman Goodridge Road, Gilkes Village Road, Butchers Tenantry Road in St. Lucy. St. James, Carmichael Road, Chapel Gap; First and Second Avenue Fitts Village; St. George, Paradise Village off Market Hill; Thorpes Cottage Road off Corbins Land, Taylors Land, Workmans; St. Philip, Eastbourne Road, Thicketts Tenantry Road, Balsam Road, Rendezvous Hill, Hinkson Road, Rendezvous, Vauxhall Tenantry Road, Enterprise Lighthouse Road; Rendezvous Terrace Road, Gospel Hall, Dayrells Road, Harpers Land, First Ave. Gibbons, McClean Road, Silver Sands; St. Michael, Philip Road, Fairfield, Bedford Land Bush Hall, Link Road, Ifill Road Clapham, Ifill East-West Road, Gas Products Road; St. James, St. John the Baptist No. 2, Blenman Road, Durants Village, Husbands Road, Rock Dundo Tenantry Road, Halls Village, Campion Castle, Price Road, Short Alley Mile-and-a-Quarter; Clarke's Road St. Michael. Husbands Tenantry Road, Leadvale Tenantry Road, Broomefield Tenantry Road, Hope Tenantry Road, Alexander Road, Leacock Road, Catlyn Gap, St. James; Berbice Road No. 1 and 2, The Bartlett Drive, Vauxhall Tenantry Road, Windy Ridge, Balls, Coverley, St. Patricks, Warners, Gilkes Land near Fairfield, Dears Road, Mapp Land, Dodson Land, Griffith Land, Crichlow Land, Peterkin Road.

6.05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we have put together a programme of roads this year that will cost the Ministry of Communications and Works about $4 million. We have had an increase in our budget for ordinary road maintenance of $4,579,712, but we face a problem. The problem is that we have a shortage of at least five engineers at the Ministry of Communications and Works. We have had the situation that with the building boom in Barbados an engineer who was working in the Ministry gave us 24 hours notice that he was going to work with private enterprise. We have got applications for technical assistants, for engineers, quantity surveyors, land surveyors, and we cannot get them in Barbados. We cannot get artisans in Barbados. If tomorrow any member of Parliament, any member of the public can supply the Ministry of Communications and Works with masons and carpenters we can find some more labourers and get some more road work done. That is the situation. Not that the Ministry of Finance has not provided the money required, it is there. Last year we did not spend what we had in the Estimates simply because we cannot find the artisans to put on the roads.

I come now to Halls Road corner which one member wants to talk about. We have had a stop-gap process because like well diggers they come into the Ministry, you put them to work and they work two days and then you cannot find them afterwards because they go somewhere else because they have more work than there are people. (Mr. TAITT: I have a lot of people.) Send them up, send them to the Personnel Department, don't send them to me. Mr. Chairman, let me get back to Halls Road. We have been doing Halls Road, we had a situation where you find a mason today but then he leaves and goes to work in private enterprise but we have got to a point where the junction at Halls Road can be finished. Because of the sewerage project Halls Road was scheduled for doing in 1981. We held a meeting with the technicians and we said that we are coordinating all the road work in this country and we asked them to speed up the state of Halls Road so that we can finish the junction once

and for all, and this is exactly what has happened. We cannot go any further at Halls Road until the sewerage work has been completed from the junction to the globe roundabout. It brings me to another point.

We have also put together a programme in the Ministry. This Government is committed to giving water to every home in Barbados by 1981. The Capital Estimates might say 1985 but let me explain what that means. (Mr. TAITT: We have not got to water yet). I have it now because you are talking about roads and the question of water is bound up with roads. We are in a situation, Mr. Chairman, where every time somebody applies for water Waterworks has got to cut across the road and then MCW goes later to resurface, and then the next door neighbour asks for water and you have to cut again and you have to resurface. We have agreed that the Waterworks Department will put in water for anybody who wants water for a 10% deposit. The Chief Engineer of Waterworks has told me that it is going to cost about $200 average per connection. It may be less, it may be a little more, but we come to $200 and we want everybody in Barbados to apply now to the Ministry so that we can put in all the water at one time and resurface the roads at one time.

Another point, Mr. Chairman, we have got a national programme for road reconstruction. Somebody wants me to explain. What we are asking is to pay the down payment of $20 and get the water. We would like it now because we want to give everybody water by 1981.

Mr. Chairman, we have discovered that because of the poor quality of the bituminous product we have been receiving from Mobil and we are now carrying out our patching programme with the hot mix. We started to use cement when we could get no asphalt, we are now using the hot mix and as we go along we will continue to resurface the roads. We have entered into discussion about a new barber green plant and to receive lake asphalt from Trinidad, and that is still in the formative stage, but we hope that that will be a better road making material than what we are getting at the moment. You do not complete these discussions overnight, it takes time to plan. We have got to bring it in bulk from Trinidad, you have to look for storage, you have to change compietely the method of application, and it is not something that can be done overnight. If the hon. member on that side were as vigilant about the stage of the roads when they were in power probably we would have had a new system in operation because they well knew from the notes on the files that the product they received from Mobil was substandard and it would lead to the situation that we have reached today.

Some member, Mr. Chairman, spoke about road signs. We have also entered into discussion with the Tourist Board about a national road sign programme. If you go up Bay Street, start from the bridge and you will not see a sign on the road telling you that you are on Bay Street. You will see a sign telling you to Bay Street. There are a number of roads in Barbados still without signposts or any kind of indication. (Mr. TAITT: Some of them have, everywhere you turn you see a sign pointing to Grantley Adams). Mr. Chairman, the least you can do to honour a great man the hon. member even wants to pull that down.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, I join with all those who do not wish to pull down that late and great man, it is that we do not wish to lift up the other one.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: We have entered into discussion with the Tourist Board and we hope shortly to enter into a new phase of naming all our roads in particular the main roads.
6.15 p.m.

As I said earlier, we have entered into private contract for the construction of some of our roads and we hope by this method to speed up the repairs to our roads.

Mr. Chairman, let me turn to the question of drainage. There was a drainage study completed in this country in 1973. The study revealed at that time that it would have required $30 million to remedy the flooding that hon. members have spoken about. Nothing has been done, yet I hear so much today about international funding. But no steps were taken by the Democratic Labour Party to search for money and for discussions with international organizations on funding such a programme and so we are suffering from that today. I remember before I went to the Ministry of Communications and Works that Olivees Gap in Spooners Hill used to be flooded. My technical officers went in -- the hon. member for St. Michael South West talked about his colleague when he was Minister -- I went out there when it was raining; I called my officers and we could only find what is now the new water course when it is raining, because people have built over the old water course; and we sank four wells in order to relieve the problem in Olivees Gap. We have gone into St. Thomas and in Goodland where there is flooding. We have not done it by constituencies represented by the Barbados Labour Party; we have done it on complaints of residents and my officers have gone out and pinpointed areas where we have sunk wells, and if we can find enough well diggers we will sink more wells. We have also been investigating new methods of sinking wells.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. In my speech I said that if you check with Gilkes Land right through behind Estwick pasture leading down to the sea -- that is the area I am talking about.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: We looked at the road he is talking about three months ago.

Mr. TAITT: As you come from Fairfield Road and from Gilkes' house where the water used to flow freely, that has been choked for the past few years. I think the hon. member for St. Michael West would be able to direct....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I have visited the area with the hon. member for St. Michael West, and the solution to drainage is divided between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Communications and Works. As I said, Mr. Chairman, our problem is really people to do that kind of work; it is not that the Ministry is unaware of the problem.

Now we come to another problem connected with drainage, and that is weeding. Mr. Chairman, you have heard a lot about a weeding programme which I have tried to introduce and I believe it is premature for me to say much about this yet, because as I understand it the National Union of Public Workers is having their say, but the time will come when MCW will talk and the public will understand. And when you talk about stuff being weeded and left at the side of the road, the time will come, because I believe I heard there was some talk about a strike. We are only waiting for the strike. Go and ask the women by the side of the road who take home $230 a week and work from 7 to 11. *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, if we look at the street lighting programme. Now street lighting, as hon. members will know, has been a function of the Barbados Light and Power Company. They send us a programme, it is approved based on the money in the vote or on the number of street lights available. This Government is committed to giving every household in this country electricity, and street lighting goes along with the programme, and this Government took a further half million dollars in shares in the Barbados Light and Power with the idea that electricity will be carried to every village in this country. Since last year Light and Power told us that they had 500 street lamps available, and we worked out a programme based on the total applications in the Ministry and what Light and Power submitted, and I will tell the hon. member for St. Lucy who is always coming in here crying – how the programme is going: St. Joseph first – home drums first; St. Thomas next, St. Lucy third, St. Peter fourth, St. James fifth. As I understand it we wrote Light and Power since early last year and asked them to renew the lighting at the Harbour Industrial Park. Those lights were installed when the park was established. I understand there has been a problem with subterranean termites and we have to renew the whole system down there. They have not done anything yet and have told us they do not have enough money from the last rate hearing to allow them to undertake this work. However, we are still waiting and the Ministry has not withdrawn its request to Light and Power to install the 500 lights they have available for lighting at the Harbour Industrial Park.

When it comes to lights that are not functioning we have complained to Light and Power and they have told us that they have two people in each district who drive around at night to inform them of lights that are not functioning.
6.25 p.m.

We are monitoring the situation. We reduce the bills as they are received and we bring to their attention that we are not satisfied with what is happening. That is the situation as far as I know it.

Now the wayside garages. Cabinet has taken a decision and we had an investigation of all wayside garages, not Bowen's Old Car Museum alone. We have done a total wayside investigation of 350, as I am told, and we are looking at the area that would be opened as soon as the Spring Garden Road goes through and we are inviting Mr. Bowen and those in the St. Michael area either to be located in a section of that area or to start looking for suitable grounds where they can all go so that we can clean up the face of St. Michael and move these wayside garages from impeding traffic on the normal roadway.

We have asked them to look at the areas. We have suggested an area. We have looked at areas in Green Hill and we have looked all around and we have suggested to them to indicate where they want to go. Government will assist them and help them in order to move them from off the sidewalks and put them in proper covered areas.

Mr. TAITT: While the Minister is studying I wonder if he would give way for a moment on a point of elucidation.

Mr. Chairman, he said that the Government would give them assistance and Bowen is very well imbedded in my constituency and could he be a little more specific in this area of assistance? I would like to be able to say to my constituent what kind of assistance generally speaking he would be able to look forward to.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it is not in my position to say at this stage without negotiating with Mr. Bowen what kind of assistance will be given. As far as I am concerned as Minister if I had to discuss it with Mr. Bowen, I would sit down at arms' length with Mr. Bowen and hear what he can do for himself and then what he expects Government to do for him in the light that Mr. Bowen is training and we have to understand that in this country that people have got to bear part of their natural cost.

Let us get back to the specific members who have spoken. The hon. member for St. Philip South spoke of his road in Gemswick. I have told the hon. member before that part of the programme for St. Philip will be Gemswick. There are five districts as set out by MCW around the Island. Each district, if somebody wishes to know how they are assigned, each district has it own construction team, it own maintenance team, its own drainage team and the way I am doing it, somebody wants to know about a policy.

I do not believe that I should pave all the main roads in this country so that Barbadians who have immigrated to the United States or Britain, when they have come home for a three weeks holiday can tell you how pretty the City looks but they do not move off the main roads to come into the back or the side streets or the dirty roads.

I believe that the people who live in the suburban and rural areas must enjoy some of the normal amenities of life that are expected by others and I have divided my programme between the main roads and the subsidiary or tenantry roads. That is as far as I am concerned and I have told the hon. member for St. Philip South that when we are doing St. Philip that we have a programme to barber green the roads from the Airport right through to St. Philip. We have agreed with the Airport Project that we will use the Barber Green Machine now that the Airport is finished. We have a problem with the quality of stone and with the materials that we are now getting. We are now looking at a new composition and as soon as we get that going basically the roads in Barbados will be done with hot mix. That is the situation as it stands.

Now as to the general position of the roads. I found a situation, Mr. Chairman, in which MCW was responsible for certain roads and the National Housing Corporation responsible for certain roads. Now I believe that all roads in Barbados will one day come under Central Government. The Democratic Labour Party destroyed Local Government. They destroyed the Vestry System and you have Central Government and I have told my Officers at the Ministry that I do not believe in the concept that you do not take over a private development until you get a petition from people living in the areas.

As far as I am concerned, the moment you destroyed the Vestry System and the Local Government you destroyed the system of petitions and I feel that as soon as the roads are completed whether it is National Housing or private development MCW, as long as it has been constructed to the specifications prescribed by the Town and Country Planning Department and carried out by the construction people who belong to Central Government, and this is the reason why we sat down and decided that everybody who wants water should apply now, even if your are in a private development because when you cut the road, I am insisting that the road be resurfaced immediately and that, I believe, will save some of the problems and some of the complaints that I am getting in the rainy season and daily from people who live in private developments and that is my belief on the roads.

The drainage in Worthings. As I said before, Worthings is a problem. St. Lawrence Gap is a problem, but here again, Mr. Chairman, you have massive development programmes in that area. A Hotel which was built by a member of that party went right across the initial drainage. We have gone into St. Lawrence Gap and as I understand it too, South Winds has got a massive development programme.

The final problem is that there will be re-aligning of the roads and we have been told not to fix St. Lawrence Gap in that area because of the heavy vehicles which will be travelling through there over the next nine to ten months so we will fix it today and then it will be broken up. We have vehicles in this country which are travelling as much as thirty times over roads that nobody expected more than a donkey cart would have travelled over.

We have containers and that is why this Government in its planning is looking at the new Spring Garden Road, and a new Industrial Park because we believe that the Bond Office should be placed down that road which will be constructed to a standard that would carry this type of heavy vehicle.

When the hon. member for St. Philip North said that we had no strategy, he knows as well as the World I spent a Sunday morning visiting his constituency. When he talks about the Water Works is ready to put in water but there is no road alignment, we have had to employ a young man out of the Polytechnic who failed one part of his Surveyors' Examination in order to try and get some of the surveying done.

The roads that we are getting done by private enterprise were out since November for estimates but private contractors say they cannot even get technical officers to help supply information to the Ministry and the system we are using. Let us look at what we call the AMS Programme because as I said we want to give everybody water by 1981. Instead of spending $600,000 on an AMS Programme this year, we have spent $1 million in putting mains in tenantries in the byways.

The hon. member should understand that we are not just going to cut a track and put down water mains. We are going to excavate the roads. When you go to a foundation then you put in the water and you build the road all at once so that if anybody in the Waterworks is telling the hon. member that they are ready but MCW is not ready,

that is the kind of person who is frustrating the work in the Ministry.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. My problem is that in following the Minister's contention now, water has been in Jubilee Gap for the last year, Sir. They have the water. I wonder if he can expand to say if when the water goes in what is the hold up in getting the water.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if as he states in his statement that Jubilee Gap is being sold, that is a question for the developers, not MCW. He should know that. I understand that he is a Management Consultant and he should know that when a developer is developing the land, he must submit a plan to the Town and Country Planning, the Town Planner sends it to MCW for comments, have cost of water and we send it back. If the developer pays the 75% that is required of him, then the Waterworks goes in and puts in the water.
6.35 p.m.

If you say it is being sold, that is the developers' problem not the Ministry of Communications and Works so he has to ask the developer how come he is selling the land and he has not completed the roads but one thing I know from the legal side, he cannot give a conveyance unless he gets a certificate of compliance. It is not the Government to lick over Taylor's Gap or Jubilee Gap, it is the developer, the man you said you know something about, not us in this case.

On our A.M.S. Programme that is, laying mains, 24,530 feet of 4 inch mains were done this year. A million dollars in work nearly twice as much as has been done in the previous year. Water mains and the Hon. member should listen, Headley's Road, Top Rock; Welchtown, St. Peter; Blackman's Tenantry Road, St. Joseph; Gilkes Land, Fairfield; Tudor Bridge, St. Michael; Hoytes Village, St. James; Taylors Gap, Eagle Hall, St. Michael 300 feet of 4 inch main; 1st Avenue Grazettes, Thicketts Tenantry Road; Welches Tenantry Road, St. Thomas; 1st Avenue Peterkins Land, Bank Hall; Fields Gap, Bank Hall; Cleavers Hill, St. Joseph; Newbury, St. George; Browne's Gap, St. Michael; 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenues Peterkins Land, Bank Hall, St. Michael; Dodson Land Black Rock, St. Michael; Murray's Road, Clevedale Road, Black Rock, St. Michael; Trents Tenantry, St. Lucy; Mount Hill, St. George; and Silver Hill Tenantry in Christ Church.

Mr. Chairman, it has been said that I am one of the hardest task masters anybody has had to work under as a Minister. I do not deny that because I do not believe that I can live as long as I would like to live to see what I would like to see done in this country. I do not believe that people living out there could live long enough to enjoy what they thought they would have enjoyed under the Democratic Labour Party unless I push my officers to the hilt to give them it in the time of the Barbados Labour Party. I have decided that I would try and do as much work as possible and job work. All I am asking is for the two unions to agree to let us get a little more productivity, the money is in the Estimates to be used, I do not like to see money being lapsed in a vote. I have asked my officers if there is any way they can draw it down and put it in a suspense account. You know what they told me, no way. But as far as I am concerned, I would like to get the work done.

The hon. member who said that I have imagination when you read the other two Estimates, I want you to come because I am going to ask you a lot on that too. *(Asides)* Some highways were questioned, at the junction of Black Rock, I believe it is the hon. member. If the hon. member looks at that work, he will notice that there has been quite a lot of work being done. When the work appears to come to a stop, it is either a question of unavailability of material and here, I must say, that because of the massive building programme in this country and because of the rains between September and December we found ourselves having a shortage of even stone that is produced in Barbados. The quarry men complained that it was too wet to produce certain types of materials and at the same time, we were not getting the asphalt we were expecting.

I have a note here, 29th February, 1980. This is the total requisition for the year for asphalt and R.C.2. We ordered 3,126 barrels of R.C.2 we got 2,550; we ordered 6,500 barrels of emulsion, we only got 6,107. This year has been good compared to what we had last year so it is not the fault of the Ministry's technicians, it is not lack of planning because we have used some of the studies done in your time that nothing had been done about, to look at and see how we could co-ordinate roads, water, the electricity programme and providing better roads for the country. *(Asides).*

Mr. Chairman, one point I would like to raise, an Hon. member asked a question of the system of construction of roads, the old system against the new system. We in the Ministry have some information from a firm in Germany that suggested a way of building roads or subsidiary roads at a cheaper rate than the present rate. We have followed up the information but we are still waiting for replies. I quite agree that in some country roads where you would never get a container weighing 30 tons or a concrete mixer weighing 25 tons, you could probably use a low quality road but we just cannot find a system which the technicians or engineers would accept that would stand up over the length of time that they would want them to stand up. We have been investigating more of these problems

as against the width of the roads. If you will take a drive up to Six Roads, or down to Foursquare, you will see what the maintenance division of the Ministry of Communications and Works is now doing. We are going right out into the shoulders of the cane fields. We are putting in slipper drains. In that way, we are going to have a wider road. As a matter of fact, we have looked at the junction of Balls. We have a development plan for Balls junction and that road leading from the junction back to the industrial estate, and down to Balls Plantation. This financial year, we should be trying to widen that road as well.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I have covered most of the points which have been raised. I would hope that the hon. member for St. Michael South West, who began to preach, pray and cry would understand that if he were a victim of no work in his constituency when he was in there – we have never cancelled any programmes. I believe the problem raised in Passage Gardens is connected really with the Country Road junction. If you notice, some work was being done in Country Road. We have had two plans for the Country Road junction. We are looking at Country Road as the narrow part of the inner circle road starting from the Garrison and taking you down through Passage Road, through Westbury Road, to link up to the new Spring Garden Road and that whole strip of road will be looked at. My policy is not to go in and do piece-meal.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would check with his officials in the Ministry, it is a little land called Alleyne's Lane. It does not impinge on Passage Road proper nor Bank Hall proper. It is an area that runs from Bank Hall through to what is called Alleyne's Land. That is the area that creates the most problems. 6.45 p.m.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the problem with many of these small roads as I see it and as I look at it, is that I am interested in doing them, but as I said, the quality of the material is such that I do not believe Government should spent money under the old system. Many of these roads we are trying to either make 8 foot roads or 16 foot roads for the simple reason that we are coming down to using barbergreen in all of these roads and in order to do that it may mean a re-alignment of some of the houses themselves. As I said, what I am looking at is when we do strips of road it is easier if we are going to move the machinery in the area and do the road and go into the side road than to go and do a side road and come back out.

Dr. CADDLE: Now that the Minister has given away, I want to get a reaction on the section of Bank Hall Cross Road near Station Hill and Hindsbury Road as I have stated. About three times last year that small section of road has been done and it is already broken up again, and I think there is some underlying problem there, and it is a very serious problem. As you approach the traffic lights every now and again there are a lot of holes in it and your car goes down in them. You know where I mean. Then it holds up traffic when you have to go on the other side of the road. I really don't think that it is worth while going back there and spending money over and over and over again. I think the problem has to be located better than it has been in the past.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it can either be one or two problems with this. Either that you have a water main problem where there is a leak in the water main and when it is repaired the water then comes through, or it is that the material which we are putting in is being disturbed by the traffic before it gets a chance to set. As a result of investigation of this problem, that is, since we fix the road the traffic is disturbing the material, we have ordered a new type of vibrator which we hope that by putting down the barbergreen we can hammer it in and make a firmer surface than just putting it on with a brush and then throw the machines on and wait on the vehicles to roll it in. As I said we are moving into a completely new method of road construction which has been forced upon the Barbados Labour Party which we should have found when we came into power, but probably that is the reason why the Barbados Labour Party is here and the Democratic Labour Party is there.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, less it be believed that because Ministers are on the front bench their constituencies have not got needs too. I am sorry that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is not in his seat because there are two parts of his speech that I wish specifically to refer to. He began by a general indictment of saying that the state of the roads is symptomatic of the social and economic condition in which the country has been brought by the Barbados Labour Party.

Now, Sir, these are generalisations that one really cannot take seriously, because in my constituency prior to 1976 I had a position where just as the hon. member for St. Michael South West has complained about the conditions of his constituents in Hanschell Land, Eagle Hall, in particular, I had that situation particularly in Worthing View, Worthing View Tenantry, in Ventnor Land, Rockley, in Fordes Road all of the avenues, in Bonnetts, in Thomas Gap, to mention only a few of the areas that were neglected, and even on the verge of the constituency of the hon. member for St. Michael South in Kings Village and of course just in Brathwaites Gap as it borders the other areas of Deighton Road. This is a fact of life.

I remember the former hon. member for St. Michael South Central, Mr. F. G. Smith, Q.C., S.C. attempting

to assist me in Harts Gap and being told by the then Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. member for St. John, that he could designate as many roads as he likes, but until they came to him as Minister of Finance not one road would be done, and not one road in my constituency outside the main Hastings Road was done in that constituency. It is a fact, Sir. We have to be very serious about that, and that is why I now want to congratulate the Ministers of Communications and Works because since 1976 we have been able to do Ventnor Land, Worthing View, Thomas Gap, three avenues in Fordes Road, all of Bonnetts including the area adjoining the hon. member for St. Michael South which had not been touched not only in 15 years but from time immemorial in my constituency.

I am thankful to hear that the Minister after doing the tour with me is convinced that Christ Church West was a neglected area as far as roads works and drainage were concerned under the past Government, and neglected in representation if the hon. member wants me to say it, because it was represented by my very good friend Rommel for several years who told me personally that despite the fact he was in the Government he was never able to get it done, and he hoped the people kept me there for a long time to come because I had shown an expertise that had been eluding him. *(Asides)* Rommel who is my constituent and who votes for me, don't mind he is a member of the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. Talma votes for me in my constituency. (Dr. CADDLE: I thought voting was secret.) I know that because he knew me from a boy and he realised my sterling quality. He said so in the campaign; don't make any mistake. That is a fact. So I want to thank the Minister and his civil servants and his technical officers for the work they have done so far in my constituency. I am looking forward to them finishing Balsam Land, Upper Rendezvous Ridge, Harpers Land, Gospel Hall Road, Huskinsons Land, the balance of Sargeants Village. I am looking forward to these being finished in this financial year, because they are in a terrible condition.

The hon. member talks about Hanschell Land, and I agree with him, but I could take him into areas in my constituency still where he would be surprised as to the condition of those roads as compared with even Hanschell Land, really shocking, and that is why, don't mind I won by such a handsome majority.....

Mr. TAITT: I am sure the hon. member would give way. I have no doubt that he can find the odd road in his constituency that is like mine. Even if all of his are worse than mine, Mr. Chairman, I have sat with him and went through counting one, two, three on my fingers that he has had done, and I only want one, and those are ten he can remember. You would know, Mr. Chairman, from experience if he can remember ten, there were a few more. I can't recall one single road. That is my problem.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member is getting something like $4.5 million being spent on roads, the Spring Garden Road in his constituency.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, the Spring Garden Road is a road which the Government has taken to the edge of the sea and I do not believe it is going to Trinidad. I am talking about where people live. We will discuss that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I only want less than one quarter of the money being spent for the construction of the Spring Garden Road in order to help the poorer areas in my constituency. At Spring Garden it is $4.5 million he has got there. The Democratic Labour Party would not even spend 4.5 million cents in my constituency when I was there, and the Rt. Hon. member for St. John thought that that would have prevented me from winning the election.

6.55 p.m.

I got the highest percentage of votes though, 77.9%, despite all that because the people recognised that I was pleading their cause and they had a good cause and I managed to make some progress and I would hope that the Minister would get an opportunity as well to implement his scheme for drainage. Barnes Land, the back of St. Matthias School, Marine House Gap, also Worthing are very serious areas where we have to mend this drainage problem and I am willing to use any external plug I have in organising foreign aid, for this is a major programme, particularly if the Minister places the accent on attending to Barnes Land first, Worthing View, out in School Gap, St. Matthias, those are the areas that I think are more pressing for a drainage than the others.

The question that Head 37, Subhead 7, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, having dealt with Subhead 8 while we were on Subhead 7, I move that Subhead 8 stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to go over debate that has been covered on this question of the Transport Board. Subhead 8 as I take it deals with the Transport Board.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Subhead 7 deals with roads, Car parks and bus stands and they went into drainage on that. Now that we have done Subhead 8 I am calling Subhead 9 to put the record straight.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, Your Honour said Subhead 8, I believe the hon. member called Subhead 8, the Clerks are saying at the Table Subhead 9.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Subhead 9 is Road Transportation.

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir, you and I have the same problem. They have Road Transportation at the top, that does not apply, that is (D) Road Transportation.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, just now when we called Subhead 7 we were dealing with roads, Car Parks and bus stands. We have just passed that. Now I called Subhead 8 which is really Drainage but Drainage was dealt with when I was dealing with Subhead 7. In order to put the record straight I have to pass Subhead 8.

Mr. TAITT: The point is well taken but I have drawn to the attention of the Chairman that the two of us have had the same problem. If you look at page 71 we made the same error. Where it says "Total Subhead 8, Total (C)" that is what you are attempting to pass now, but right under where it says "(D) Road Transportation" we both made that error, so we have accepted Subhead 8, that has passed. Isn't that so, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I move that Subhead 8 stand part.

Mr. WARD: I beg to second that.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I know a lot of comments have been made and the Minister has been referring to the Drainage Report and the cost at the particular time, but I wonder if he can give us what is the present policy with regard to the implementation of this Drainage Report either in part or in full, and the time over which he intends to implement it.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, as I have said before, we have looked at the total drainage problem, and because there has never been a sufficient vote to carry out the programme *en bloc* we have been lifting the parts out of that programme based on the complaints and the comments that we hear during the rainy season. As I said, we have also been looking at new equipment because we cannot get people to sink the wells. Under the financial programme from the United Kingdom we had some $513,090 allocated to the Ministry of Communications and Works for equipment etc, and that is part of the programme. We are hoping that we get other equipment to help us in the drainage programme and that is what I said when I was speaking.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, now that it is clear what we are speaking about, I have just a question of the Minister. I should like him to indicate if it is possible at this time in the context of not only my constituency but that whole area which I described earlier as the alluvial plain, if you can indicate if they intend to sink some new wells and where, if it is possible.

The second point I want to raise is this. It says here under Subhead 8 – Drainage and Safety: "(a) This subhead provides for maintaining adequate drainage standards against flooding in low-lying districts....",which is the point I just alluded to, "and adequate defences against encroachment by the sea on all sides of the Island". I believe that this is the appropriate point bearing in mind that note to raise this very serious question of the erosion at St. James where apparently some foreigners have taken it upon themselves without proper advice, or with no advice at all, to go and interfere with the coastline of this country in a manner that is going to be extremely detrimental to this country, not only now but in the future. All indications are that the placing of Substandard groynes off the coast in St. James has led to a destruction....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. If the hon. member would try to recall his ministerial days he would understand that the Ministry of Communications and Works will only be engaged in carrying out remedial work. The actual problem of encroachment in the area belongs to the Ministry of Housing, and if he would be so good as to leave that until we reach Housing, I can only tell you about the engineers going in and putting in the gabions etc., but if you want to deal with the problem itself you can leave that until we reach Housing.

7.05 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: I take the point made by the hon. Minister who has attempted to demonstrate that he understands his Ministerial responsibility; but I do not know how his colleague, with responsibility for the environment can say the diminution of the coastline of St. James is unimportant. Yet that Minister over there whose responsibility it is to understand what his colleague is pointing out is talking about people talking nonsense. The Estimates are in a different form and I am trying.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I don't want to get too much involved in this, but I am trying to draw to the attention of my colleague that if the hon. member is so ignorant of what is in the Estimates, let him remain in his ignorance. If he does not understand that Parks and Beaches has responsibility for beaches and groynes, that is his business.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am going to admit to my ignorance and ask your indulgence in helping me out of my ignorance. I read a Note here in the Estimates that their format is changed this year. You will admit Mr. Chairman,

that the Estimates are in a different form this year, which the Prime Minister admitted might present us with some difficulty. But one difficulty I do not have is understanding the English Language. The Note reads "for adequate drainage and adequate defences against encroachments by the sea on all sides of the Island." I put it to you, Mr. Chairman, that the most illiterate person in the world on reading this would conclude that perhaps this year we are going to be dealing with defences against encroachments by the sea under this particular sub-Head. Is that an unreasonable decision to reach? Only the most purblind or totally illiterate Minister could come to the conclusion that to raise the question under this Head is nonsense. I am not saying the Minister is either purblind or stupid.....*(Asides)* I have not said a thing that I have to withdraw. The Minister in this House has a responsibility and he cannot come to this House and treat us as though we are jokers; he cannot bring it in these terms and when we raise the question get up and treat us frivolously. We are serious people sent here by serious people, and this Minister has for too long in this House been behaving like a clown. His colleague tried to point out – and I am fully in agreement that we can discuss the groynes. The Minister of Health who has some experience with regard to the environment, as these things relates to the sea, knows that.

Mr. WARD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Note to this sub-Head needs clarification, because I myself on reading the Note thought that it referred to groynes, but I understand it does not. Perhaps somebody might advise us what is meant by the Note. If I understand correctly, groynes come under Housing, so how does it get in here?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Ministry of Communications and Works carries out any work necessary for the preservation of the seashore. If hon. members want to discuss groynes in St. James or the sea coming in, that comes under the Ministry of Housing. I would suggest that the hon. member if he has a point to raise in this respect can leave it till we come to housing.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it now goes beyond that because it should have been included in the errata as an amendment to this stupid Note. The Note is either stupid, wrong, pulled out of context or I am right or I do not understand it. I am willing to admit that if this says what you say it is I am willing to admit that. But when you tell me defences against encroachments of the sea throughout the entire area, encroachments of the sea, as my hon. and learned friend from Christ Church North Central who has been dealing in that area understood it means what I thought. In the course of the training I have had we had to deal with environmental control so we had to become accustomed to some of the jargon used. These words are almost perfect: "Defences against encroachments by the sea". They have not only a technical meaning but a meaning understood by people in general. I suggest to the hon. Minister to amend this Note so that as Minister and I as a member of the Opposition would understand without doubt what the Note means.

7.15 p.m.

As the Note now stands written in English, it means that he has the responsibility to prevent encroachment by the Sea. That is what it means.

Now what I wish to find out, Mr. Chairman, is if I should continue to discuss what I wish to discuss, *vis-a-vis* the encroachment and the problem relating to the sea coast on the West Coast of Barbados, if I should discuss it here or whether I should wait until another Item. If it is proper for me to wait, I will wait but according to this Note and bearing in mind the new format of the Estimates, it would seem to me that this would be the best place.

I take the Minister's explanation but it is entirely possible given that these Estimates have been prepared with the assistance of a foreigner, and I am not saying that in a derogative sense; by the assistance of an expert, let me put it that way, who comes from overseas whose concepts of budgetary and he even called these appropriations budgetary, his budgetary explanations would differ from our own. This vote would have a particular meaning to him which it does not mean to us or conversely it has a meaning to us which it would not mean to him.

Now we know that administratively the looking after of groynes *per se*, falls within the ambit of Parks and Beaches. That is how it has been with us in Government and that is how it has been with them. *(Asides).* Look the Minister of Education is joining in this. I do not expect the Minister of Education to join in this but how come the Minister of Education says that I am wasting time. This is a very humiliating situation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on with the debate. Let us get on with the Estimates.

Mr. TAITT: When the Minister responsible for Education cannot see this very small point, but from my point of view, it is the use of language, it is a problem. I take it back. The use of English presents some tremendous problems in this society and I am not surprised that even the Minister of Education has difficulty with the use of English. I am not surprised. Mr. Chairman, I am going to withdraw some of the things I have said about them because it is a problem that permeates the entire front bench. The hon. member.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What has all this to do with the debate?

Mr. TAITT: It has to do with the Note, Sir. So that no one would think that I am wasting time, it has

to do with the Note that is written to Subhead 8 in English which the Minister is telling me means something else from what the Note says. That is what the discussion is all about.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I think it is quite clear now after certain things have been said. What it really means is or what really mislead you is when it says "On all sides of the Island." I believe that Communications and Works has the responsibility to repair the Deep Water Harbour or the Careenage but when it says "On all sides of the Island", that is what is misleading everybody.

Do not tell me that Communications and Works is going to stop the sea going in at Sam Lord's Castle. That is another side of the Island. Therefore the Note is obviously wrong in that it says "The encroachment of the sea" and it should have said "On harbours or shores" or something like that.

It says on every side of the Island and obviously Parks and Beaches has responsibility on certain sides of the Island so the Note is obviously wrong because it is a service to be shared between two Ministries. It is a service which is shared between two Ministries, as I understand it, Mr. Chairman. Parks and Beaches would do certain areas and Communications and Works would take boulders away where it is coming in. You remember the sea came in near the Deep Water Harbour and that is the reason for the confusion but I agree with the hon. member that the Note is misleading.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is a very simple thing, Sir. Where as a result of action by the sea any part of MCW's responsibility with respect to roads becomes an expenditure, it belongs to MCW. It is very simple. If the sea washes over the road and licks up the road, MCW has to repair the road and it is caused by the sea and it is an encroachment by the sea. When you go now to the particularity of building groynes, and the administrative authority for that, that is Parks and Beaches.

Let is take the East Coast Road to Bathsheba. When there is flooding the water comes through the bridges on the East Coast Road and goes into the sea but if the tide is high, the water cannot go in so it sometimes moves away the bridge. That is MCW's responsibility.

Let us take Graeme Hall Swamp in Christ Church where there are sluice gates to allow the water coming down from on the roof to go into the Graeme Hall Swamp and if you pass below Bagshot's House you will notice that there are gates there that you will have to close the gates when there is a kind of high tide and heavy rainfall. If those gates are destroyed MCW would have to do that.

On the question of the building of groynes and things of that kind, it is an area in which it is a result of flooding coinciding, MCW can have some responsibility because as a result of these two acts of God, the roads, bridges or things that come within the responsibility of MCW have to be dealt with. I think that out of the abundance of caution it has be worded in that way. It is simple but not intended not to raise the other matter. Parks and Beaches come up under Housing and you can raise anything you want on that.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to make heavy weather. It seems to me that if this Honourable House is prepared to pass it with the Note as it is, I wish to reserve my position on that Note because from what I understand them to say what MCW's position is, this Note does not say so. I have nothing more to say on the matter. If they are satisfied that that is what the Note was intended to do, I shall wait until we come to discuss Environment to discuss the matter of the groynes. It is as simple as that.

I wish to maintain my position that so far as Ministerial responsibility is concerned, I will yield to no one suggesting in the context of this note at the issue which I sought to raise, I will yield to no one suggesting that it was foolishness. Mr. Chairman, I take my responsibility especially during these Estimates very seriously and the groyne is a matter of grave concern to people in Barbados and those of us who are concerned with the environment in Barbados would wish to state our position on that in here. *(Asides.)*

Even when I read it in the Newspaper I understand it. I read it in the Newspaper and I wish that some of my colleagues .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: No, Mr. Chairman. I refuse to allow anybody over there to tell me about sitting down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has been speaking for over 15 minutes, will you please take your seat. Order please. I do not like these asides.

Mr. SIMMONS: I cannot understand where this debate was going. I am trying to find out what type of groynes they are speaking about. This one in the pants? This one? This GROIN or GROYNE?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

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

SUBHEAD 9 – TRANSPORT BOARD

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to move that Subhead 9 stand part.

Mr. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.
7.25 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: On Sub-Head 9, Mr. Chairman, which I presume is discussing the Transport Board. *(Asides)* I want to make it clear that if there is anyone sitting outside of this confine who wishes to suck their teeth they should do it softly. It will not be that. I did not come in here for anybody to be sucking their teeth. I do not need them to support or not support me but when I get up to speak on behalf of the people of St. Michael South West, I will have no one suck their teeth out there that I can hear, otherwise they would have to outside. I would like them to stay and hear what I have to say. *(Asides).* Mr. Chairman, I believe in democracy, and although they might disagree with me, I would still like them to hear.

Mr. Chairman, the matter I want to raise is one of grave concern to me. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. TAITT sat.

(Certain remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West were ordered to be expunged from the records by Mr. Chairman at this stage.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the Chairman stands, all hon. members should take their seats. The Chair should be heard in silence. Will the hon. member for St. James be quiet please. Please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Yes Mr. Chairman, the matter I wish to raise is a very simple matter. Last year, the third year – Mr. Chairman, do I really have to try to speak in that kind of atmosphere? I am relying on you to protect me Mr. Chairman.

The hon. member for St. James is just an ordinary member in here. He has to behave himself like the rest of us, or he will have to go outside. *(Pause).*

Last year, Sir, in my constituency we had an excursion which we have every year. Last year, the buses cost $160 per bus. This year, they have been assessed at $315 per bus. Now Sir, whatever figures one looks at in the context of the growth and development in Barbados, there has been nothing in the increase in the cost of living, or in any other area which would suggest an increase of that magnitude from $160 per bus. We were able to have 28 buses that went to the excursion packed. This year, we have been told that the price is $315 per bus. I know a number of small people who used to have excursions have given that up. The result is that in order to break even, where, an adult ticket cost $5.00 last year, it has to be raised to $8.00 and where a child's ticket cost $3.00 last year, it has to be raised to $4.00 or $5.00. I have no objection to increased cost being passed on in the area of public transportation, so far as extra-ordinary relationships to the buses go. I believe it is the Government's responsibility and their sworn policy to subsidise bus fares, although we have not been able to see it in practice but that is a matter for them.

I believe, that a democratic labour party Government will take steps to equalise the cost of transport. *(Asides).* The tickets cost $5.00 and $3.00 last year – I must have wounded the hon. member, he is determined to get his own back in some way. He is calling me a speculator now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if that is reflecting on me Sir. A speculator is one who buys and sells sheep and other things, because I represent small people, I will not consider that an incursion on my.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. TAITT: I would wish the hon. member would stop heckling and would behave like an Hon. Minister. I know it is difficult for him but he should try. He has been on the Government benches sufficiently long that he should learn something Mr. Chairman. I wish he would just try, he would make it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order Sir. There is a man called "Bob Sweets" who keeps three dances, he has three excursions a year, a typical speculator.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, not only is it no point of order, it is irresponsible because he has just told this Hon. House a deliberate lie. He is an Hon. Minister getting up on his feet and misleading this Hon. House, telling it a lie which he must know to be a lie. Saying that I, pointing at me, have three excursions a year. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is true, you told me so) I do not talk to you in those terms.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it is bringing this Hon. House in disrepute for an Hon. Minister, a man who holds that responsibility to get up in this Hon. House and tell deliberate lies. It is the St. Michael South West Branch of the Democratic Labour Party. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Every

week you have a dutch party, bring the food and you are there.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member take his seat. I believe this debate on Sub-section 9 has come to an end. I see no other worthwhile contribution to it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is fairly obvious that hon. members are getting tired and exhausted and I think it is best at this time.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect. On a point of order. I understand the Hon. Leader of the House's right to interrupt at this point. I had not concluded a thought I was making – there is one point when we are making a little sport but we have to be serious and with the greatest respect the Clerk came and spoke to you and you immediately decided that I had come to the end, and that was the end of that.

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

Mr. TAITT: I will obey your orders Sir, but I wish the point to be made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will explain it all to the hon. member. There is no need whatever for this conduct.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I do not know what has gone wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Leader is going to call for a report and we will come back either tonight or tomorrow morning and we will all have a chance to talk. I think everybody is a little bit tired.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not seeking in any way to deprive the hon. member of his right to speak. He is entitled to speak but we have an agreement as to how many hours we can conduct the business of the Hon. House during the course of the Estimates because we have staff and unlike the hon. member, I feel that due consideration should be given to the rights of the staff.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order Mr. Chairman. There he goes again, saying, unlike the hon. member. Mr. Chairman, you have to protect me from these onslaughts.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know the hon. member likes his rights so much that he sometimes does not mind trespassing on other rights in furtherance of his rights. I am not seeking to deprive him of his right.

Sir, I beg to move that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again and the hon. member for St. Michael South West was speaking and tomorrow when we resume, he will resume, if he comes in time though Sir.
7.35 p.m.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 10 o'clock tomorrow, Wednesday, 19th March, 1980.

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

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

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When this sitting was suspended yesterday the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Subhead 9 resumed.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, when we broke last night my colleague for St. Michael South West was making the point about the very high rise in the cost of bus charter in Barbados and I think that it is a point which should be recognised by the Government in terms of the kind of impact which it is obviously going to have on the leisure time of Barbadians. It is known for a fact, Mr. Chairman, that Barbadians' leisure time activity, a large amount of it, is taken up with excursions and using the public transport sector – at least the buses from the public transport – and to raise the cost of the charter from, I think before it was $160, to over $300 now as is reported is a very, very fantastic jump and will have the effect of reducing the amount of activity in this kind of area, and I believe that it is a matter that the Government should review in light of the fact that it is going to, as I said, reduce the possibility of people being able to visit other parts of the country

to enjoy their leisure time, and people are having more and more time at their disposal for leisure now, and I believe there are parks which are being set up in other parts of the country and they would want to go to see them and would therefore need to be involved in this kind of activity.

Moving on from that, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the point has been made in here from time to time, particularly within recent weeks, relative to the Transport Board, and it needs to be repeated, the whole question of the structure of management and the kind of management which we have operating at the Board. Let me say that I have been for a long time critical of certain aspects of the Transport Board, particularly when buses are not available to take people to and from work and people experience difficulties in this, and I would want to say that since the very heavy strictures which were levelled at the Government during the last quarter or so of last year, particularly with regard to the transportation system in St. Lucy, there has been a little improvement and I would want to indicate that this is so. I am looking forward to even greater improvement in this area, but certainly if one examines the management structure of the Board, one would see that there are a number of deficiencies there, and I believe that it has some kind of effect on the general and the overall efficiency of the operation of that Corporation.

Now, one must make the point that the Transport Board is a vital Corporation in this country, it is almost like the nerve centre both of our industrial activity and of our general life because of the almost complete reliance which the travelling public has to place on the Transport Board, and we therefore should try to ensure that that Corporation operates to the fullest efficiency and at the present moment the structure of management does not indicate, and certainly the results do not indicate, that this efficiency is forthcoming.

I think that if we look at the top management we will find that the Board is without a top flight Financial Controller. This is a Board which handles millions of dollars in the course of one year, and I believe that the least that could be done for the Board would be to have a high calibre Financial Controller in that Corporation. That is absolutely necessary and essential in an operation of that nature. I understand, for example, that the Board has been advertising and is claiming that it cannot attract a Financial Controller, but if they are offering the salary which they are offering it is fairly obvious that they would not be able to attract a person of high calibre, and I believe that the constraints on the Minister being able to offer a salary higher than what is now being offered, then those constraints should be removed, because as I said, it is a lot of money and it is a vital Corporation and I think that in that particular area an aggressive approach is needed, and definitely something should be done to correct that obvious flaw in the administration.

Then I am told that there again is no trained Personnel Manager, the Personnel Manager is taken up with the duties of general management and they are two separate and distinct jobs. I am submitting that it is really very, very difficult to expect a person who was originally carried to the Board as a Personnel Manager and who has had training in this field to take on at the same time the responsibility for the general management and I would think that there is need again for a look at this area to try to really strengthen the management structure at the Transport Board. This is essentially the point that I am making, a strengthening of the management structure, and if this is done I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that a lot of the inefficiencies and complaints which are at present levelled at the Board would be reduced, and of course I do not want to raise it at this point because I see that under the Capital Estimates there is some provision for additional buses and I would want to revert to that when we reach that particular point, but certainly the management structure and the number of buses which will be available to the travelling public needs to be increased, and this is a matter which I think that the Government should pay some very close attention to.

I should also like to find out from the Minister, since we are on this vital area, what is the extent of the subsidy which has been given to the Transport Board in the period from 1977 up to the end of 1980. Let us get some overall idea of the subsidy which has been given to this Corporation, because at one stage we were told – I remember when the present Minister of Agriculture was the Minister of Communications and Works – we were told that the Transport Board was at that time making money and that there was no need for any subsidy from the Government, so I want to find out whether the subsidy has been reduced or whether there is a continuing upward trend of the subsidy which has been given to the Transport Board.

Now still on the general administrative aspects of the Transport Board, I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister, as I have drawn it already, a problem which is of concern particularly to those persons who use the Speightstown bus stand, persons travelling from St. Lucy and also from St. Peter who have to go through the Speightstown bus stand when they take a bus which is not going through to Bridgetown they have to pay a second bus fare.

10.10 a.m.

Before, that is two or three years ago, it was easy for them to get a transfer from Speightstown and not pay another set of bus fare; but at the present when you take a bus not going right through, you have to pay 45 cents to Speightstown and another 45 cents to Bridgetown, and I believe this is a matter which the Government should pay some attention to, because I think it is a hardship on that section of the public and I would like to see a

reintroduction of the transfer ticket system so that we will not have that type of difficulty we are experiencing.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, over the last year the Transport system in Barbados has been used both in Parliament and outside as a means of knocking the Government, but there are occasions when people have come out and have been honest enough with regard to the Transport Board to let people know what the position is.

One transport system is suffering, like other things in Barbados, from the result of progress. The people of Barbados in fact have become a bit spoiled. If they were to go to Trinidad or to Jamaica and see the poor public transport system, they would come back to Barbados with a bit of praise for their own.

Our problem with our transport system is that more and more people want to travel by it, including tourists. We are a hospitable people and we wouldn't want to prevent tourists from travelling on our buses. Day after day you see tourists wanting to catch a bus.

But if the Transport Board suffers from lack of equipment, it does not suffer from the standard of the equipment. The buses are well built, modern, comfortable and safe. So to repeat what I said before, what we are suffering from is progress, and this would be aggravated in the future because it is obvious that St. Michael is becoming so built up that any further development will have to be outside of Bridgetown. We know that the City is to have another housing development, but generally speaking we are going to have to put more houses in places like Boarded Hall, St. James, St. Thomas, St. Philip, St. Joseph and St. Peter, and this means there will be more people to and from Bridgetown, and this would make the situation even worse. As I said, we must get into our minds that this is progress. I am certain when the Minister gets up to speak he will mention that more people travelled on the buses in 1979 than ever before. It is not that they are less places on the buses; they are more places but the number of people travelling has increased.

To come to another point: I believe some reorganization should take place within the Transport Board. I go to Bathsheba quite often and I see some of the most expensive buses travelling from Bathsheba to Speightstown with eight or ten people; I believe the Government is right to have a service from Bathsheba to Speightstown, but I think the Government should look into the question of buying coaches for this purpose, for it is uneconomical to be using a great deal of petrol to drive eight people on a big bus from Bathsheba to Speightstown, and I think some research is needed on that...

In the area in which I live, Black Rock, I sometimes see a big bus in Seclusion Road. That road is too narrow for such a bus and the Government should consider the coach system for such a place; in those narrow streets you can use smaller vehicles to transport people.

The last point I want to make is that I believe the Government will have to bring in legislation to deal with the transport system in relation to the private sector. To begin with, I think that people who suggest that the Government should eliminate the private sector of the transport system are out of their mind. The private sector – I am not talking about the big companies but the little people owning a mini-bus – the private sector saves the Government a great deal of embarrassment, for when the buses break down it is these small mini-buses that take people to and from Bridgetown. I do not know if the Minister has statistics on how many people travel by mini-bus, but I believe the number is considerable. But there is need for legislation as these mini-buses do not run in any organized manner; they run wherever people are. I understand they are supposed to have a schedule but they don't stick to it.

Also, take St. Lucy. I believe an Act should be drawn up to give a mini-bus operator – I don't want to use the term mini-bus anymore, they should be off the road; I am thinking of coaches holding twenty or thirty people. I believe such a vehicle should be licenced to go, say, from Pie Corner via St. Lucy's Church on the highway other than Highway No. 1 – that is on Highway No. 2, and should not be permitted to operate on any other highway. Another coach could be given a licence to operate from say, Half Moon Fort on Highway No. 1 to Bridgetown and not be able to go just any other place where people happen to be. Another such vehicle could operate from Oistin to the Airport. I am firmly of the opinion that the Government would be making a grave error if they think they can take over the whole transport system in this Island. The private sector comes in as a buffer and it saves the Government a lot of embarrassment. Often times I see Government buses broken down on the road and people will get out and take a mini-bus. So for this reason I believe we need legislation to cover the needs supplied by the private sector which we will need increasingly before the end of the century. But in doing this we should get away from those converted vans and pick-ups and get proper coaches. The owners could be assisted through the Barbados Development Bank and perhaps the Government could even waive the customs duty in order to reduce the cost. The transport system is in a sufficiently serious condition to warrant the Government making concessions to improve it even beyond what I am saying and I think an Act is necessary in this regard.

I also believe the time has come – I know this is an unpopular thing to say because taxi drivers will think you are encroaching on them – but I think the time has come when there should be an airport bus going into the terminal both for staff at the airport as well as for

tourists who cannot afford to pay the taxi fares into Bridgetown. This is a fact, so do not eliminate the small tourists who don't have a lot of money, because they are the ones who fill up the guests houses and small hotels. 10.20 a.m.

Therefore I think that the time has come when we should have an Airport Bus to carry the load in the under garage and take people from Bridgetown direct to the terminal building direct to the Airport. This is based purely on the matter of energy. No longer can people just have the luxury of sitting down in the back seat of a car by themselves. It is alright to say that a tourist comes into Barbados and he wants a taxi to his Hotel in St. Peter. Fine. He can afford to pay for it but it is using a lot of petrol and the country is concerned about energy.

Mr. Chairman, we have therefore got to adjust our lifestyle. The American people have got to adjust their lifestyle. The Europeans have to adjust their lifestyle because simply of this oil crisis. I am not talking so much about the cost of oil but the supply and demand of oil, both. Many countries are cutting back on their oil, Venezuela and other countries and then increasing the price as well so that the Government has got to face up to it however unpopular it might be and realise that we have got to do certain things to reduce our use of petrol as much as possible

I think basically, Mr. Chairman, these are the matters I had in mind. As I said, we should be thankful that we have such a good transport system. I am not saying that there is no room for improvement but I do believe that we in Barbados criticise everything, no matter how good it is we are inclined to criticise it. If enough of us went overseas we would see how much better we were than other places and we would be a lot more careful.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say, Sir, under this Head that the Government takes very seriously the need for an adequate, up-to-date and efficient transportation system. I am sure that when the Hon. Minister goes to reply, he will be able to give chapter and verse of the steps that his Government has already taken.

In my capacity as Minister of Industry, the Economic Division and the Research Division of the Ministry of Civil Aviation have constantly to be dealing with the question of transportation problems not only in relation to sea transport but also in relation to some aspect of transport in respect of industry we in the Ministry of Trade have also dealt with the question of transferring of workers to Industrial Estates.

A very careful map has been prepared based upon an analysis of the need for transport for all the various areas. My Ministry and I are very pleased to say that with respect to Tourism that the experiment which started two years ago by licensing coaches specifically for transfers from the Airport to the Hotels of groups is working very well.

My understanding is that there are now 19 groups that permission has been granted to, that these consist of people who have been in the transport industry for a long period of time and they have formed either co-operatives or companies with the minimum of at least 10 taxi operators within them. They have taken full advantage of the duty free provisions and the Development Bank has granted them loans. I have had very few complaints from tour operators in relation to the availability of an adequate number of vehicles.

Now, Sir, we have also identified that as a result of the upsurge in employment and in particular as a result of our efforts to utilise machinery over a longer period of the period of the 24-hour day, that there is now a demand for some charter buses to carry workers at nights on shift time whose time of leaving work does not coincide with the hours the Transport Board operates their buses.

This is an extremely difficult thing for all of the employers to have a shift system which coincides. These matters have been put to the Ministry of Communications and Works. As a matter of fact, we have openly encouraged employers to encourage the formation of worker co-operatives to buy transport equipment as is done in many cities in many parts of the World. Part of the recommendations we will be making is that just as we have been able to give taxi co-operatives certain concessions with a view to allowing them to bring in efficient equipment, I feel and it is our recommendation that in Industrial Estates that similar concessions should be granted to worker co-operatives or a combination of employers/worker co-operatives for the purpose of providing transportation for workers who live in remote villages and who want to take advantage of the shift system.

I know, also, because I have discussed it with the Ministry of Communications and Works, that now having had the requirements of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and from their own endeavours now as to the efficiencies in the number of units within the Transport Board to cater to the increasing number of people who are travelling now because they have worked at various parts of the Island, that a Cabinet Paper will be ready in a very short period of time.

I also had the benefit of an Interim Report of the Surface Transportation Study that was commissioned with the Technical Assistance Grant from the Inter-American Development Bank. I believe the Interim Report has been filed but as hon. members on the other

side who have had experience in relation to this would know, you get your Interim Report from the Consultants first, then you have to analyse and make comments on it and draw to their attention any deficiencies in the Report.

Now as far as my constituency is concerned, I am very pleased that an additional number of vehicles have been made available in the Silver Sands area. I am still not quite pleased with the number of units that are now available in the Newton/Gall Hill/Silver Hill areas. The impact of Wotton and primarily a private sector development there by Wotton has been very very great.

In addition to that, I am very pleased to note that all of the industrial lots at Newton are committed and a large number of people are being employed there and they come from all over the Island of Barbados. I have taken this matter up with both the Minister and the Chairman of the Transport Board and I have been assured that once the requisite money is appropriated in these Estimates and once they can get delivery of the buses from wherever they are going to buy them from that we will then have an improved service.

In the meantime, of course, mini buses have been operating in that area and are providing a substantial measure to life, so that in the last quarter I am quite positive that the Accounts will show that there has been a great improvement. I know from my own constituency and from talking with other hon. members that there has been a great improvement. All we need now to have is to get the requisite licensing procedure clarified and I must say that I am 100% in agreement with the plan of the Minister of Communications and Works to increase the seating that taxis can carry to a reasonable number. It is important for them.

I notice that in Trinidad they have just introduced the Maxi-Taxi concept. Even there with fuel they have allowed taxis to increase their numbers.
10.30 a.m.

I know that certainly in the United States, in many cities now, the Fordson vans and things like that operate under licencing. They are called Limousines there.

Once we get an adequate number of additional units in the mini bus areas in specific routes, this question of discipline is exceedingly important. The Government is willing to be able to allow the development of feeder routes in Barbados but just as in air regulation, we must have rigid discipline. The Hon. Minister, I know, has a very good plan of painting them in different colours so that they can be easily identified. I have seen that myself in some other areas.

As a matter of fact, in Trinidad now, the maxi taxis as they are called, I believe that they have been licenced for 12, I am not sure what their licencing is. They have a different colour and things of that kind. This is an area of great concern to all sides and I know that positive steps are being taken to ensure that it is remedied.

As to the Appropriation, when people talk about Government being stingy with money, I think, a look at the Estimates of Appropriation would indicate very clearly that we have provided for substantial increases of resources both on Capital and Current Account for the Transport Board. All of us must be pleased that so many more people are working and there are great demands on the Transport Board not only because of the increase in employment, but because of the fact that with the rise in petrol over which we have absolutely no control, and with the rise in petroleum products, a number of people are finding it more economical to use their cars only at the weekends.

Perhaps, one of these days in the not too distant future in addition to our attack in this area, we may well see the resumption of vessels plying between Speightstown and Bridgetown, and Oistins Town and Bridgetown. I understand that the Norwegians have just developed a high speed catamaran which can carry between 250 to 300 people for short distances of five to six miles. All of these matters have to be investigated in a country like Barbados because we must try to save foreign exchange and at the same time, move our people as quickly and as conveniently as possible.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member for Christ Church North Central has said in his contribution to this debate, there has been a lot of criticism and a lot of concern aired as far as public transport in Barbados is concerned and especially over the last year.

While I do not intend to go into the political aspects of it, I would wish at this point to state that we must understand why we criticise the transportation system and whether our call for an efficient transport system is justified or not. Some people are of the misconception that additional buses or even additional transport including mini buses, taxis and hired cars would be the solution to our transportation problem. I am not one who shares that view, because, in my humble submission Mr. Chairman, it is not the correct view that should be formed.

As far as the Transport Board is concerned, one feels that the effort and concentration should be in the area of efficiency. We do know, that transportation, especially buses for the Transport Board is a very expensive exercise. It costs the Government lots of money to purchase just one vehicle and since it would mean a burden on the taxpayers who at times, can ill afford that, then, we must look at ways and means of how best we can improve the present fleet at the Transport Board.

Hon. members, including the hon. member for St. Lucy have made very valid points and that is, at management level. We must be able to have a management system that can look at how best to maximise the present fleet so that it will not run at a loss and the commuters will not complain for an efficient bus service. Mr. Chairman Sir, we should aim at satisfying completely the commuters of the bus service and that is why I do agree with the contention of some hon. members that we must look at a code of conduct as well. All is not well Mr. Chairman with the conduct on the buses and that too can be responsible for the inefficiency of any bus service or any transportation service.

We have seen in the Press several complaints of late of even taxi drivers not giving proper service or being disrespectful to some tourists. I say "some", I am not going to be so stupid as to generalise all taxi drivers. What I understand is, it is a natural thing for one or two people to do something to harm a particular industry or category of people but nonetheless, if we are concerned about the prospect of tourism, we must take those minor cases and reflect upon them because it may grow like a termite and then we will have a big problem to deal with.

The point I am trying to make Mr. Chairman, is that we must bear in mind, that even if we increase the fleet of the Transport Board, we must not be clouded on our approach of what we intend to get out of an increased fleet. We must look at the efficiency problem. I am satisfied that over the last couple of months there has been a general improvement in the overall service provided by the Transport Board and it is my wish that this continues to improve rather than to deteriorate.

It brings me to another very important point as well that the mini buses have been providing a very valuable service. No one in this country who is acquainted with mini bus operations or the Transport system will deny this. When there are strikes, we see the mini buses coming to the rescue and plight of the workers, thus maintaining and preventing loss of income or close down of some of the factories, or loss in production. We must realise that they are playing a very vital role. Were it not for mini bus operators, who knows, we would have been in a very serious position today as far as transportation for the workers is concerned. Any policy which is devised as far as transportation and providing service for the commuters of Barbados is concerned must take into consideration the involvement of the mini bus operators.
10.40 a.m.

It is my contention that Government because of the financial situation would be unable to provide all the necessary transportation that this country needs especially in the Eighties, and therefore I am going to suggest that in formulating a transportation policy that some consideration should be given to the involvement or the participation of minibus operators, but at the same time I want to say that the minibus operators must also be brought under a code of conduct and operation, and that, Mr. Chairman, would mean that minibus operators will have to operate on specific routes and they too will have to be responsible for proper conduct and efficiency, because we are talking about transportation, and if you are going to invite the Transport Board to offer this type of service, then you must, since the minibuses are going to be involved, require of them a similar sort of service.

Now it is true that there are a number of people who have been trying to make a living by way of getting into minibus operation, and it brings me to a very valid point that my colleague the hon. member for Christ Church North Central has made, and that is that some of these potential minibus operators experience difficulty in obtaining funds from the Development Bank. As Parliamentary Secretary having responsibility for small business in this country, I am of the firm opinion and view and conviction that everything should be done in order to encourage the small businessman, and I look at the minibus operator, most of them as the small man. I do hope that the management that is responsible for the Development Bank will understand that it is a matter of concern when minibus operators apply for loans to assist the workers in this country, to assist the travelling public in this country, to assist the very acute transportation system and their applications do not receive favourable consideration. I do hope that they heed my calling because I am very much concerned and I do hope that they understand the situation in Barbados.

Now my colleague here again has called on the operation of a bus, let us say, from Bridgetown or from points to inside the airport. I do agree, Mr. Chairman, that there is some sense in his calling for such a system, but there are problems. There are certain restrictions and certain conditions that operate within the tourist industry and within the Ministry of Tourism, and we must bear in mind that these conditions are well known to the coach operators and the taxi operators, those who are involved in transporting people to and from the airport, and we must be careful though the call is a valid one that we do not conflict or lead to some sort of conflict between those responsible, or those who have been given some sort of privilege and concession to operate from the airport and those from the Transport Board.

I, as far as my knowledge is concerned, am aware that there is a bus that travels just outside the airport, and those who want to get to the airport or would like to use a bus from the airport are free to use that, but as I said, bearing in mind the complications that could arise in allowing the Transport Board bus to operate as a regular service through the airport of itself, I do

not support that at the moment; but as I said, it is something that could be looked into and every avenue should be investigated and enquired into with a view to relieving that particular situation. I am sure that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works is aware of this situation and he is working along with the Minister responsible for tourism with a view to setting that particular problem straight. But it also leads me to a particular matter too, and that is one which is causing a lot of concern here again, that is, one not being able to readily identify a minibus from a coach from a taxi. There are a lot of factors here involved why this is not so, and while one feels that this should be the case that a minibus, a coach, a taxi ought to be easily identifiable, one feels that way, and I am of the firm view that the Ministry of Communications and Works should devise a policy or some sort of strategy, whatever they term it, whereby a registration or some sort of identification, symbol, whether it is something hoisted on top of the taxi, whether it is the colour of the taxi or whether it is a different sort of number-plate altogether which can be picked up, easily identified, then we will be able to know, commuters in Barbados, the public would know when there is a taxi around, and they would not be standing up and when you pass on Bay Street people are trying to hail you down, you have a private car but they think you are a taxi operator. At the same time there are people who are involved and should not be involved because they are not covered with the adequate insurance. They are going in this particular area and thus causing a problem. My request of the Ministry or of the Minister is that he looks into this particular area with a view to having clearly marked on the vehicles in these various categories some sort of identification so that the general public will be able to see them and recognise them.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to voice concern over a few matters, some of which were mentioned before by other speakers. As I have some responsibility for consumer affairs, I am a little concerned at the recent increase of fares or rents by persons or groups trying to raise funds for social causes in this country by leasing of vehicles from the Transport Board. I would like to know what charges the Board have incurred over the past year that would merit the Board to increase the rates from $160 to a region over $315. I am concerned, Sir, because the people in Barbados who use the buses for outings or excursions or social occasions apart from going to work are the very poor people.
10.50 a.m.

It is a club or a social group or church that would want to get together for a traditional annual holiday' to visit perhaps some of the recreational areas of this country and I find that it is an extreme burden on an organisation to have to find the additional cost to pay the Board in so short a time when we have not been told of any substantial increases that the Board .....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I cannot sit down here and listen to utter nonsense, especially from somebody who should know better. It now raises my blood pressure to a point, because the hon. member who is now talking, if he is taking up the band wagon of those on that side who live off the taxpayers of this country, should read his own Estimates and he would recognise the expenditure that the Transport Board has gone through during the past year. He was in here when I took all the lashes in this Government for the Transport Board when it was said I ran down the Transport Board. $6 million was given in subsidy and he is now asking a stupid question about the expenses of the Transport Board.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can understand the Minister's position, but he will have ample time to reply.

Mr. SISNETT: I am not surprised at the behaviour of the Minister in some respects, but, Sir, I have the right to know, I want to know in the interest of the people. The Minister does not travel by bus, as far as I am concerned he has never travelled by bus, it is the poor people of this country who travel by bus. It is not the rich, it is the poor who go to the excursions and they will now have to fork out additional money. Let us assume, Sir, a family of four. Last year a family of four who would have been going to an excursion would have been paying something like $16, this year a family of four who would still want to go to an excursion would have to pay $26. Is that not an erosion of the person's savings? I would just like to know if the Transport Board has got any additional expenses; that is what I would like to know.

Another point, Sir, which is causing some concern among the people of this country is the condition at the bus terminus. For some time now I have heard that there were going to be some improvements there, a system of queueing was going to be introduced, but I want to know how far are we away from such a system. I have been personally to see some of the problems of the workers on evenings trying to get home and there are conditions which are completely out of the control of the conductors or inspectors. You find that even though some people would try to adhere to a semi organised queueing system, there are some other people who would just come and push their way ahead of others who are in a line waiting to board a bus.

I would suggest, Sir, that the Transport Board needs some assistance by special police which would operate in the peak hours of the day, say during the hours of 4.00 and 6.00, to assist the person who is not so prone to pushing his way to board a bus.

One other question, Sir, that I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister, and I hope he will be able to shed some light on it, quite often the people of this country see their units of the Transport Board which are disabled en route say from the bus stand to their destination, and these passengers at times have to vacate or leave the bus without reaching their destination. I would like to know if there is a policy of reimbursement of fares to those people who have not arrived at their destination, but have had to have it terminated because of some fault of the Transport Board. I think it is unfair for people to be paying to go from point A to point C and somewhere between point A and point C that service is terminated and they do not have access to the refund of their fares.

The question of communication between units, between say the bus terminus and the bus which is disabled at some point of its journey, we know that very often the conductors and drivers are helpless because there is no system of communicating with what I would call a base, and I would want to know if there are plans proposed for introducing a radio system or some walkie talkie system that you can get back to headquarters to have any of the problems that might have developed en route to its destination rectified.

I believe, Sir, that no praise is too good for the mini bus operator in Barbados today because it is readily accepted that without the mini bus operator in the Barbados transport system our total transit system would collapse. Other speakers have mentioned that they would like to see a code of conduct introduced to those people who are permitted to run the mini buses. I would want to lend further support to that. The main reason is that the mini bus operator does not have anyone to report to and performing such a public service I think there should be some authority that he should be responsible to in not only where he drives his unit, but perhaps his manners to the public. It is more often than not that you see mini bus operators just stop their vehicles and run across to the shop to get a pack of cigarettes or drink, and I would like to see these things stamped out. I would like to see mini bus operators perhaps clad in some kind of uniform that they would be recognised on sight as the person who is the operator of a public unit. I believe they have played their part in the community and no praise is too good for them.

I would further like to know, Sir, because a few of my constituents have asked me, about the policy in relation to permits to operate mini buses. I have been told that there are going to be a few mini bus permits granted and I am at a loss as to what is the true policy in relation to the granting of mini bus permits. There are people who because of some disability cannot work but they have indicated that they are in a position to acquire a van or a bus, but they are given the turn around in trying to go through the legal channels to acquire a permit in order to make a livelihood for themselves. If there is a policy within the Ministry of Communications I would like it to be made public so that those people who believe they have a contribution to offer by perhaps transporting some of the people to their various destinations, I would like that policy clearly spelt out.

Finally, Sir, one other problem which I think has been alleviated somewhat over the past years is the problem of the entire work force, together with the entire school population trying to arrive at a common destination at the same time. Perhaps it is just a suggestion, but I would say most of the problems which the country is faced with in the Transport Board now has been rectified with some consideration to be given to businesses starting a little later while the children go to their classrooms a little earlier.

11.00 a.m.

We have already enacted legislation to have shops open until late hours, and as is the custom in certain other countries like North and South America most business organizations begin the day's work around 10 o'clock, and if we could introduce that system in Barbados I see a great burden being taken off the transport system since you would have schools beginning at 8 o'clock and business beginning at 10 and finishing at around 8 in the evening, and perhaps implementing a two shift system; this I believe would ease the problem the Transport Board is having in trying to get people to work at 8 o'clock and the children to school at 8.30 or 9 o'clock. I would like some opinion from the Minister of Communications and Works as to whether such a system could not be put into operation.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is the function of Parliamentarians and especially the function of the Opposition, to express the grievances of the people, and that is the function which this Opposition will carry out to the best of its ability. We are not here to bring aid and comfort to the Government when they are not doing the things they should do or perform their functions as they ought to perform them; and it is against this background that we will have to be highly critical of the Government in its handling of transport problems in this country. Yesterday I analysed the Minister of Communications and Works and I said they were two qualities he possesses and I identified one as the quality of courage. Apparently hon. members in here did not take me seriously. The hon. member for St. Michael North East could not have got up in here and spoken as he did because he would have been well aware that coals of fire would have been heaped upon his head from the hon. member for St. Joseph, the Minister for Communications and Works. Now I thought myself that the hon. member for St. Michael North East was making

a reasonable speech; he was trying to find out some information, and all of us want that information; and if, as a junior Minister of the present Government, he does not get the information, what about us here on the Opposition benches, and what about the members of the public? They are in an even worse position in trying to get that information. But what happens to him? He is slapped down in a very aggressive manner: "I cannot sit down here and listen to foolishness." That young man is a junior Minister of the Government and that is how he is treated on the floor of the House – "I can't sit down and listen to foolishness"' It is embarrassing a junior Minister, a man who has responsibility for consumer affairs and wants to know especially how small consumers are being looked after. We had another junior Minister telling us that he has a special responsibility for small business. So it is a day of the small man, and the junior Minister responsible for small people gets up and asks how is it that the fare people would have to pay for a bus excursion has jumped from something like $160 to over $300, which would mean, as we heard from the hon. member for St. Michael South West yesterday, an increase in the price of ticket from $5 to $8. He is asking for that information and we all want to know, but he is told he is talking foolishness and that if he wants to join with the Opposition – did you hear, Mr. Chairman, about living off the taxpayers? That is an implication of all of them out there, Ministers and junior Ministers – it was a most insulting remark to make. But I am not surprised; I said he has the kind of courage and he will tell anybody that they are talking foolishness just as he told the hon. member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate what the hon. member is saying, just as he told the Leader of the Opposition, "Sit down, boy".

Mr. SANDIFORD: The hon. member is always rising not on a point of order but on a point of disorder, and foolishness at that. The hon. member for St. Michael North East should be aware that the Minister of Communications and Works has told me he is talking foolishness. But after all, he told the Prime Minister he was talking foolishness and that if he wanted the Ministry he could have it. That is the type of courage I was talking about. But we are talking now about transportation and what I am going to do here now is to articulate the grievances of people as far as the transport system is concerned and the present Minister responsible for that portfolio. The criticisms were coming heavy and many, both inside his own party and what the hon. member for St. Michael North East was doing was merely articulating the many resolutions about the transport system. There was a host of Resolutions expressing discontent with the way the transport portfolio was being handled; there was massive dissatisfaction by the public, letters to the Press, annoyance of people at the bus stops, at their homes and their work places, in the bus stands. These are the dissatisfactions that have to be brought to attention on the floor of this House and the Minister has to tell us what proposals he has for removing these grievances and for bringing some easement to these particular problems *(Asides)* Your constituents in St. James want to know what you are doing to bring these matters to the attention of the Minister.

I was surprised at the hon. member for St. Michael North East talking about a policy on transportation and I would have to agree with the Minister. If he cannot read the Estimates he should be able to read his own Manifesto to see that the Government has no policy as far as transport is concerned. I have a document here, with the shortest insertion in this Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party being that on public transport. And what does it say? "The Barbados Labour Party believes that Barbadians are entitled to a cheap and efficient transport system; this can only be achieved if the buses are all brought under the control of one methodology with an overall plan for public transport, detailing the main routes and feeder routes and how perhaps to serve those people who do not live along the traditional bus routes."
11.10 a.m.

It makes a reference to mini bus operators. Something like just 14 lines on Transport, a major public service in this country, just 14 lines; long on generalities and short on any type of specifics. That is the type of thing that they put before the people of this country and the people of this country voted for them.

The member for St. Michael North East quite readily asked what is their policy. There is no policy because that cheap and efficient transport system has resulted in an increase in the bus fares by over 80%. They have increased the bus fares by over 80%. That is how they have made it cheaper. I have not worked out the percentage increase yet for the cost of hiring those buses on charter to go on excursions.

Now having taxed the people by an 80% increase in order to get to work now that the people are going for leisure, the only type of leisure a person has in this country, going on excursions, it has been a traditional method and now you have hit them with a whooping 100% in their efforts to go and get some leisure, enjoyment and entertainment when they go to the leisure spots and the beach spots of this country. That is what this Government is doing to the people of this country, not only when they are going to work but when they are going to get some relief from the pressures.

High rates of inflation, high rates of unemployment, the starvation that they were told about, all of those

problems and now that they are going to get a little leisure you now hit them with a high increase. I believe this House and the people of this country should know why the rate for chartering these buses has increased to that amount and we are calling over here for a reduction in the rates for chartering these buses. We feel it is too high and it should be reduced. You are to tell us now what rate you are going to reduce it by.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. You may continue.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to express our concern that to date no particular plan has been worked out for improving the Transport system in this country. The member for Christ Church North Central made some interesting proposals about the use of coaches and I believe the member for St. Joseph and even the member for St. Andrew would pay close attention to what he said. Why do you need those large buses running with 10 people or so on the East Coast Road? It was said by the member for St. Lucy long ago that some other approach to that problem can be made.

I want to express also the concern of those commuters, those persons who travel by bus and who live within the 2 mile radius of the City who find it very difficult to catch a bus at peak hours. After all, they have to contribute to the general revenue of this country. They pay taxes and they are entitled also to benefit from the transport system because funds from the Consolidated Fund, from the general revenue goes towards a subsidy for the Transport Board.

The constituents of Dayrells Road, let me talk about Christ Church West, those who live in Bonnetts, those who live in My Lord's Hill, those who live in the Deacons Road area find it difficult to take buses because when the buses reach those areas – *(Asides).* St. George may be alright. I am not worrying about that.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way. In 1975 the bus fare from St. George to Bridgetown was 65 cents. Five years later in 1980 it is 45 cents. Why does not the hon. member address himself to that?

Mr. SANDIFORD: I must thank the member for pointing out again that the Democratic Labour Party lowered the bus fares to 25 cents and it has now been increased by the Barbados Labour Party to 45 cents and the next step is that they promised that they will even carry it higher and put it back to the 65 cents and that is your Government and you are satisfied with that on behalf of the people of St. George South, not North, because the Chairman is not going to say anything about that. He cannot. He is in the Chair.

We want to know, the people who are living in Dalkeith Road, Beckles Road, yes, I represent those people and I must speak on their behalf and I will continue to do that. We are demanding a civil reply from the Minister on this. He can talk to the people for North East. He can shout at him in that way but when he comes in here as a servant of the people we expect him to get up in a civil way and give a reasonable reply as a reasonable man and I know that we all know that he is a reasonable man. He does not lose his temper very often. He does not abuse any public Officers, not in the Ministry of Communications and Works nor when he was in the Ministry of Agriculture. He is a very urbane and quiet man, he is only short.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Mr. SANDIFORD: My time is up? I can speak again.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make some observations on this question of public transport in Barbados. I believe that all Parliamentarians have a bounden duty to articulate serious grievances affecting the entire community and particularly when those grievances affect the more under-privileged groups within the community.

No one could have complained that the Barbados Labour Party in its Manifesto promised this country a cheap and efficient transport service. The Democratic Labour Party particularly since the oil crisis in 1973 recognised the fundamental importance of transport in the developing process and its relation to productivity, the negative effects it can have on the industrial sector including the commercial sectors if people cannot get to work on time. The number of man hours lost per day can be phenomenal in the context of any efficient transport service.
11.20 a.m.

We also recognise that in view of the impact of energy cost in a community such as Barbados, that different patterns and different accentuations in the patterns of transport would have to be evolved to meet the challenges in the late 1970s and 1980s. It was in this context and not as an election gimmick and also recognising the social importance of such a measure that the Democratic Labour Party introduced the 25 cents bus fare.

Now Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Labour Party took over, they proceeded with their programme as rapidly as they could to bring all the buses under Government ownership. They boasted that they had made rapid strides in the improvement of the transport service in 1977 and 1978 and by 1979, the entire service had collapsed and is still in a collapsed state.

Only three months ago, I rose in this Chamber to point out that that collapse was due to a multiplicity of factors and the fundamental cause was that the Government anticipated that by increasing the bus fares and maintaining subsidies at $3.5 million, $3.6 million level over a period when energy cost and the cost of maintenance of buses, the cost of new buses, the cost of parts, the cost of wages, every single aspect of the Transport Board had increased tremendously but during those years, retaining the subsidy at one level, despite those increases, the net effect was a major contribution to the breakdown in the transport service.

One cannot talk about improvement in the transport service unless one talks about basic Government policies. What happened in 1979 was a total failure of a policy to which Government had clearly committed itself, if you were to go back through 1977, 1978 and 1979 Estimates. It is quite clear that some element of commonsense has prevailed and we can see this year that there has been a substantial increase in the subsidy to the Transport Board. That is the first step that needs to be taken but an increase in subsidy alone, will not solve the problem.

The other major problem at the Transport Board has been the problem of management and unless that problem is solved, no matter how much money you pump into the Transport Board by way of subsidies, then you will not get the desired standard of efficiency in the transport service which the public deserves. Mr. Chairman, this is so fundamental that unless you have an effective public transport service where, when an individual wakes up in the morning, he has the same confidence that he will get to his destination whether he travels by public or private transport, then you are going to get a continuing demand for an increase in the number of vehicles on the road. I need not advert to the consequences in terms of traffic congestion, in terms of foreign exchange, in terms of increased cost of maintenance of roads, in terms of increased demand for more and more roads. When you look at this matter in its broadest perspectives, you will recognise the very fundamental importance of paying attention now to what is happening in relation to public transport.

Again it is a tragedy. The tragedy is this, if those subsidies had been correspondingly increased and gone up at least to meet the levels of inflation taking place in that sector year by year, you would not be faced with the same kind of expenditure that you will now have to meet, the cost of three or four years of inflation on top of what was existing in 1976 and 1977. You are going to have to be spending more and more money in order to catch up with the backlog of neglect. The fundamental problem Mr. Chairman, is a failure of Government policy. It is one thing to talk about failure of Government policy, it is another thing to look and see what is happening to the poor people of this country in terms of transport. No matter what extent I am being abused, no matter what is said, I will stand up fearlessly at all times.

Mr. Chairman, the safety of many persons travelling in those buses has been a matter of concern to many drivers at the Transport Board and I refer specifically to problems relating to the brakes on the buses, to matters relating to the steering and the methods used for testing these things when they go wrong. I understand that from time to time, a driver may report that the brakes are not working properly on a bus. Some kind of cursory test might be done on the bus and the bus is not put through the same stress conditions for example, going down Horse Hill or somewhere in St. Andrew with a heavy load, and then the bus is put back on the road. Many of the drivers have expressed concern that they are asked to drive vehicles where the steering is unsatisfactory. Unless something is done about these things, sooner or later, there is bound to be a major catastrophe involving the lives of people in this country. Mr. Chairman, many people have complained that they get wet in the buses. The buses are leaking and very often they are dirty. First thing in the morning, a dirty bus is presented for people to get into. I am voicing the complaints which have been made to me and which have been made I am sure, to other members. These are two simple administrative matters that should not be a major problem.

Many of us – those of us who have constituencies near to Bridgetown have complained again and again that our constituents have to stand up in the morning for hours sometimes in the area of Belmont Road, Tweedside Road. When I drive along Bay Street in the morning I see people there lined up and if you get a shower of rain, the roads are in such a state that you feel a bit embarrassed because you are never sure whether when you passed the puddle if one of your wheels might have hit the puddle and splashed the people all over the place.
11.30 a.m.

It is almost a national scandal what has happened in the Transport Board in this country and it is time that Government faces this up, and I must say that I am satisfied that there is some indication that the fundamental defect which I pointed out in December in this Honourable Chamber, that is the failure to increase the subsidy and the collapse of the policy of trying to increase the bus fares in order to cover the cost of the Transport Board, that the Government has recognised to some extent that what has emanated from this side had some substance in it and they are now increasing the subsidy by some $4 million. But, Mr. Chairman, that will not be enough. That will hardly do more than partially restore the dilapidated state of the present situation, and if as the Hon. Minister said that he is taking the question of management seriously, then we will hope to see some more effective means of restructuring the routes in this

country and the frequency with which buses run and at what particular times and also that some attention be paid to whether or not in certain areas of Barbados it might not be a desirable thing to use smaller buses rather than the large buses.

I have heard that case put forward by one or two members of this Honourable House, and I think there is some merit in terms of having large buses negotiating narrow streets and so on. There should be some merit in the case of whether or not the maxi taxi or whatever you call it or minibus would be allocated to those areas if they are incorporated fully into a public transport system. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that I have essayed to look at this matter in its broadest economic context in terms of what it means to productivity in this country and economic development. I have tried to look at it in terms of what it means to the small man, and before I wind up I would like to stress once again that these services which affect the vast majority of the underprivileged people in Barbados should have a prior claim on the attention of this Honourable House, and I hope that I will never see a situation arise again where a service that is used so extensively by the poor people in Barbados should fall into such a state.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I indicated to you that I wanted just to make one point. When I spoke earlier this morning my time expired and I indicated I had one point to make, and I would like to do so before the Hon. Minister replies. I am going to make the point in relation to the whole question of management again and the participation in management.

Now some months ago the Barbados Workers' Union wrote to the Ministry of Communications and Works indicating that the workers at the Transport Board had at the last annual conference passed a Resolution coming from the workers at the Transport Board calling for participation in management by way of having a representative of the workers on the management of the Transport Board. This information was transmitted to the Ministry and we were a little taken back, Mr. Chairman, at the kind of reply which was received because the letter coming back from the Ministry informed the Union or rather said that she was directed to state that there are no vacancies on the Transport Board.

Now I want to make the point, Mr. Chairman, that this seems to be something which is completely opposed to a position which is stated in the Barbados Labour Party's manifesto. In the first instance the Union did not apply for a job, it was not a job they were applying for, and so the question of a vacancy does not arise. We regard that as insulting. What we indicated was that we felt and still feel that the work force of the Transport Board which is in the vicinity of 2,000, almost 1,800 people are working at the Transport Board, and since it is a service the success of which relies essentially on getting workers involved and getting the cooperation of workers that some provision should be made for including the workers' voice in the management of the level of the Board, and I would want in this regard, Mr. Chairman, to read from the solemn commitment which the Barbados Labour Party made to this country in their manifesto. and it is on page 20 under Industrial Democracy and Ownership of Nation's Wealth: "If the workers are to be motivated to increase their productivity then they must be made to feel part of the whole process of management. The BLP considers that if productivity is to be increased and the cause of economic and social justice furthered, then industrial democracy, on both the public and private sectors, must be extended. After due consultation with workers' and employers' representatives and all other interested parties, the Party will institute appropriate measures to achieve full worker participation and representation in management."

In the light of that I would want to say that the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party also made a commitment on this question of worker participation, so that both parties are at one on this, so that one cannot therefore after this kind of commitment understand the kind of communication which is coming from the Ministry of Communications and Works, and I really wonder whether or not the Minister had anything to do with this. I suspect that he might not even have seen it, but the point is that it is a matter which we must draw to his attention and certainly I would like to hear him respond on this particular matter, because I believe and this side believes that one of the ways in which we can assist in overcoming some of the difficulties and problems at the Transport Board would be to involve at the highest level of decision making in that enterprise, workers who are involved in the day to day exercise of getting the Transport Board running.

I think I would like to commend this to the Minister and hope he would be able to respond in a more positive manner rather than in the insulting and negative manner which was received from the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have listened from yesterday evening to the arguments which have been put forward by both sides on transport. In the first place I must say the last but one member who sat down had always amazed me on the way he conducts debates in this House. I have always made a policy that anything I say whether it is morning, noon or night can stand the test of time whenever anybody has got to check against what I said at a future date. The hon. member pretends to be the financial expert of the Democratic Labour Party and I must remind him that at the beginning of the Estimates last year when we were debating the Transport Board he

was talking about the amount of expenditure by Government.
11.40 a.m.

He was talking about high income tax, but yet still he comes in here today and talks about not putting sufficient money into the subsidy into Transport Board. I said it to my own party colleagues, because I stand in this position now where the public will know my position, and I will not be criticised by them or even my party colleagues, I am putting my position today. In 1976–77 the Government put $3,718,428 into subsidy payments into the Transport Board, 1977–78 $4.6 million, 1978–79 $4.4 million, 1979 to February 1980 $6.9 million. The members over there have been calling for a reduction in income tax, they yet still want a better bus service but they don't want any increases coming from anywhere. As the hon. member has said, it is as much as 100% in subsidy between 1976 and up to the end of February. These are not the end of March figures, these are only to the end of February 1980.

Mr. Chairman, if we look at the amount of passengers carried by the Transport Board, an approximate figure up to the end of 1979, we have carried well over 50 million passengers compared with a projection of 41 million passengers. If you go from 1969–70, the total number of passengers carried by the Transport Board then was 20 million. We are now carrying 50 million passengers a year. As the Hon. Minister of Education has said, when the Democratic Labour Party threw the 14 year olds out of school and the Barbados Labour Party took them back in. Go up at the Community College and you will see adults who are going to courses up there and operating with school children's tickets and the buses are expected to carry them. The old age pensioners are carried free every day, the policemen are carried free every day and yet still the hon. member is telling you that you must reduce income tax but yet still complain that you are not putting enough into a subsidy.

Now let us look at cost. When the hon. members who talked about why the cost of a charter bus has gone up, I will give them the reason why. The cost of fuel between 1976–77 had been increased by 41%, during 1979 the increase was 175%. The cost of parts has gone up by 224%, fleet insurance has gone up by 236%, wages have gone up by 171%, drivers' costs alone have gone up by 208%. Mr. Chairman, the situation is this at the Transport Board, that people are making so much money that the Board is hit by absenteeism. Four days a week drivers and conductors work at the Transport Board, you cannot get them to work a full week, they tell you they have enough money. That is what you must find out, that is what the problem is in the Transport Board, they have enough money. They work four days and that is the end of it.

Now, you talk about why a charter bus has gone up in price. Every time they send a driver and a conductor on a charter they are paid special rates, and the Union knows this because they negotiated the rates. All we are attempting to do is to recover the cost of a bus when it is used for private charter, because the same buses that they complain about to go on private charter are the buses that are missing from the routes.

Mr. Chairman, we have drawn up a new Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act. The hon. member who was fishing around for something to say went back to the records of 1972. He wants to know about buses and taxis. My position is, and as the Deputy Prime Minister has said, I have already told the Government that we must license the existing mini buses in Barbados. (Mr. SANDIFORD: "Sleepy" licensed those). No, "Sleepy" did not license them, he licensed those for his friends and left the others. There are only 46 licensed mini buses and they were friends of the Democratic Labour Party and one man who got a licence, Mr. Branch from Silver Hill, ask Mr. Branch how he got his, because I wrote the letter for Mr. Branch and sent him directly to Mr. Smith and in the letter I said "he is a member of your party and I represent him in law". That is how Mr. Branch got a licence.

I have had the problem, Mr. Chairman, of taximen threatening to cut off people's hands because they were pirating at night, and I will call a name, Mr. Sydney Byer. Mr. Byer took his car and painted the word "taxi" on the windscreen and used a park in the Lower Green and on Saturday mornings at the Holiday Inn. I saw a taxi driver draw a sword to cut off Mr. Byer's hand. I went back to my Ministry and broke Cabinet's orders by issuing a licence to Sydney Byer because I save him and I save the taxi driver and they call that victimisation. Sydney Byer now has a legal permit to run a taxi but as a result I have said all taxis under the new Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act will have a special number.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear that he is helping Sydney Byer, but I want to know about the people in Christ Church North Central.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what does the hon. member rise? Are you on a point of order?

Mr. WARD: Oh, yes! Two points of order, three points of order. I want the people that I represent and I requested licences for, to be heard, I do not want to hear any points about victimisation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Mr. WARD: I will, Sir.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The hon. member can rest assured that the problems will be solved and they will be solved in a shorter space of time than he thinks. Taxis will have special numbers and they will have signs indicating that they are taxis. The taxi men have agreed with it, the police have agreed with it and we will make sure that it will be rather difficult for people to pirate nowadays. We have said in our Manifesto that a permit to operate a taxi would be valuable property.
11.50 a.m.

We are carrying through the policy and making sure that everybody will know their rights.

When it comes to mini-buses, we agree that mini-buses must be licenced and that they will have to be controlled. There has been no administration that has been able to satisfy the demand of the travelling public at peak period. There are a number of vehicles operating at the Port which the Democratic Labour Party licenced to carry six passengers when they could carry eleven. That is a source of contention. We have put the matter to Cabinet and will be settling this shortly as well.

The hon. member for St. Lucy talked about management structures. In December they came in here and were ready to criticise everybody at the Transport Board; but rather than discussing principles they moved from principles to personalities. The hon. member talked about the acting General Manager of the Transport Board, saying that he was trained in personnel management and we put him to look after general management. But where did the improvement come from unless the man was capable of performing the duties of General Manager? But you don't want to admit that the man is doing a good job; you want to attack the man by saying he is incapable of doing the job he is doing. I have every confidence in the man now doing the job of general manager of the Transport Board, and I would say that if the previous management did not try to defy me in this matter the Transport Board would not have fallen into the situation it found itself in in October and November last year. I have every confidence in the man and in the new Board, and I am sure that this time next year with the increased number of buses, the Opposition will not be able to say one word about the transport system in this country.

I have looked at the mini-buses and many of them are now operating in one area, for instance Bridgetown to Wildey and back. There must be some control; one cannot give them permits to operate and then leave them to freelance wherever they feel like freelancing, for that would not solve the problem. There are a number of roads that the present buses cannot service adequately either because of the width or the structure of the road. I have had complaints about some of the roads that when a bus meets a cane cart one of the vehicles has got to reverse about half a mile before the other can pass. These are the situations we are looking at; they cannot be corrected overnight but we will correct them.

This year $8 million have been provided for operational costs of the Transport Board. Where is it to come from? It must come from taxation one way or another. So when I hear some hon. members saying that taxes are too high but they still want luxury buses, I am at a loss how to solve the problem. They could not solve it. When we took over the Transport Board, and up to this day, there are some eighty buses operating on the roads today that the Democratic Labour Party had condemned since 1972.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has just said that he is at a loss. Can I suggest then that he should resign if he is at a loss?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I thank God that I will never be in a position to be de-pressurized by that hon. member, but then he could not depressurize anybody, even on his side. I have seen him move up and down; he was supposed to be the best Education Minister Barbados had ever seen but he did not even know when he was moved. I wonder if he was responsible for the Rasta element in this country because he was the one who instituted a system that people were going to school until twenty three years of age but could not get a certificate or a job. That is what we face today, so look at that; do not ask me to resign; go and look at the Rastas walking about Barbados; look at the people who come to my office and tell me they went to school until age 23 but cannot get work. Thank God I went to school before you had the chance to be Minister of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Government is committed to continue the improvement of the status of everybody in this country. Employment is in a better position today than it was when we took over. The Development Bank has been lending money to people to buy coaches and so on. We have to go with the times irrespective of what anybody says. As far as I am concerned the Ministry is working on plans and I hope that within the next two months the general public will know what are the Ministry's plans for the whole transport system in this country. We have looked at taxis, we have looked at coaches, mini-buses, big buses and an announcement has been made and I believe that will erase the fears and problems of everybody in this country. One thing I will say is that when we have solved the problems with the buses those people who run mini-buses will have to make sure they can pass the test at MCW, because as far as I am concerned mini-buses will have a distinctive colour and people will know what is a mini-bus from what is a coach and what is a hotel coach.

When it comes to the point of an airport bus, I was in favour of an airport bus, but the Minister of Tourism has explained that if you charge taxi drivers a fee for

operating out of the airport you have to give them a chance to make back that money. I therefore had to back down on an airport bus but I am sure that the public bus service on the airport road will be such that anybody who takes his bags from the airport to the road will find the bus running. That is the situation as far as I am concerned.

Mr. WEEKES: On this occasion, Mr. Chairman, I want to say that the statement which the Minister has made in this House about the acting manager of the Transport Board, I have been associated with the gentleman or he has been associated with me at MCW and I want to let this Honourable House know that he is a very efficient, dedicated honest, conscientious and painstaking worker and you could not have made a better choice than the gentleman who is now acting as general manager of the Transport Board.

The question that Head 37 sub-Head 9 stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUB HEAD 10

Sub Head 10 was called.

The question that Sub Head 10 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUB HEAD 11

Sub-Head 11 was called.

12.00 p.m.

The question that Subhead 11 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The next Item, Sir, is Item 25, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs -- General Administration.

HEAD 25 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to adopt a procedure in this dealing with my area of responsibility slightly different to the last speaker. I am certainly going to deal in a manner similar to the way in which the Appropriation Bill was introduced and to give a number of outlines on matters dealing with my Ministry and certainly letting the members on the opposite side concentrating their points on the areas which they think most appropriate for themselves.

In doing so, I want to make a general appeal and to make one or two statements with respect to the attitude of the Opposition on matters pertaining to the Ministry under which I have the responsibility and the country as a whole. In doing this, Mr. Chairman, I want to start off by saying that it is all well and good to drag down your Institutions and to make irresponsible statements in Opposition but there is a world of difference between being in Opposition and being in Government.

We have certainly within the past few weeks seen developments in Rhodesia. We have seen the present Prime Minister of the new and Independent Zimbabwe not indulging in a manner or in the statements which he used to make in the past to destroy everything that was before him but rather to see him behaving like a responsible statesman now he is saddled with the responsibilities of Government. The difference between the Zimbabwe Prime Minister designate and the Opposition in this Parliament is that they were the first Leaders of Independent Barbados and the Prime Minister designate of Zimbabwe is the Prime Minister of the to be Zimbabwe within a few weeks' time.

I was struck and appalled, on reading the Report of a Meeting of the Opposition Party, and I refer to the Democratic Labour Party, because they are at the second level to another Opposition Party as very amply described by the hon. member for St. Philip North yesterday. The question of the tearing down of our Institutions by the Opposition Democratic Labour Party will do us no good.

We have had an unfortunate experience during the past to hear the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John and former Prime Minister who never will be again Prime Minister and always will be if he considers that he wants to be the Leader of the Opposition, making statements to the effect that he would hope to see the day when there will not be a single cane blade in this country.

We further saw him in Government cutting canes and trying to inspire people to cut canes. That was certainly another McGuffy, tearing down, seeking to get power and destroying everything before you. There is a difference here, the McGuffy was tearing down in Opposition when he had no power but building up when power came his way. The Rt. Hon. member for St. John kept tearing down and tearing down and he did not want to see a single cane blade.

We have a situation now where in their attempt to regain power in the country they are trying to tear down

everything that is opposite forgetting that a scorched earth policy cannot do any Party that drags down a Government any good and I want to make an appeal to the Opposition here and now. The information before me and I must speak in the sense of responsibility is that the increase of fires over last year is very significant and that we would like the crop, which is estimated to be 125,000 short tons and possibly 130,000 short tons to be maintained. It can only be maintained without the scorched earth policy on the part of the enemies of progress in the land.

No public would be so stupid as to attempt to adopt a policy to create stagnation within the economy and therefore it cannot be believed that the Government would want to see the sugar crop burnt down in Barbados. Let us make no doubt about it that we as a people must find foreign exchange to import what we eat in this country and as other members on the opposite side have said, we are an open economy.
12.10 p.m.

In essence, we are an importing economy and therefore must import what we use.

I think it was the Hon. Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago in one of his famous books "The Negro in the Caribbean" who wrote the negro in the Caribbean is a poor and an underfed individual. What he eats he does not grow and what he grows he does not eat. We import rice, beef, mutton, butter and a number of other things. We do not produce them, we produce and export sugar and we have a reasonably good market for sugar throughout the world. In the E.E.C. we have an amount of something like 53,000 short tons, we consume ourselves something like 15,000 short tons and in the international sugar market, we can sell to them something like 70,000 short tons. Therefore, we must rely very heavily upon the export of our sugar, in association with our tourism in order to make up for the heavy import bill which we have to meet as time goes by.

At a meeting recently in Redman's Village on the 2nd March, a number of things were said. Certainly, a revelation of the philosophy of the Democratic Labour Party that hopes one day, in the far distant future, to take over the running of the affairs of this country but certainly, an impossible, hopeless situation. The situation is so hopeless that they, like a group of desperate men have decided to do everything to create a scorched earth policy and I am going to say some very strong things to them.

The hon. member for St. Lucy who is indulging in a bit of cross talk and who certainly likes to hear himself, as a member of a responsible trade union and they have a representative on the Fire Control Board, I want to hear the union speaking out on the question of fires.

I was abroad recently on Government's matters and was surprised when I came back to discover that the fires in Barbados had increased by 100% compared with last year. I am not entirely surprised after reading what was said in Redman's Village on the 2nd March this year by a Dr. Caddle and I am not sure that that Dr. Caddle has any relationship to the person who represents St. Michael North Central. I hope he is not the person, but this person, in putting forward the case for the Democratic Labour Party, he suggested that the people should not cut the canes unless they see Cave, Corbin and Simpson come out and cut the canes as well. These are canes which the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John, a few years ago sought to have the people in this country cut and did everything to ensure that these canes were cut. Now we are hearing from his party that these canes are not to be cut.

We on this side, and particularly in this Ministry, are unhappy to recognise that the Opposition, in its mad rush and effort to regain control of the Government in this country is now seeking to bring down its institutions as to invite people not to cut the canes in this land. We are unhappy and we are wondering how much this is to do with the increase in the rate of fires in this land by something like a 100% compared with last year. I call upon the Opposition at this time Mr. Chairman, to come out with us and appeal to the people in this country to ensure that the canes are reaped in a very green manner. It is very important to the ecology of the soil that the canes should be reaped in that way.

Last year, we had a problem of smut disease and that problem was based on the fact that we had quite a few canes fires and they had taken toll over a period of time. We can ill afford to have cane fires. Canes fires per acreage in Barbados rose from the amount in 1963 of something like 10% to 94% in 1974.

It was unfortunate that the present Opposition, then the Governing party of the land, agreed with any idea that we should have cane fires to accommodate the reaping of the canes. It has done tremendous harm to the ecology of the soil and the problems which we now face are an accumulation of the effects of those problems which we experienced then. I want to invite the Trade Union, of which the hon. member for St. Lucy is a principal participant to come out and to appeal to the people of the country, I do not mean the people who work in the sugar industry, because they have nothing whatsoever to gain by burning the canes. Sugar workers do not burn canes, it does not pay them at this time to burn canes.

There is a general feeling in the land, and I agree with that feeling that most of those fires are politically inspired. The fact that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central could hold forth in St. Thomas on the 2nd

March and tell the people not to cut the canes is significant and would cause one to believe that the burning of canes has some political significance.
12.20 p.m.

Hopefully and with goodwill on all sides, we will reap as I said before, Mr. Chairman, 125,000 short tons to fulfil our commitments in the easy market, our local commitments and the commitments in the international sugar agreement. This is very important, and I would hope that we go further and not only secure a projection of 125,000 short tons, but we will get 130,000 tons. It is important, it is vital.

The Government has recently had a study carried out and in this study it is revealed that 150,000 short tons is not beyond the capacity of Barbados and Barbados would be able to take care of such an arrangement. In this study as well it was revealed that over 2,000 hectares in the region of 5,000 acres of land were rescued since 1976 when this Government came into operation. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central in his wont to solicit information and in his wont to make a nuisance of himself poses questions which are detrimental to himself. I will very shortly give you an idea as to where the lands came from. Between 1971 and 1976 including properties of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central thousands of hectares of land went into the speculation markets, lands which are now being used for agricultural production and lands which were then used when they were bought for speculative purposes for agriculture. At Bath in St. John, the Prime Minister as you know at the time when we dealt with the question of Bath and the question of the infelicities of the previous Government, we had an enquiry into that and the Government had eventually to take over Bath for the heavy indebtedness of the previous Bath Estates Ltd.

At Bath we have brought back a considerable amount of land into production. The process of emasculation of agricultural land was stopped in 1976 albeit too late after this Government came to office. I am going to give you a breakdown on the position of Bath Plantation, a plantation that we found not being worked, a plantation that his Government did nothing to ensure that production was maintained on and carried out. As a result of the farseeing policy of the Government Bath Plantation was brought back into being. That was 190 acres of land, in the region of 77 hectares of land brought back into cultivation. Of that amount 120 acres or 48 hectares have on canes to be reaped for this year which will go a long way towards meeting the targeted goal of the Government in terms of its local and external commitments. You would be surprised to know, Mr. Chairman, and the Opposition certainly will want to hear it, that the lands at Bath because of the virginal soil which it is is giving a yield of something like 43 tons per acre, on an average, or 107.50 tons per hectare, since we are talking and thinking metric. Now that land is under the control of the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation and the Government is also ensuring that the lands under the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation are not being neglected, but that they are very much productive, and there we have presently given up as we have a large area at Husbands for housing which are largely marginal and at Wildey in St. Michael largely marginal. It is pointless operating estates of marginal land and we have seen this.

The Government now has under active cultivation within the BADC 3,000 acres of 1,200 hectares. The next Estimates time if it is my honour and privilege to present the Estimates on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, I will not, Mr. Chairman, be using acres at all. I am using acres to accommodate the hon. members opposite and the public largely because I thought that I should. Of that amount of 3,000 acres or 1,200 hectares, 2,030 acres or 806 hectares are under cane production, and it might be of use to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that a lot of the lands at Sedgepond and Bawden which under the Democratic Labour Party regime were not in use are today rented on lease to the Sedgepond Cooperative who are doing a very good job. Sixty acres of that land or 24 hectares have been rented to 30 cooperators who are doing very well at that point, and we will continue within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs to make sure that we divest ourselves of lands which can be better used by the tenants and peasants in the Island to ensure a healthy peasantry and a greater distribution of the lands in the country among the small people of the land. We do not like the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition have to go down to Grenada and talk about elections not being sacrosanct and therefore you do not have to have them at all or when they come not important.
12.30 p.m.

We do not have to go down into Grenada and keep noise about socialism and the question of an egalitarian society. That society is being practised by us in a manner without any fanfare, since we came to office we have been democratising the ownership of the country and creating an egalitarian society without any fanfare or any sabre rattling attitude from the platforms throughout the country.

Within the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation, Mr. Chairman, we are to some extent scaling down the operations because we feel that its purpose could be better served in other directions. For example, the project at Sedge Pond is to be removed from BADC and transferred to the central area of the Ministry. The food crop development at Haggatts, fruit trees which

were largely neglected over the past number of years are to be also transferred to the Soil Conservation Scheme under the control of the mainstream of the Ministry under the Chief Agricultural Officer.

We believe that these matters can be more efficiently handled in that area than they are presently handled. The Food Processing Plant which used to be in the Ministry into the area of the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation has now been transferred to the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I believe that the Marketing Corporation offers a tidier operation for such a facility than the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation, and I am sure that you will agree with me with respect to that.

I think I have said sufficient with respect to sugar and with respect to the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation.

To move on to another item which is of some importance to the country, is to do with the question of price controls, a topic which offers much ammunition to the Opposition party, but ammunition which they themselves contradict in the process of time. I again, Mr. Chairman, will refer to the meeting held on the 2nd March this year at Redman's Village. A lot of things were said then, and I sometimes wonder if the Opposition in saying these things do not feel that they will ever have an opportunity to take over again. Obviously they do not have that opportunity. The hon. and learned Attorney General said yesterday that they may be called upon to form the Government again. He was mistaken, and he is always very sober in putting forward his point of view. What he means is that in the practice of democracy an alternative will take over, but there are really no alternatives, they are not real, they are a joke alternative, they cannot take over anything. Their Leader comes in here for a day, makes a speech which says very little and is certainly not a reply to the Appropriation Bill at all. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central comes in as a back-up support and says a lot more than he but still says very little, and on the basis of that performance in a serious matter like the Estimates they have no claim to being an alternative Government. By their own actions they are creating an atmosphere for a single party Government of the land or a single party of the land. By their own behaviour they are admitting that. It might not be this party, it might be another party, but by their own behaviour they are creating that because they are doing nothing to inspire the populace at large, what they are doing is creating a nuisance of themselves and playing at every stage to the Gallery and the public is aware, very largely aware, that this Government is doing very well in terms of its economic performance and will continue to do so.

Mr. Chairman, these are the views of a Mr. John Connell. I do not know if it is a man by that name who is in the Senate, but a spokesman for the Democratic Labour Party. I do not know, and I can only quote from him. I heard from the Deputy Leader that he is a shadow Minister, he is a shadow shadow Minister of Agriculture, because my understanding is that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is also a shadow Minister, a shadow of the Minister, but I will tell you, you are called upon at some stage or another to put your money where your mouth is, and we are talking about the cost of living. Nothing comes before the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs which is not well researched, and when an increase is given, as the increase in sugar now, Mr. Frank Walcott of the Union of which the hon. member for St. Lucy is a principal spokesman said that the consumers in this Island must carry the burden of whatever wage settlement you arrive at, and any increase in the price of sugar must be laid squarely where it is to be laid. We in this party have recognised that the sugar workers must be treated well, must be inspired to work and that the monies paid for the reaping of canes must not be given to people coming in from abroad but that the people in Barbados must be encouraged to reap the canes, and therefore we are prepared to give every assistance possible.

12.40 p.m.

But the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union does not fail to remind us that the consumers must pay. We agree that consumers must pay in the end; we are all consumers; but in arriving at a price we have got to take into account the overall position with respect to people, and I will tell you that as result of the agreement of the wages for sugar workers a price was arrived at of six cents across the board for all consumers of sugar in Barbados. When the matter was brought to my attention my view was that the consumers of dark sugar, who are the poor people in the country – the last Prime Minister said once that we would wake up one morning and find that we have no country – we have a country today – not under him – and when the matter came to me I said I did not agree and that there must be a price differential. All people who want sugar can use the brown sugar if they want to but the small people must have an opportunity to have a better price and that is what we agreed on. And this Government did that in the interest of the small people of this Island. The industrialists, the people who make a fortune out of the sales of industrial products, must carry their weight to some extent in order that the people in the sugar industry can benefit. When the price of corned beef was raised and the suggestion was made to us, we researched the whole matter and discovered that the price asked was unreasonable and we thought that we should remove the price control and allow the item to finds its level and we continued to watch the situation. And there is another

unfortunate thing I should mention: The Government is in the unfortunate position that you have no reliable consumer body in Barbados to put forward a case on behalf of the consuming public; the Government therefore has to be constantly involved and has constantly to be using the Barbados Marketing Corporation as an instrument to influence prices in the country. You now and then hear of an overnight body by one Happy Bryan. Happy Bryan is a political football who at some times plays in the first eleven of Eric Sealy and sometimes in the second eleven of the Democratic Labour Party; so you don't know what he is – neither fish, foul, mutton or bad redherring. But what we need in Barbados is a body that will bring pressure to bear not only on the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs but a body that will go into Broad Street and Roebuck Street and aggitate and block people from buying the goods in certain stores. I am not encouraging people to try to rescue their politically tarnished selves by jumping on the backs of innocent people. However, Mr. Chairman, these are matters which we have to look at; the Happy Bryans in this world do not have too long to last; at least they have seen by the attitude of their parties that they are not wanted. But what I want to see is a group of people with the best interests of the consumers at heart coming together so that I could talk with them and find out what are their problems. These are the things which interest us.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of performances within the Ministry, with the resources at our disposal we are doing very well. We continue to subsidize at a very tight cost the matter of cultivation of the land; we continue to subsidize the cutting and baling of grass at a very high level; we continue to subsidize our tree crop production and its distribution at a high level. I was amazed recently when a commercial operator said something to me in connection with the fruit trees we sell annually in this Island. It costs us between $7 and $8 to produce a fruit tree but we sell it for only $1; but the commercial people sell these products which we produce at very inflated prices. I have given instructions that the method for this operation must be changed and that any subsidies to be given will be given at the end of the day when the crops have reached a certain point and that the plants must be mature in order to insure that the subsidy reaches the right person. We continue to plough the lands at very uneconomical prices. We lose something between 40% and 60% in ploughing and furrowing, and sometimes the lands are ploughed and furrowed and then the people do not utilize the land and it goes back into fallow and has to be ploughed again. I have got to ask myself if this is the manner in which it should be done and the Ministry is examining its position with respect to this.

I wish to say something which I am sure will gladden the heart of the hon. member for St. Lucy and it has to do with the Spring Hall development. Yesterday he was on the question of projects; but when the project at Pie Corner is completed I want to distinguish that project by calling it the Evelyn Greaves project so that if he dies tonight he will find the project all over his heart. The Spring Hall agreement is signed and we are now working on the layout of the twenty-two lots and the question of Town Planning permission which I do not think will create much of a problem. The lots will range from an average of nine to ten acres to twenty two acres and there will be something like two dairy farms in there. The people who will be looking after the selection of tenants for the area will be an independent group of people, and as is your style, you are free to make any recommendations.
12.50 p.m.

As long as they have the necessary farming qualifications and they meet the criteria for the positions, they will be selected.

The Oistins Development is on target and we hope to be starting in June, June is supposed to be the date but we hope by May.

With respect to the Integrated Rural Development Scheme, the Agreement on that has not been signed but it is hopeful that it will be signed between the 20th and the ending of this month.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central referred in one of his speeches to the question of the Scotland District Project and he was kind enough to say that I do not seem to be getting it off. I want to assure him that at the meeting of his Party in the constituency of St. Andrew notwithstanding the question of the position of this member is not in doubt, and while it is a useful political exercise to offer a candidate against me, Mr. Chairman, I consider it a wasteful exercise and I want to thank him nonetheless for his kind consideration of myself by way of saying nothing that my scheme is in jeopardy because of the ineptitude of certain people. I want to say to him, therefore, that the scheme is not in jeopardy.

The Stanley Study which was made in the Scotland area did not meet the standards expected by the Inter-American Development Bank. They were critical of the Study as the Hon. Attorney General said while making his speech during the week that a number of matters had been referred to him to be dealt with that were paid for by the External Agencies that come to carry out these various investments and I want to say here and now and I do not care who I offend, I speak with the conscience of the people of St. Andrew, I hope the time will come when the Funding Agencies throughout the World will stop foisting on us.

The second rate Experts that they claim they are sending to us as top rate Experts to be advised by our young people to put projects on target because they cannot succeed without the assistance given by the respective

Agencies in our Ministries who are the Agencies to deal with and without that information they are completely without hope and I want to see the money being stopped that is paid out to them and I want to see the people who are employed as counterparts in Barbados to be given the finance in order to assist them to subsidise the pittance that they are working for. That is exactly how I feel about it.

The Inter-American Development Bank is not quite happy with the Stanley Report of the Scotland District. The Prime Minister mentioned it to you in the introduction of the Appropriation Bill that he has had discussion with them and that they are able to send out a man here to have a look again after a tremendous cost to the country and us and, of course, the country fundamentally carries the weight.

The Developing Countries are not very fortunate. Sometimes when I think in terms of developmental aid I wonder if it is important at all. In the end you have to pay very expensively for it and I think the time has come when we have to look inwardly as Booker T. Washington said "Throw down the pocket where you are" and it was said during the Appropriation Bill discussion by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister that external financing is not that expensive as the hon. member for St. Michael South Central seems to believe but that the money paid for the debt of the country is mostly paid within the country. That was made very clear.

The project for the Scotland District is still being looked at and the Government will continue to be concerned about the developmental aspects of one seventh of the country's total land area. Within the remarks of that Body, the Stanley Report and the Inter-American Development Bank, they are looking at the question of the Joe's River muds. I believe that our consideration has to be given to that but we cannot afford to ignore any part of an Island that is only 166 square miles with a teaming population of 250,000 odd people.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to say much more in my introductory remarks. There are a number of things to be dealt with but I just want to give a few glimpses as to what I am willing to touch on and when the hon. member for St. Lucy starts his battle I want to assure him that I am willing to join.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the period for lunch is indicated. I do not know if I am reading correctly but I prefer to take your indications for it rather than the member on the other side. If I am taking you correctly, I beg to move that at this time you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.00 today.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly until 2.00 p.m
1.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On the resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. Is the Minister winding up?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, it is very kind of you to think that I am winding up but I am not quite sure that I am. I am certainly away from the path of winding up.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member said that he had run out of steam and said he was finished, or indicated that he was finished. I do not know whether he has a little more steam now and where he got it from.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. Would you please continue.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I am not quite sure Mr. Chairman, if I had put a matter sufficiently in its perspective. It was dealing with the question of the cost of living, that was the note on which I actually ended when the House was suspended.

I was dealing with a meeting on the 2nd March this year at Redman's Village. The spokesman of the Opposition Party, on Consumer affairs, one John Connell, I do not know which one he is but he has a name akin to a Senator in the Other Place but it might not be him. He acknowledged the problems of the rising cost of living and I was pointing out at the time that the cost of living in Barbados at the moment, from the type of control

which we have, has nothing to do with the local situation. There was a time when the previous Government allowed a number of things here to get out of hand for example, onions. There was a time when onions were bringing a price of something like 80 cents and up to a dollar per pound. When we came in, we controlled onions and brought the price to 36 cents per pound. That is what you call inflation allowed. We have sought to obviate this type of inflation.

It is very easy for the hon. member for St. Michael North Central to highlight names and to say that these are names the Governing party is aligned with, names like Seale, or a Corbin, a Simpson and a Cave. I can only speak for myself. The people who come to the Ministry for price increases find it extremely difficult to get through me, as a matter of fact, they must consider me to be the most difficult person to deal with because unless they substantiate whatever they come to me with, it is not allowed. I am not beating around the bush. They have got Ayatollahs in the country I imagine but unless you are a real Ayatollah like the one in Iran (ASIDE: Like the one at B.M.C.) to so manipulate the situation in the world, you have a situation where you have no influence over the price of oil. You talk about the world situation and the ability of people to control the world situation.

Take the United States of America, mighty and powerful as it is, one of the most powerful countries on earth, I think it is right to say, the most powerful on earth. They have around 50 people in prison in a building in Iran and with all of its might and ranting, the United States of America is unable to do anything about it. If America not only unwilling, but unable because if she goes, she will lose the people who are there already, that is what she does not want, that is what President Carter cannot afford at this point in time. I want to agree with him too, a life is very important. America cannot tell Iran how to operate internally. We have a similar situation in Grenada next door to us, where Maurice Bishop in the new found might and power is telling the Americans, you cannot tell me how to run my affairs and quite rightly so. If you cannot tell Maurice Bishop how to run his affairs, can you tell the Ayatollah in Iran how to run his affairs?

More than that, even next door to us Venezuela. You cannot tell the Venezuelan Government which claims that it is non-aligned, which claims that it supports the developing countries that it is at the slightest whims to increase the price of oil when the occasion arises. As a matter of fact, Venezuela is more willing and ready to increase oil prices than even the Shah of Iran.

In those circumstances, what can a Government do when a price is put to it, based, not only on the increase in freight charges but the increase on port charges, the increased wages of the workers which I am sure the hon. member for St. Lucy will say that the consumers must carry. Also based, on a number of factors over which the Government will have no control. What can we do? Nothing at all.

Mr. Chairman, this is what the spokesman of the Democratic Labour Party has to say on it and I adopt what he says as my own and the Party I am sure will adopt it as its own:

> "With the inflation in the outside world, with the rising of population in Asia, China, India, Africa and Latin America, the world's food supply is going to become smaller and smaller. In fact, with the rising cost of energy which I have just adverted to, all of our imported products are going to become increasingly expensive."

The spokesman for the Democratic Labour Party.

> "The whole subject of food over the next 20 years or so is going to be much more hotly debated. Already, we are entering into a new era in which food is going to be used as a weapon instead of having to drop bombs on the people. You simply blockade them and starve them out".

This was used by the spokesman on consumer matters for the Opposition party at their meeting on the 2nd March this year.

Now Mr. Chairman, it was recognised throughout the world, that food is going to become extremely important. Before, and from the time I came to this Ministry I have been plucking away at the idea that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs be given a reasonable opportunity in order to carry out its work, to make sure that if at all, the Caribbean seas were blockaded that Barbados would be able to stand on its own at least for a short period of time. It is to that that we aim, aspire and are working within the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs.

I want to make a special appeal to all people in Barbados from this Hon. Floor of the House that those of you who have lands, plant them, however small the area might be. It is vital and imperative to do so. Not only the Arabs have oil because you have oil down here as well. America has a good supply of oil and Britain too in the North Sea. Despite the fact that Britain has a good supply of oil, we still realise that Britain has an inflation rate of well over 18 per cent compared with an open economy like ours, where we can hardly supply anything like our needs in terms of Britain. We have been doing commendably well. In circumstances such as this it is vital and absolutely necessary that we supply our own

needs within the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, a Ministry that is always denied a number of things and to a large extent, looked down on. We have been carrying out a number of investigations and trials to see how far we can go by way of self sufficiency.
2.10 p.m.

By self-sufficiency I do not take into account the number of tourists who come to this country, because in the case of a crisis they will not come. It is the Barbadians who will live here and who have nowhere to go that we will have to cater for and we will have to cut the suit to suit the cloth. We have got to think in terms of them. The Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer Research has been carrying out a number of experiments in the area of cassava, a product that can be extremely vital and can go a long way in satisfying not only the needs of human beings but the needs of animals as well. We can also think in terms of gasohol by the use of extracts from cassava in order to assist us with our gasolene use and our mix as is done in Brazil, and he has assured me that on the basis of the good yields which he is now getting that we may be able to reach ten to fifteen tons per acre in terms of cassava. This is a very commendable approach, and I would like at this stage – it is seldom ever done – to pay tribute to my staff which has been rendering yeoman service to the country over a number of years without any recognition, and I want to assure them that recognition does not necessarily come in terms of monuments being built or in great speeches being made on their behalf, but recognition comes from the heart of the people whom they serve. I want to thank them very much for the service which they have rendered to the country over the years and particularly for the service which they have rendered me during the past few months I have been associated with them.

On the question of animal nutrition and animal development, they have been doing a very good job in that respect. The officer in charge, Mr. Patterson, I do hate to call names, it is invidious I imagine to, but nonetheless it is pointless waiting until he is dead to sing his praises, and I would wish him to hear or to read what I say even in Hansard if not in the press that he is still remembered. He has been doing a very good job down there in St. Andrew especially at Greenland with respect to the black belly sheep, and also the question of the cross breeding of the animals down there, the Suffolk and the Dorset. The black belly sheep, although very prolific is not a sheep that produces a lot of meat, but by a good crossing of them you will get the desired effect of a reasonably prolific progeny and a good meat producer. I want to thank those who are involved in that exercise.

As I said earlier the project at Sedgepond which was developed by the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation will be turned over to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs and that will fall into the over-all plan of the sheep development in the Scotland area at Sedgepond. That is doing very well and I hope that it will continue to do so.

The Governor of the Central Bank in his recent report adverted to the fact that the performance in certain agricultural produce was not as good as in 1978 by way of vegetables and what have you. There are a number of factors that are responsible for that and principal is the question of the weather. I think it is well known not only in Barbados but throughout the world that vegetables and products of that nature do not do very well in the case of heavy rains. Sugar canes will do very well, yams and potatoes will do very well. There was a cut back however with respect to yam production. The cut back was because in 1978 the sale was not as good as the planters expected, but I want to issue a note of warning and this is no threat to anybody, and I do not want the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to come in and say that I curse the planters because far be it from me to curse anybody; but I would want the planters to work with me. I have a responsibility that far exceeds that of the planters and my responsibility is to the broad masses of people in this country. They are not to be too greedy. When the price is to be low it must be low; when there are gluts they must release the food and not spray them in the fields. It is unchristian and it is unkind. Give it to the working-class people out there and let them enjoy some. What is the sense of trying to keep the price of yams at 32 cents and 36 cents per pound when it can be sold and you can break even? Essentially the cost of the production of the yams and potatoes is generally hitched to the sugar and the cane, and therefore you could virtually give it away. I am not suggesting that however, and I have to be very practical in my approach. Mine is a dogmatic approach and a pragmatic approach.

In terms of fish, for example, we have been fortunate to have quite recently a fisheries officer appointed to the fisheries office, a gentleman who has come to us in the form of assistance from overseas, the British Government, a Mr. Hastings, and we also have in our midst at the moment a team from the Canadian Government CIDA. You will recall that last year some time in August I think it was that I signed an agreement with the Canadian Government in order to provide assistance to us in order to look at fisheries within the area. We in Barbados have to lose in the region of $5 million to $7 million in foreign currency as a result of the importation of fish, and I would like to see the day when there will be no question of importing fish. I would like to see our boats being prepared and able to go out there with a knowledge of the currents of the sea and what the sea can produce to bring the necessary fish in in order to satisfy our local needs.

The Ministry provides fruit trees at the Soil Conservation, breadfruits and what have you, and I would

like the people to embark upon a planting programme throughout the Island so that we will cut back on our import bill and not be particularly concerned about what the cost of things will be. The hon. member for St. Lucy as is his wont is asking me if you can plant fish. Yes, you can plant fish as well. I do not know if he is not aware of it. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central can advise you on this because you do not have the expertise in this area. This is nothing to do with trying to extract money when you do not need to extract it or to extract it when it is not necessary to extract it. You can have fish so developed and so cultured even inland fishing, and the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is aware of this; he has discussed it with me already and we are looking into that area. When the time comes we will deal with that, but I am just highlighting the problems and giving you broad ideas as to the thinking within the Ministry, and what we hope to accomplish.
2.20 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Lucy will not be aware of these things, living as he does in his glass house so insulated from the problems of the poor and problems of agriculture except when the people involved in his Union are disturbed by a matter, he will only then come down from his lofty heights to dwell among them and discuss with them the problems which affect them. Outside of that he is totally oblivious of the problems that confront the nation and the poor especially.

Mr. Chairman, I briefly touch on the BMC, but the Prime Minister is on record as praising the BMC for the work which it has done and the manner in which it has been able to bring some order to the system there from the chaotic situation in which it was during the past number of years. I too would like to compliment them for the manner in which they have performed, and I want to say further that the BMC is an important instrument of Government sponsorship. A study is now being carried out on behalf of the BMC to do with farming generally and the question of marketing, because this is the problem that the farmers have always had, marketing. You encourage the farmers to plant and then at the end of the day there can be no sale for their produce and they become disillusioned, but we have now embarked upon a marketing study in order to look at the marketing situation within the country, and I feel confident that as a result of this study that all the farmers in this country will benefit and they will not have the problems which they have been having over the years.

During my period in Rome last year I spoke to the Director General of FAO, and on that I should like to say that FAO has made significant contributions to the country and that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to them. When Barbados last year was struck with smut disease they came quite readily to our assistance, and I am advised that there is a plant pathologist at the moment from FAO working on smut disease in Barbados. Cuba, I am told, has had an attack of rust disease in the sugar cane and therefore there will be a great drop in the output of Cuban sugar for this year. Barbados should do all in its power to capitalise on the fact that Cuba will not be producing its usual quota on the world market, so that we should take advantage by producing any extra amount that we can in order to reap the benefits that will accrue from Cuba's shortage, and my information is that the world market prices are reasonably good.

FAO has also agreed to give assistance to the Barbados Agricultural Society, but while I was there I had discussions with them and they have decided to assist us in every way that is possible, even by way of giving us trucks to go out and bring in the farmers' produce, because they are very concerned about past harvest losses and the question of food scarcity in the world. I do not know how many people are aware, but I am told that based upon statistics there are about 450 million people throughout the world who are either suffering from hunger or on the border line of hunger, and Barbados has got to make sure that that situation does not continue. The question might well be asked, are we our brother's keeper; my answer is we are our brother's keeper.

Mr. Chairman, I feel sure and very confident that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs can overcome the problems which confront this country, the problems I referred to as highlighted by John Connell, the gentleman who I understand is the spokesman of the DLP – he certainly was their spokesman on the 2nd March this year at Redman's Village. I feel sure that in giving the background of where we stand in agriculture at the moment, the position as I have explained it is one which I am sure you will understand. The fact that I told you that Barbados can capitalise on the world sugar problem, I want to appeal to members, and without a diarrhoea of words but a diarrhoea of sense, and I am calling upon the hon. member for St. Lucy to see if he can appeal to his Union, and not only to his Union, but use his post within Parliament to appeal generally to the country to make sure that there is no burning of canes. I wish he would do that and that he would promise me whenever he gets up in here – not only promise me but promise the country as a whole – whenever he gets up in here that he would say that he would not like to see any burnings, he would like to see the canes reaped and he would like to see a bumper crop. I want to see even more than the anticipated 125,000 short tons, I want to see 130,000 long tons.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks I open myself for further debates on the Heads as they come up.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Andrew has taken the opportunity under this Head to make a very wide ranging statement. I must say this, despite the fact that he ran out of steam just before the luncheon interval and somehow managed to gather some energy back, and as he said he did this with a diarrhoea of sense but he had lost it all by the time he came to the end of his second speech.

However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make these observations about the hon. member's contribution in general. I would say in all honesty that his manner, style and presentation have been by far the best coming from any Minister on that side during these Estimates and far more compatible with what one would expect to be the behaviour and the presentation of a Minister of this Government. I will challenge him on the content. I recognise that he has had very serious restraints, because he could not openly come out and say that when he was sent to that Ministry that the Ministry was in a complete mess.
2.30 p.m.

In fact I gathered that he got into a lot of trouble attempting that even privately, so he cannot say it publicly; nor can he be in a position to point out the very serious limitations on his performance as a Minister because of a lack of general policy direction on the part of those who have ultimate responsibility for running this country.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this is a Party – I am talking about the Barbados Labour Party – which took a very strong position in relation to agriculture prior to coming into power. The position they took then, I think it is reasonable to say, was generally speaking correct. They have come into power and at the end of three years the position with regard to agriculture in Barbados has grown persistently worse and they just hope for some magical trick and they figure that by moving one Minister who had totally discredited himself in the Ministry and putting another Minister would automatically solve the problem. But that was not the case. The hon. member for St. Andrew ought to be a little ashamed of himself to suggest by insinuation that the Democratic Labour Party would be in any way associated with the question of cane fires in this country. Cane fires existed in Barbados before the Barbados Labour Party came into existence and before the Democratic Labour Party came into existence. The socio-economic reasons for cane fires is something that no one has ever been able to clearly define, whether it is the owners who burn the cane or the workers who burn the cane or whether it is a reflection of social discontent in the community. But if we are going to find ourselves in the position where one Party is going to accuse another Party of being responsible.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt the hon. member. I sat here and heard the Minister and at no time did I hear the Minister say that the DLP was responsible for the burning of canes in this Island and I will ask the hon. member who said he was going to get to the content of the Minister's speech to do so.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, if I may quote the exact words: "The Democratic Labour Party has done everything to create a scorched earth policy; most of the fires are politically inspired."

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: On a point of clarification Mr. Chairman. I would like to know whom he is quoting from. I just saw the hon. member for St. Lucy hand him something. While I may be willing to go along with what he himself might write, I do not know that I want to go along with what the hon. member may have given him.

Dr. HAYNES: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member has shown an element of contrition in this matter so I won't pursue it any further.

Now we had hoped, because of a conjunction of numerous factors affecting this economy, to hear some kind of exciting agricultural policy. For example, we wanted to hear what were the plans the Government had in relation to its agricultural policy to maximise its export earnings of foreign currency. We have heard that he is depending on a good crop. Everyone knows that the sugar crop in this country depends very much on the level of rainfall; that is a fact; that is nature, and there is nothing that mankind can do about that; and I believe this is recognised by both sides. But what is more important, he has not told us that his Ministry is doing enough either to meet the local needs of the population in terms of the amount of food that we can produce, or even equally more important that we can maximize our earnings from the tourist industry by substantially contributing to the food consumed by tourists to this country.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we on this side feel that an agricultural policy must be the basis for the future development of Barbados. We feel that it is even more important now because of the whole range of external factors. We feel that just as in other areas such as tourism and the manufacturing sector successive governments have been able to make heavy investment in order to virtually create industries out of nothing, create situations that did not exist before, I feel that the time has long past when we should be having massive incentive inputs into agriculture; not that there have not been inputs before, but inputs on a massive scale, bearing in mind that unlike other industries like perhaps tourism which, God forbid it, in time of a national disaster might be temporarily interrupted, the manufacturing sector is bearing the brunt of the inflationary factors inside and outside of

the country. But the thing about agriculture is that it is one of our major physical resources, one of the few raw resources that we have, and it is mandatory that we make maximum use of these resources; and we can no longer in this country depend on the contributions from the other sectors and from repatriation from overseas to overcome the difficulties in our agricultural sector. There is little point taking the planters to task on how they handle agriculture in this country. I think this is an area that requires Government intervention, Government intervention in significant scientific research and money input, and indeed I believe that we should be moving ahead far more rapidly in the area of agro-industrial development in Barbados. I have not heard one word about the area of agro-industrial development in relation to agriculture.
2.40 p.m.

I am talking about a speech spanning almost two hours so we must conclude that it is not important. We know there are problems. There are problems of financial inputs. There are problems of research. There are problems of how you would be able to handle what you may produce and handle this in an agro-industrial manner but nevertheless there must be a major thrust in that area if you are going to achieve the objectives of feeding your population and securing savings in terms of the tourist dollar etc., etc., as I have outlined before.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this brings me to words which everybody in Barbados seems to be afraid of. One of the big problems in Barbados is the distribution of land ownership. Sooner or later this Honourable House is going to have to face the question of land requirements in Barbados in a serious manner. Wages, tax incentives, the Dean or the Prime Minister or anybody going into the sugar cane field cutting canes for a few days is not going to have the same incentive effect as a man owning his own piece of land and that is why I was pleased to hear that at long last they were getting around to doing something about the Spring Hall Project which was started by the great Democratic Labour Party because it is an important project and if it goes well it will show the relationship between ownership, productivity and the ability of Government to use its resources to pump it into agriculture with some degree of social conscience with the widest area of distribution and not having the kind of shrewd relationship now in respect of its financial institutions which I will deal with at a later stage.

When we look at the amount of money pumped into what was the Sugar Industrial Agricultural Bank and what is now being taken over by The Barbados National Bank and you look and see the level of financing that was available within the Peasants Loan Bank, subsequently The Agricultural Credit Bank which has now disappeared into oblivion, this is a matter which I will deal with later on.

The whole question of the ability of Government to put meaningful incentives into the production sector of Agriculture is dependant on land reform. I am not saying that you should go and take away anybody's land. There are ways of doing things.

The Government for example owns several estates that can be used wisely to show how these Projects go and there are other ways in which things can be done and I would suggest that this matter should be approached in a mature manner and there is little point getting up and saying that I am advocating taking away people's land and things like that.

Price Control policy – a tremendous disappointment. Mr. Chairman, I accept that so long as we are a high importer of food that there is going to be an element of inflation that we are importing in this country. What I cannot accept, Mr. Chairman, is that many intelligent persons in Barbados looking at the structure of the commercial sector can come to the conclusion that you can leave it to the suggestion on television and the market forces in Barbados to influence prices or to control prices. Let me explain what I mean.

Even in industrial countries where Governments by various measures can influence a product from the time it leaves the ground, or whatever is the source of the raw resources right up to the time that it reaches the consumer, they can influence each stage of that process, even in those countries there is a tremendous demand for price control.

Then – Mr. Chairman, it cannot be 15 minutes because he spoke for two hours.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has two minutes to wind up his speech.

Dr. HAYNES: Any how, Mr. Chairman, I want to deal conceptually with the question of price controls. Even in developing countries where you can influence what goes into the making of a product from beginning to end, when it reaches the market point, the point of sale in many countries, it has been found that there is a need for price control.

Now in Barbados we can virtually influence the price of those products only if they are landed here unless, of course, an Organisation like the Barbados Marketing Corporation concentrates on a few products and probably looks for long term buying by bulk and get sales in the wholesale business and get better prices overseas but time is not going to permit me to expand on this particular area and I am being cut short deliberately but I would like to say this. I am being cut short unfortunately, Sir, that was the wrong word.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please withdraw that remark?

Dr. HAYNES: I beg to withdraw the word "deliberate".

I would like to say this, there is a little substance in the argument that price control must be used wisely because we know that intervention in the market place can sometimes have undesirable side effects but it is my considered judgment that an effective price control policy in the situation that Barbados finds itself, it is the only way in which Barbados is going to be able to significantly influence the domestic component of individuals and the only way in which you can influence the external component of inflation is to make sure that the Barbados Marketing Corporation, your particular sections of your Embassies abroad, become much more important instruments in helping you to get the food to Barbados and essential products at a cheaper rate.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak for another couple of hours on this subject and I will come again.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the hon. member will have to break his theoretical and platitudinous statement at this particular juncture. The hon. member mentioned one or two matters which I hasten to deal with immediately.

The first thing that the hon. member and everybody in Barbados must be able to understand is that in the limited land area that we have, having regard to the soil conditions, rainfall and other matters, there are only a limited amount of crops that can be produced in Barbados.

Secondly, it is a matter of commonsense, a matter of wise economic sense to endeavour to use the scientific information you have in an attempt to make the best use of the land that you have available to you because the hon. member has not yet put forward a theory consistent with the long established historical knowledge in Barbados that as far as the large percentage of the land is concerned in Barbados it is suitable only for growing sugar cane in the most economic conditions. He has not put forward any other way contradictory to that.

Now, Sir, he says there is no linkage between the Agricultural production and Industry and Tourism.....

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. What I said is that it is most important to forge those linkages and I spent about five minutes pointing out the importance of it. Quite contrary.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The point of the matter is that the hon. member is unaware of the fact that there is a linkage and increasingly there is more linkage going along. Let us be factual on this.
2.50 p.m.

A study was done in this country, both from the tourism demand point of view and local consumption and in respect of salad vegetables and starch products, it has been demonstrated that Barbados and the tourists who come here eat some 70% of their requirements from local production. It is no point telling us that we should have 100%. Nobody has yet been able to tackle the scientific problem.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. I have never talked about any 100% situation. You will never achieve that in Barbados, do as well as you can, expand it, that is all.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: The hon. member's interruption is not going to prevent me from driving home that he is talking from a theoretical and lack of factual knowledge of the de facto position. We have a scientific problem and that is, between April and November, in the wet season in Barbados there are certain vegetables we can grow from November until April that we have not been able to counter yet. I can give you one example, tomatoes. Beans and rain do not agree, you should know that, you are from St. George. Too much rain and cabbage do not agree either. Work is in fact going on now for help to be given to try and develop things such as hydrotonics and soil drainage and matters of that kind.

To say in the speech that the hon. member made here and to convey the impression to the general public that nothing has been happening in the course of the last three or four years is a distortion of the facts. As a matter of fact, the hon. member does not know that in the course of the last three or four years, I do not care who says otherwise, there has been an increase in the demand and supply and the proof of that is that there are many more acres or hectares now devoted to vegetable production both by plantations and other, than there were before.

What we have not got is an actual information base to determine the true production and demand. There has been a revolution in agriculture in Barbados. If you do not know that, you should check the figures. As an undeveloped country, the percentage of our working population working in Barbados is less than 7%. It is much lower than countries such as Ireland, Greece and other

Mediterranean countries. I want to go further, in the realm of distribution of vegetables, the supermarkets with two cold counters and vegetable counters have a larger distribution of the vegetable production in Barbados than the hawkers had. That is a trend all over the world that you have mass distribution of goods within one physical area. It ought to be easier now to get the information base because you can arrive at it, either from the production angle or the distribution angle.

There are one or two other problems we have here. We have the attitude of the farmers, small, medium and large, everybody is interested in rushing for the fresh market at the highest possible price. This leads me into the question of agro industry. The hon. member does not know that there is a tremendous amount of agro industrial production in Barbados. At least 14 or 15 plants producing agro industrial products in Barbados. What is more, there are at least three more factories to which fiscal incentives have been granted, the latest is going up in Wildey just below Catelli and you would see that a gentleman called Dr. Reggie Clarke, has been granted fiscal incentives for the purpose of agro industry.

We have in this country, under-utilised capacity in relation to canning. We hear people talk about they want a canning plant. There is a canning plant installed in Barbados and it cannot get raw materials because there is a dispute between the farmers and cannery with respect to the value of raw materials. (Mr. TAITT: What is the name of the cannery?) What is the name? It is really pitiful that in Barbados, the hon. member does not know that BARPAC has a complete installed cannery.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please I will not have these interruptions.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: It was installed only after – Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with serious business and they are talking about frivolities. The fresh market prices and the farmers' attitude to the pricing of their products as such that there will never be proper utilisation of raw materials in Barbados unless some mechanism is devised to ensure that the farmers participate in the profits of the cannery.

I remember very well in the Other Place, when the question of BARPAC originally came up, I said, that when you are dealing with the Barbadian farmer, you must remember that his position has always been that, as a producer, he controls the processing. I pointed out that in the sugar industry because of the peculiar structure of the linkage between production and processing, that the sugar processing machinery was starved of a reasonable return because of the high price of raw material that the sugar grower got, completely contrary to any one else in the Caribbean and I said, that that was deeply engraved in the minds of every farmer and that BARPAC would never succeed unless, somewhere, and some machinery could be established. We were left and dumped with the problems of BARPAC, we had to solve the problems of BARPAC.

3 p.m.

When we came into power the farmers, Rayside and Grace and Rayside and the other men were at the point of fisty cuffs with one another. We had to sit down and try and hammer out a production and a processing plant for them and both sides telling lies too. One telling you lies on how much he got and his cost of production and the other telling you lies about his cost of production and his cost of distribution. Both telling lies and it was left to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry to try and hammer out after a comparative study of other pig processing plants, and it is the same thing we have now, exactly the same thing we have now in relation to vegetables. We have solved the problem of the pig producers and Barpac. We have to solve it. You were only interested in signing the fiscal incentive order; you were not even interested as to whether the plant was established in accordance with public health standards or not.

Now, Sir, the basic position is that we were landed both with the question of design of the plant, a study of the machinery, the question of a producer processing agreement. Anyway I think all Barbadians must be pleased to know that we do not see the banners running in the newspapers one behind the other every day between the pig producers and the processers, but we cannot get it with the carrot growers. I went to Ireland; I saw an Irish sugar company doing processing with Heinz 57 Variety as a joint venture. I saw agro-industrial development there and I asked what was the raw material cost of the carrots and they told me the equivalent of 24 Barbados cents a pound. *(Asides)* Both the Minister of Agriculture and I; this Minister of Agriculture and the last one too. I am not having you abuse any of this Government's Ministers of Agriculture; I am not having that. Great strides were made. We went to Trinidad to try and market fresh vegetables. As a town man the hon. member for St. Michael South Central would not understand this at all. The local farmers wanted $1.90 a pound for carrots. Under the agricultural marketing protocol it was 35 cents EEC and 45 cents EEC; so what we have to do is to persuade them that we have a fresh market in respect of the hotel trade and in respect of the more affluent shoppers like the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and others at the

supermarkets, but that people must grow under contract to supply the cannery in respect of a certain grade and that volume is important in the determination of the over-all economics.

Now we have sat around the table, the Minister of Agriculture and myself and pointed this out to the farmers. Do not talk about the small farmers at all because it is totally impossible for you to get them organised into this thinking; so therefore what we need is a new group of farmers unrestrained by the tradition of the plantation type and different from the part-timers who are really gardeners. We have made more progress in this area than the Government on the other side in 15 years have made. I am very pleased to note that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture can say that using the ADC lands in St. Andrew the Government now has a *de facto* experience of a model of this new type. Did he not say that 70 acres have been leased out? I am trying to get him to lease out 100 acres in Fairy Valley Christ Church.

We have to renegotiate the Spring Hall agreement, and I will tell you why. The potential farmers in Spring Hall under the scheme that we saw were going to be saddled with an infrastructure cost in roads, buildings of such magnitude that there was no way that they ever had any hope of making a living, because the people who had designed the original Spring Hall project were motivated by the Sandford, Hope, Frere Pilgrim mentality, but in truth and in fact you were having a land sub-division, not the creation of a genuine economic unit for a farmer. Your lots were too small, the infrastructure was too costly and the terms would have landed the people in bankruptcy and you would have ended up in precisely the same way that many of the central European countries and others ended up when they tried land reform originally. You would have ended up with people having the land and working outside of the land. What we want is real professional farmers working and living on the land. The units were expanded, the infrastructural costs were reduced and the Cabinet has agreed upon the structure for the project management, and I am shocked and surprised it is not advertised today.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that they did not have any need for any Minister of Agriculture in Barbados, that the only Agriculture Minister should be God. That is what he said. God should be the only Agriculture Minister. As far as he is concerned he is nothing to do with agriculture; he allowed 12,000 acres of land to be sub-divided in Barbados.

As far as fishing is concerned, his conception of a fisherman is a person who walks about and begs for an old cork hat, police pants and selling stinking fish in Oistins. That is his conception. The Democratic Labour Party has a dishonourable record when it comes to land sub-division; so let us get our concepts clear. We need land reform because there will be a proportion of people who want to make their living on the land. You can offer them all kinds of professions, you can offer them all kinds of bank jobs, mother nature keeps calling them back to the land. There are some people like that; I know it only too well. What we have to ensure is that they get the economic unit to grow crops that they would be able to make a comparable living with the bank manager and all of that. If you think he can do it on four acres you are really making sport.

Now, Sir, secondly, sufficient work has been done on the soils and crops in Barbados to identify already the type of crops that can be grown economically. Peanuts – there are a lot of crops. All this work has been done. More work has been done than ever before on the question of marketing. It has not reached perfection, but part of the imperfection in marketing that we have in relation to vegetable farming in Barbados arises not from the fault of the Government, but from the attitudes of the producers and sometimes the attitude of the consumers too, because the consumers want to get the cheapest price and they do not want to give the people the cost of production. I am very pleased, Sir, to note that reality is catching up with us. I see Guyana rice is 51 cents a pound, and I am pleased to note that people are eating yam, sweet potatoes, and as for breadfruit, I have four trees and the first time I sold one in a lot of years is this year.

3.10 p.m.

Now, do you see that, Sir? Did you hear the hon. member say that things are hard? How can we progress in this country when an hon. member who is a member of the House of Assembly looks down on a product that we produce and say that things are hard? In other words, he is saying that breadfruit is only fit for hogs; that is what the hon. member is saying.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. member for giving way, but he completely misunderstood. I consider breadfruit to be one of the best resources of this country. It is just that the way that the hon. member said that for the first time in his life he had to sell one of his breadfruits, I thought things were so hard with him that he had to sell them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, the hon. member knows that since I became a Minister things are hard with me. Sometimes one of the things that is interesting in relation to attitudes is this, that I know that there is a much more favourable attitude towards these roots crops now in Barbados than before. It is not only price, it is that fact that tourists come here and eat it and the word

has got around that the food is very palatable. There is a cross fertilisation of ideas in relation to these things. In addition the efforts of the Nutrition Department, both of the Ministry of Health and the Housecraft Centre and others, have helped a lot because people now know foods in relation not so much to their palatability but in relation to their nutritive value, and progress will be made.

When the Guyana people asked about rice, I said I don't know of a younger generation who is going to pick rice, only the older generation is interested in that, the modern young cats are not interested in sitting down picking rice. Mr. Chairman, there has been a change, progress has been made. It is our duty to continue to encourage the people not to decry our local production, encourage the use of them, and it is no point feeling that you can change in a short period of time attitudes which were built up over a long period of time, and you cannot decry the efforts of the Barbados Labour Party in this direction.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in making this contribution to this debate on agriculture I do so feeling somewhat unhappy at the charges, particularly one charge, which was levelled by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in his introduction at the Democratic Labour Party. I think it is important for us to get this point established very clearly and then move on. Now it is significant, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister in introducing this Head – Agriculture – took time out to launch an attack on the Democratic Labour Party, and indeed associated very clearly the Democratic Labour Party with the burning of sugar canes in this country. He began on that note and on that note he ended. He said in the course of his address that the Democratic Labour Party has done everything to create a scorched earth policy. He went on to say that most of the fires in this country are politically inspired.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just want to remind the hon. member that there is a rule with respect to repetition.

Mr. GREAVES: I would have to repeat it, Mr. Chairman, because he said it and I believe that the offence has come from his side because it is in keeping with a statement that was made by the former Minister of Agriculture when an amendment to the Fire Service Act was brought down here in 1977 when the then Minister of Agriculture said that when that Act was passed all the old members of the Democratic Labour Party and the young members of the Democratic Labour Party would find themselves in prison, because he said that we were behind the burning of canes in this country, and this is the kind of attitude which has been coming from the Barbados Labour Party. I want to say very very clearly that the Democratic Labour Party has nothing to be ashamed of or to hide as regards agriculture, if the Barbados Labour Party feels that that is a way of attempting to regain any kind of ground that they have lost by trying to associate the Democratic Labour Party with the burning of canes, that is entirely a matter for them. We have a very clear policy and we had a very very clear policy on this question of agriculture, and one would have hoped to have heard the Minister today really giving an in-depth analysis, and indeed projections, about the Ministry's performance and what he hopes to do in the next few years or months that he will have the fortune, to be a Minister and to have the reins of agriculture in his hands.

Now, let us start off, Mr. Chairman, with some of the things which the Minister has said, and I will start with the Agricultural Development Corporation. I think that the Minister's speech, particularly before lunch, was taken up mostly with, as he admitted, a diarrhoea of words, absolute nonsense, and there was really an absence of policy, because I noted down a number of areas he omitted to deal with, but it would seem as if he had some better counsel during the luncheon period and he came back and sought to regain the position which he had so badly lost, but let us look at the Agricultural Development Corporation. What has he said? The Minister has not said anything very much on the Agricultural Development Corporation, except to say that (a) marginal lands in Husbands and Wildey will be turned over to housing – that is one policy. He stated, secondly, that there were 2,030 acres of land under cane cultivation. Thirdly, he stated that land at Sedge Pond and Bawdens are today rented to Sedge Pond Co-op. As a matter of fact he said there were 60 acres of land, and he went on to say, very significantly, Mr. Chairman, that the ADC is scaling down its operations. For example, he said that he is transferring the fruit crop section to the Ministry, the food processing plant has been transferred to the BMC, and he went along that line, so that we see very clearly that the Minister has indicated that he is phasing out the Agricultural Development Corporation, scaling down the operations of the Agricultural Development Corporation.

I would have thought that the Minister would have used this opportunity to give us some indication as to what role he sees the agricultural development policy playing in what, I would agree with the member for Christ Church South Central, I would describe as an agricultural revolution, because in deed and in fact an agricultural revolution has been taking place in this country now for the last ten years, not within the last two or three years, there has been an agricultural revolution in this country. I agree with that. Food production, the diversification of agriculture, all of these are factors which have taken place not since the Barbados Labour Party has come into the Government, but it is a planned and phased development of this country, and one which obviously the Democratic Labour Party must be thoroughly congratulated on.

3.20 p.m.

Now if we come to talk about the Agricultural Development Corporation and the role which the agricultural Development Corporation is going to play in this country. The Minister is scaling down the operations of the ADC, but let us move on to Spring Hall. I was particularly glad to hear the Minister say that the Government has at long last come around to the idea that it will continue with the farsighted policy which was initiated by the Democratic Labour Party when the Spring Hall Estates were purchased by the Democratic Labour Party. The Estates were purchased with a view to the continuation of this agricultural revolution we are talking about and there seems to be some variance here between the present Minister and the former Minister. I recall vividly – I have a deep interest in this, not a financial interest but from the point of view of what it would mean for this country and for the whole process of an integrated development of the North, tying in with the Heywoods Development; it was all planned, not somebody getting up one morning and saying this is what we would like to do. I want to say that the former Minister of Agriculture used to say that the Democratic Labour Party had earmarked plots of twenty five acres and that this was nonsense and he wanted to see plots of four or five acres. I am glad to hear the Minister saying now.....

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know if he is saying that something which I said was nothing.

Mr. GREAVES: I am dealing with your words. You said that the agreement was signed and you are happy to see that twenty-two lots ranging from ten to twenty two acres. Did you not say that?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I said nine to ten to twenty two acres.

Mr. GREAVES: Very well, nine to ten to twenty two. But it is very interesting to hear the Deputy Prime Minister stating that one of the major planks in this major project was the size of the units, so that we have now seen that whereas the Barbados Labour Party in the first instance criticised the Democratic Labour Party for the size of the units which were to be allocated, they have now come around to the idea that after all this seems to be the size we should be operating on. So we see very clearly that there is really a lack of direction coming from the other side. As I said, I am glad to see they have agreed to continue with the Spring Hall development. I also want to note that I would hope that genuine farmers would get the opportunity to work these lands and also that people from St. Lucy would be selected.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member surely does not want the scheme to founder on the wrong selection of tenants. The criteria will be adequate qualifications and good professional farming ability. As far as I know, nut growing and fishing are the good qualities in St. Lucy.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the criteria for selection will not be the kind we see under Defence and Security which they were trying to hide from debate, and that the criteria will be farming ability and not political qualifications.

The Minister also indicated that in the development provision would be made for two dairy farms. This brings me to a very crucial point. At the present moment there is the Hope Dairy Farm presently in St. Lucy, and the Hope was originally part of the Spring Hall group of estates which is now owned by the Government. I have been led to understand there has been a considerable scaling down of the Hope Dairy farm and that the workers are of the view that it is on the way to being completely shut down, and I wonder if the Minister can give us some idea of what is happening, whether or not there will be three dairy farms in this area, the Hope and two new ones. I think this is a matter that needs to be clarified.

To move to some of the other things said by the Minister, let us look at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Generally speaking, the concept of the Barbados Marketing Corporation is a very vital one. The problem of the BMC is in the management and direction of the Corporation. The BMC has been a political thing for some time. When the Barbados Labour Party came into power they said that the BMC was overstaffed and they proceeded to lay off about 60 or so people. Today, without any significant increase in the operations of the BMC the corporation has a staff of about 300; and I am saying without fear of contradiction that any application for any job at the BMC must come under the section dealing with references – 95% of the people who get jobs at the BMC their application forms have on the name of Keith Hinds as a referee.

Now the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation was praised by the Prime Minister on Monday for good management which according to him is evident at the BMC and the hon. member was also praised by the Minister of Agriculture today. It is very significant that the Prime Minister with all those chairmen behind him of all the Statutory Corporations around should select the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation for praise.
3.30 p.m.

It is significant and I am saying that this was done because he recognised that the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation was going to come in for some very heavy and stiff lashes as a result of his mismanagement of the Barbados Marketing Corporation and he

therefore decided that he would give him a little boost *(Asides)*. I think you wanted to come and confirm that, Mr. Prime Minister.

In November/December last year we had a spectacle of the BMC creating unwittingly, I would not say deliberately, unwittingly a glut of chicken in this country, importing over 42,000 tons of chicken, flying it in by air from Miami and taking a loss of over $57,000. People who produce chickens here cannot get them sold and we have people here growing chicken 10 lbs and 12 lbs and they cannot get them sold. *(Asides)*. Mr. Chairman, the chickens are big. They might not be 10 lbs or 12 lbs but there are big and hard at that and as the hon. member for St. Philip South said, we cannot get them cook.

It is all as a result of a lack of policy by the Chairman who did not take any chance or opportunity to investigate what was the chicken population, if I can use that word, how they were going on stream or anything like that but he rushes off madly as it were and orders down a whole set of chicken to create all sorts of problems and I doubt very much that the Minister was in agreement with that.

If he can get up and say that he agrees with them, I would say that both of them should go home.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to tell the hon. member that the whole arrangement of the chicken I know about. The whole history of it I know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. With all of those interruptions you have three more minutes.

Mr. GREAVES: Five minutes more. Give me five more minutes. Mr. Chairman, I am very surprised to hear that the Minister knows about this. I thought the Minister did not know about this but this would even make it worse to know that the Minister knows that the Chairman went and imported 42,000 lbs of chicken into Barbados when he knew that we had so much chicken about here.

We talked about the Management of the BMC but what kind of management you are going to have or what kind of excellent Chairman you are going to have when you have a mass resignation and dismissal of his top staff. The General Manager of the Barbados Marketing Corporation dismissed. The Sales Manager made redundant. The Personnel Manager resigned. The Food Promotion Officer resigned. All of these top people, what kind of direction is being given at the Barbados Marketing Corporation? I am saying that there is a need for a complete revamping of the Barbados Marketing Corporation including the removal of the Chairman because that is the only effective way we can get it working.

I said that I would set out by saying Mr. Chairman, that the Barbados Marketing Corporation conceptually is a very good idea and it should be made to work effectively but it cannot work with the kind of attitude which is being seen displayed by someone who in other places has been described as the Ayatollah at the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

The Minister made very very slight reference to Fisheries and Fisheries Development. I would like to hear him expand on that. We have not heard anything about the plan for St. Peter or Speightstown, neither have we heard him talk about Fishing Development in the Half Moon Fort area. He touched briefly on Marketing. Marketing is a very crucial area in this whole question of agriculture.

He has not said anything much or at least he has not said anything at all on Co-operatives. The only thing he mentioned on Co-operatives was about Co-operatives in St. Andrew.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Mr. GREAVES: I am winding up now. On Livestock Development he barely mentioned something about sheep but we want to hear something on the Caribbean Food Corporation. All of these are matters which play an integral part in Agriculture and the Minister has failed us in this particular regard. He has failed the country and he has failed his Party as well.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, on this question of Agriculture and in particular the matter which the Hon. Minister has raised expressing his concern over certain statements and the state of cane fires in this country is one which I too must share my concern. I feel that I am one of the hon. members in this House of Assembly today who can stand up and speak on the subject of Agriculture and I can daresay that I can claim to be a son of the real soil.

It disturbs me when some people who are supposed to be responsible, though they can be irresponsible in this society, take time off to go to various political platforms and even coming in this Honourable Chamber to make some scurrilous and degrading remarks referring to certain people who have been brought out of an agricultural family.

Not only that, Mr. Chairman, but some of them are using remarks and making speeches which tend to have an effect to discouraging people from reaping the canes. The disturbing thing about this particular matter, Mr. Chairman, is that there are some people in this community who are not fully aware of the sort of dangers that can come from such statements and it is so disturbing when you find people who have been past Leaders, past Prime

Ministers of Barbados taking time off to either make statements which would tend to deter people from reaping the canes and moreso, Mr. Chairman, trying to pull down people who have come a long way from out of agriculture.

We have seen a couple of days ago on the Floor of this Honourable Chamber when the hon. member for St. John got up and made some insulting remarks. I sat patiently but because I did not get up and retaliate does not mean that I am a sleeping dog all the time but I respect his age and that is one of the main reasons why I did not retaliate at this point.

I would not say a number of things now but what I want you to understand is that he has done himself very little credit when at his age he just seeks to humiliate people because they were not as fortunate as he is and I say fortunate because he was in this position by a mere accident and he must understand that he is getting older and he should remember the Good Book. Mr. Chairman, I am getting on to sugar.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Come on to the agriculture.

Mr. BRADSHAW: And agriculture, remember that the Good Book says "Suffer the little children to come unto me".
3.40 p.m.

I am much younger than he is but the point I want to bring home is that Barbadians and those who have got an interest in sugar and agriculture must bear in mind that they should not mind careless talk, careless mouthings to prevent them from going out there and taking part in the reaping of canes. It is all right for some of the professionals to say that the professionals should reap the canes.

Mr. Chairman, were it not for my parents getting out there and reaping the canes, I would not have had the opportunity to stand here in this Hon. Chamber, opposite the hon. member for St. John. I want them to understand that whenever I get an opportunity such as this one, I will be telling the people in Barbados, do not mind the Opposition or anyone at all who tried to discourage you from reaping the canes because the money which they may have earned may go a long way towards educating their children who could eventually become a Prime Minister of this country, certainly, a Minister. I want them to understand that there is a benefit in going out there and helping to reap the canes.

There are other factors which we must take into consideration. We expect to have a record crop this year. From the time I was a little boy, the situation was that white people owned plantations. We have seen a situation over the years during the Democratic Labour Party regime where plantations have changed hands. We have got all kinds of people purchasing lands and owning plantations. A former Minister of the Democratic Labour Party is the owner of a plantation. There is nothing degrading about going out there and cutting canes. No one should try to smirk, poke fun at the Dean, or anybody going out there trying to encourage people to cut the canes or to lure people to cut the canes. I have not gone to the Press, I do not need any pictures of me cutting canes but for the past three years, Mr. Chairman, you must believe me, I have been helping to cut canes and to encourage some of the people to take part in the reaping of the canes because I believe and I feel firmly convicted that it is important to the future of this country. That is why I have been out there getting myself actively involved in cutting and assisting in whatever capacity I can, that is to bring the people to the reality that there is nothing degrading about cutting or taking part in the reaping of canes.

Barbados depends on two major industries at the moment, sugar and tourism. You hear members of the Opposition and some irresponsible people say that we should try to control tourism that we have too much of it, that we should have a cut off point because it is going to ruin our economy and our social fabric. All of these are arguments which they have been putting up. If they are going to say on the one hand that there should be a cut off point for tourism and on the other hand make remarks which could have a damaging effect, asking people not to participate in the reaping of canes, what would we have? No money coming from tourism, or it would be somewhat limited and on the other hand, no money realised from agriculture. So you can see Mr. Chairman, how damaging it is, how irresponsible it is for people who are supposed to be in responsible positions in this country to go out there on public platforms and make such mouthings which will have the effect of discouraging people from going into the sugar industry. As I said, there is lots of money that can be earned from the sugar industry.

I have been approached by people who are employed in the Government who are only too willing to go out there and help reap the canes. One of the major reasons is that they feel that they can earn enough cash or extra cash. From purely a reason of national pride they say that they will leave their office jobs and go out there and reap the canes. But what do we have? Night after night we are plagued with people going out there trying to tell people that the only ones cutting the canes are the Dean and a couple of old people. I hope the hon. member understands that he represents a constituency with a number of sugar workers. They are the remains of the old people. I hope the hon. member will understand that he represents a

constituency in which there are a number of plantations and a number of sugar workers. I hope that he will take warning and heed this time and let them understand that whenever he comes to their place asking for a vote that they are the same old people or remains of the old people.

On the other hand, a couple of years ago when the Opposition was in office, the Minister of Agriculture, "Peanuts" Morrison and the hon. member for St. John were seen in a cane field, mind you, with a watch on his hand and the bill in the wrong hand from what I understand, trying to lure people into the sugar industry. What do we have now in 1980? We have a situation where his Party is out there making statements in Silver Sands which would damage the sugar industry.

What I would like to turn to Mr. Chairman, is this. I am not satisfied that enough is done for the small farmers in Barbados. I am not saying that something is not being done. I want the Hon. Minister to understand very clearly I am not critical of his Ministry, I am not saying that nothing has been done but I know there are lots of small farmers who would like to have their land ploughed and furrowed and because there is inadequate equipment at the Ministry of Agriculture or at the stations, they cannot do so. I think that this only helps to impede the agricultural output. Lots of land that could be cultivated is lying fallow because there is no equipment to assist these farmers. I would like to see something being done and quite speedily too, so that these people can have at their disposal agricultural equipment to assist them in cultivating their lands. It is quite all right to talk about production and feeding yourself in order to take full advantage of the tourist industry, to bring in income and to save foreign currency. What is important is that the incentives must come from down there. The farmers would like to have assistance in this area and I do hope that the Minister would hear my plea on behalf of the poor peasant farmers so that they can have their lands ploughed, earn themselves some income and eventually, help the Hon. Minister in effecting his agriculture policy.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, *(Asides)* last year, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture gave some insight to the plans he had for Agriculture within the last Estimates and I want to hear from him in some detail, the extent to which he has succeeded in putting these details into operation and what the results have been. 3.50 p.m.

Sir, the problem in agriculture in Barbados centres around two factors; one is insufficient land and secondly inadequate irrigation at the right time of the year, and we can add a third, finance. For a very long time in Barbados all emphasis has been put on the growing of sugar cane. Money has been put in that area, research has gone into that area, all encouragement and marketing facilities have gone into that area, and one can see the results of that exercise. It is only reasonable to say that if agriculture in the other areas is to be as productive and successful, comparable efforts as has been made in the sugar cane industry must be made in the other areas of agriculture which we now want to develop. If this is not done we are going to find over and over that we will come at Estimates and be able to point out the difficulties, there will be frustrations among the farmers in this country and we will be saddled with increasing problems as the time goes by. I am prepared to accept the importance of agriculture in any case.

For a very long time the food and agricultural organisations of the world have been pointing to the increasing difficulty about the commitment of meeting the world's demands for food whilst increasing the world's population, and I think in 1975 they did produce a booklet outlining this problem and have suggested strategies which should be adopted for production of goods. It is definite that Barbados will have to pay more attention to the production of food for the people of this country. However they can only do this within the limitations imposed by the inadequate supply of land, inadequate irrigation at certain times of the year and maybe insufficient money to put into agriculture. In the past we have spent a lot of money on education, we have spent a lot of money on health and may be in other areas, and I think some more emphasis will have to be placed on agriculture, and I expect that the Minister will be pressing for more money to be given to the Ministry to put the emphasis on agriculture as required.

Sir, there is a problem of land in this country, and don't mind how we are trying to get around it, that problem is there and has to be solved if we are going to get agriculture on a good basis.

If you look at the sugar cane plantations in this country, you find a lot of them are owned by people who are not directly involved in the actual programme of planting cane and reaping cane or the production of sugar. I think we have moved a far way from that, or people are expecting us to move away from that; and when you look at sugar cane cutting in this country, one has to appreciate that the negro person in Barbados has to cut canes not as a free choice; he cuts canes because (1) slavery where he had to cut them or face severe consequences, and (2) after the abolition of slavery due to the conspiracy of the circumstances that continued, economic, social and otherwise, he was forced to continue doing so, and as people's livelihood improve and developments become better and other ambitions have become more attractive, you must expect that people are going to move away from a job which society for reasons of

history has reduced to a very low level of respect and expectation in the whole hierarchy of work.

If you look to the future you must expect that there are going to be less and less Barbadians who are attracted to cutting canes in this country. We have to look either to mechanisation of the sugar cane industry, or under certain well laid out conditions encourage the people of this country to cut the canes. Sir, if you want people to be interested in agriculture, they have to be given land. I do not believe that you are going to find people in this country prepared in the future to go and work in the broiling sun, in adverse conditions where the benefits of the exercise will go to a few people and not themselves. As the Hon. Leader of the House has pointed out, people when they go into agriculture must be able to look forward to a good return from their efforts whereby they may be able to buy the same big cars, television sets, radios, the good furniture as professionals and other people are doing, and if you want them to achieve that, you have to begin by a land reformation in this country, giving land to people. There can be no doubt about that.

Sir, I have heard a lot about agriculture. We have heard a lot of criticism levelled at us from the other side, and we have heard the other side pointing out what they have done, but if you look seriously at what needs to be done in this country, I do not believe that the Minister can feel satisfied with the effort expended in that direction. Sir, I accept that there are not many crops that can be grown in Barbados, but let us look at some of them. We have peanuts growing here and there is a great amount of peanuts being grown in Barbados. One of the problems which I see in this country is that in spite of the large amount of peanuts grown in this country year after year, you still see the importation into Barbados of processed peanuts in all forms and sizes, and if there is such a heavy production of peanuts in this country, I would like to hear the Minister's views on the plans for processing peanuts at some point in the very near future. We have large supplies and the only way we see this closing is by using the Barbadian tradition of roasting them in their shells, and I feel that a lot more can be done in that area.

It is all right to talk about agro-industries in Barbados, but we have to appreciate that unless there are going to be reasonable and sustained supplies of commodities of vegetables in this country for the maintenance of those agro-industries, there is no point giving false hopes. I appreciate that there is a problem in this country with the people who produce them, because they want to obtain the most for their products, but here again one of the problems which the Minister of Agriculture must direct his attention to is the education of people involved in agriculture and the education of the people in the whole country. A lot is taken for granted in Barbados about agriculture. Everybody feels that all they have to do is to go out there and plant something, but only after they have tried and failed are they going to appreciate that there is something more to be learnt about agriculture than the mere information that is passed down in the traditional manner. Certainly if people want to be a doctor, if they want to be a carpenter, if they want to be an engineer they go and train themselves, and in agriculture if people want to be good farmers, good producers, they have to be trained.

In addition to this, the Barbados public has to be educated to accept products that are being produced locally. There is a feeling not only in Barbados but you will find in most of the developing countries that as soon as you switch or want to switch towards the use of locally produced foods and other things, you always hear some cry about bad quality of the locally produced things. This may be so at some times as has happened in the case of imported stuff, but usually as a result of past habits what you do find is that people have more confidence in the things that have been produced outside of the country than in the things that are being produced in the country, and you will have to educate people in this country, motivate them to a better utilisation of the locally produced stuff. It is all right to produce it, but if it is not used properly, you will find that it is going to go to waste, the people who have produced it would have wasted their time, their efforts and their money, and there is going to be increasing demand to continue importing foodstuffs in this country.

4.00 p.m.

Our food bill is already very heavy. I would like to hear from the Minister of Agriculture what plans are in his Ministry to help reduce further the heavy import bill for food into Barbados. I think last year during our proposals for the Estimates he was telling us what he intended to do and I would like to know what he has been able to achieve in relation to the reduction of the importation of food to the extent that it has been so far.

In the area of fish farming, last year he promised us that he would pursue the subject and get the necessary information and research and let us know. I am waiting to hear from him how far he has got on that project and what he intends to do, if it is feasible, if it can be implemented and at what stage in this programme or in the Development Plan we can see some final stage or the full implementation of such an effort or exercise. I have drawn to his attention certain areas in Barbados where already there are the *tellapea* fish in large quantities of large sizes and he assured me last year that he was getting help from the University of the West Indies to examine this matter, and I am still waiting to hear his comments on this topic.

Sir, as regards the sea, again the Minister has been particularly silent, he has only remarked on the fact that

he has a new Fisheries Officer. I would like to hear more than that, that he has a new Fisheries Officer. For a long time in the past and for the longest time in the future we will still be surrounded by the sea where we have a lot of fish, where we have a lot of vegetable material in the sea; what plans are being made to take good advantage of this, when we can bear in mind that Japanese and other countries come not far from Barbados and fish and use the fish for their own domestic purposes or sometimes sell them to people in Barbados for redistribution here, or to other countries. When are we going to have the type of exercise, the necessary research, the necessary money and expertise made available to people in this country who are interested in fishing so that the Barbadian people will be able to get a good supply of fish throughout the year? It is all right to tell us that you are looking forward to a day when the importation of fish into Barbados in any form will stop, but I would like to know what steps are being made at the moment to ensure that the importation of processed fish in any form will stop in the very near future. I hope in your reply you will give us more details about that.

There is some concern in this country about the relationship of agriculture to the tourist industry. I have heard the Hon. Leader of the House trying to assure us that they have been doing enough to meet the demands of the tourist industry, but if this is so something is wrong with the public relations of the Government, because there is a feeling among farmers in Barbados that not enough is being done to gear the production of food in Barbados to the needs of the tourist industry, and too much food is being imported into this country to meet the needs of the tourists who come here. I again would like to hear the Hon. Minister on that, because in Barbados we see that we have a lot of foreigners who are in control of the hotels, and they seem more familiar or more comfortable with the importation of foreign processed foods into this country than to buy the local stuff where they will have to peel it and that kind of thing, and they do not want to do it. It is time consuming, difficult, and maybe too much money involved, too much labour involved in that type of exercise, but I would like to know how some other countries outside of Barbados can have tourists willing to accept what is grown and produced locally quite readily, and enjoying it and asking for more, but in Barbados we seem to assume that the tourist is more comfortable with the things that he already knows or has been exposed to in North America. If they are coming down to Barbados and they want to enjoy Barbados, I would like to believe that the Barbadian food is one of the things that we are going to expose them to and get them to enjoy and to ask for more of it.

Sir, a lot has been said about the BMC. The BMC has been a problem, not now, for a long time, I will concede that from the beginning, but it continues to be a problem. We were expecting that with a Chairman who has good degrees in marketing, and who we understand has a lot of experience in that area, that we would see a rapid end to the problems which have been confronting the BMC for some time. But when you recall all the problems over the past year that have been exposed, and maybe those that might not have been exposed, to the people of this country, one still wonders what is going on with the BMC and how successful has been the present Chairman in getting the problems solved. There are problems with the staff, there is dissatisfaction in the staff, and as one member on this side has already pointed out, there have been rapid resignations by some of the top people in that organisation, and also there has been dismissal of others. We would like to hear from the Minister or from his Chairman what are the special problems of the BMC that allow it to continue to be a humbug to the people of this country and maybe also to the Minister and the Chairman.

A lot of money has been put into the BMC in the past and up to now, and one wonders if the country can afford to go on putting money into the BMC to that extent. I believe that the wrong emphasis is in the BMC, emphasis is being placed on the importation of food into this country. The BMC was not created for that purpose, the BMC was created for the purpose of marketing and distribution of crops grown in this country, but it seems to me that it has been easier to conduct an experiment into the importation of foodstuff from the United States and Canada into this country, than by gearing the BMC to go out and get the produce of the small farmers especially in this country, market them and distribute them. We hear all types of stories about the way in which the BMC sets about to get those crops from people in Barbados. People are led to believe that some undue partiality is being shown to certain producers of crops in Barbados, and not impartiality as one would expect from a Government organisation. It is for the Minister and his Chairman to re-assure the public of Barbados that this is not the case not only by using words but by deliberate acts to encourage the people of this country to have that type of faith that there is impartiality in the exercises of the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Sir, I accept that at times there can be a good case for having a Government agency importing goods from another country, particularly when there is a Government to Government relationship or agreement. It may very well be necessary to designate the BMC as the organisation through which the particular country with which you have this relationship would deal, but at the same time one must emphasise that the BMC cannot push into the background the role for which it was created, and that role has been the marketing and distribution of crops grown in this country. There has been a long history in this country about the failure of the BMC to adequately attach itself to that exercise and I do not think that I have to remind

the Minister or the Chairman of the history. People will grow crops, but very often the problem they are confronted with after the growing of those crops is marketing and distribution. There are some people, due to the small amount of crops they produce, can get rid of them quite readily by selling them to people around where they live or around where they produce them, but there is a limit to that, and people want to know that regardless of what they produce they can find an easy outlet at the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Very often we find strictures of grade, strictures of the wrong crop being grown at the wrong time of the year are too much for the small farmer or the individual farmer to understand and appreciate, and there is some necessity on the part of the Barbados Marketing Corporation to mount a good public relations exercise so that people who produce will be well seized of the requirements of the Barbados Marketing Corporation so that they will produce to suit and facilitate the marketing of their produce by the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Sir, irrigation is a problem in Barbados. We get rains at certain times of the year and outside of that period of time rains are scanty. We accept that crops require rain water or water in some form. It is a problem, but something has to be done in Barbados to ensure that there are adequate supplies of water in Barbados to meet the irrigation needs of those people who want to go into agriculture. A study was carried out under the Democratic Labour Party Government to identify new underground reservoirs of water in this country, and I would like to hear from the Hon. Minister what has been done in the Ministry under him to further identify additional reservoirs of water and to decide or to determine what they are going to do with this water. There are areas in Christ Church and St. Philip where it has been shown that due to the salinity it would be better to use the water for irrigation than to use it for domestic purposes.
4.10 p.m.

I would like to hear from the Minister how far they got in putting this recommendation into practice. The same holds good on the west coast in St. James where there is a high degree of salinity in the water and therefore the water is better suited for irrigation than for domestic purposes. I go a step further: The Minister had wonderful ideas about tapping streams and the creation of lakes and things of that nature to create reservoirs of water in this country. Has he given that up or was it just an exercise to elicit enthusiasm from the voters? There is need in Barbados for water for irrigation. If you don't have water for irrigation much of the crops we would like to produce cannot be produced. In addition we have problems with rodents, birds and insects. In short, one has to look very carefully at the type of help the Ministry is prepared to give to the small farmers; they do not have the resources like the big farmers.

Then there is the question of machinery for these people. There has for some time been a plan for tilling people's lands but it seems to me that that operation has been in abeyance for some time and I would like to hear the Minister on that. Going a step further I would ask the Minister if he has plans for the people to own their own machines for tilling and so on. There are small machines, for instance, ploughs to which implements can be attached to cultivate five or so acres of land. We have to appreciate that mechanisation is of some importance in agriculture. People are no longer prepared to take up a fork and fork large areas of land day after day in the hot sun, and if mechanization is not given the filip required you may very well find that you have another handicap in getting to grips with agricultural problems. I am inviting the Minister when he replies to let us hear something of the plans he outlined last year in the debate on the Estimates under this Head and I would like to hear to what extent he has been successful and what we can look forward to in the year ahead.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I am always fascinated by the acrobatic feats that the Opposition is able to perform whenever it comes to discussing matters like agriculture in this Honourable Chamber or even outside in public. One would not believe that the voices of criticism we now hear directed at agriculture are those same voices that had principal responsibility for that particular area of development in Barbados for fifteen years prior to 1976. I am particularly amused at the utterances of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who has made an eloquent speech for agricultural diversification, and my mind goes back to a plantation called the Hope in St. George to find a concrete example of the kind of agricultural diversification which I believe the hon. member must certainly have been referring to, because it is known that the Hope in St. George was a plantation in one of the best producing areas in Barbados but its lands were dissected and sold presumably to the hapless, penniless peasants of Barbados at $10,000. That, I suppose, is the kind of policy he would like the Barbados Labour Party to pursue. And we do not have to reach far back for a concrete example of the legacy that belongs to the Democratic Labour Party era on Agriculture, because almost every plantation in this Island was cut up in their misguided policy. So I am surprised that they can come into this Chamber and criticise the enlightened policy of the Barbados Labour Party. And I would like to remind them of Bagatelle, Frere Pilgrim, Sanford, Cane Garden, Edge Hill, Rouen and Neils – all those are plantations that suffered at the hands of the Democratic Labour Party. They are calling for economic farming units but all those plantations were divided into two or four acre lots and now stand as barren wildernesses producing excellent species of nut grass, pond grass and devil grass. That is the Democratic Labour Party's legacy to agriculture.

Now with respect to their policy to a place like Bath Plantation in St. John. I took the opportunity to

check Bath Plantation's production this year and Bath is going to produce 4,000 tons of canes at approximately $70 a ton, which represents income to the Treasury of Barbados in the neighbourhood of $228,000 or thereabout.

This Government came into power and took over a situation where the policy on agriculture was enunciated by the then Prime Minister himself when he articulated that he did not want to see a cane blade in Barbados.

And the Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation at that time said we could get more value out of one acre of land from industry than from agriculture. That was the policy of the Democratic Labour Party. Now they walk around night after night giving voice to the fact that Barbadians still see some sense in going into the sugar fields and reaping canes.
4.20 p.m.

They told them they should not do it. Do not bother that the agricultural sector is the second lowest of importance and if you really want to ask me it probably is the most important income sector because tourism is a very brittle industry and agriculture will always be with us and if it is sensibly employed it would turn out in my estimation to be the most productive sector in Barbados.

In fact, Sir, in my estimation, Sir, agricultural production represents the best possible growth opportunities in Barbados. Right now we have not expanded into it fully but we are in the process of doing precisely that and I believe that when we look at the programme of the Barbados Labour Party Government we can see what has been accomplished in a short period of time that we had been in power.

Bearing in mind that it takes no time at all to tear down but it takes a very long time to be able to reconstruct and the period of reconstruction has begun and we are painstakingly building from the ruins that we have inherited. If you go round Barbados today you are going to see a lot of small units, dairying, market gardening and other sectors of agriculture that are giving people an opportunity to employ themselves gainfully in situations where opportunities for employment are not always lurking around the corner.

Now, Sir, the hon. member for St. Lucy, in his usual irrelevance interfered with the Barbados Marketing Corporation and he said that I ought to be removed from office as the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation because of my misguided policies down there.

I can understand, Sir, that it is part of the double talk and double speech of the Orwellian Machinations of the Democratic Labour Party. They believe that down is up and lost is gain.

Now, Sir, I have some figures which I want to share with you for a moment. When the Barbados Labour Party came into power in 1976 the total audited Financial Statements of the Barbados Marketing Corporation for the period ending in June, 1976 revealed that the Barbados Marketing Corporation under the enlightened guidance of the hon. member for St. Michael South West had sales of $10,783,767 and losses of $2,451,584. Now, Sir, *(Asides).* I am reading from a piece of paper. It is from the Annual Report. It has been laid already. I have been told that these Financial Statements are already documents of the House.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member purports to be giving information from the Audited Accounts of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, a Statutory Corporation. Will the hon. member quote the page of the Report, the year of the Report and the date that it was laid in the House and the date of the Report. That is all I want to know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue. Order, please.

Mr. JOHNSON: I can make this piece of paper a document of the House. The hon. member for St. Michael South West obviously is not keen to hear how he performed.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. He is reflecting on me. On the contrary, I am keen to get the truth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order, continue.

Mr. JOHNSON: In 1977 at the BMC when we took over in November we changed the Financial Year to coincide with the Government's Financial Year and therefore I am giving you the prorated figures for the 9 month period representing that period in March, 1977 $10,603,118. Losses, and all this still belong to the hon. member for St. Michael South West – $2,573,007.

In 1978 the Barbados Labour Party comes full into force now and begins to deal with the Barbados Marketing Corporation. 1978, the first full year of the Barbados Labour Party rule at the Barbados Marketing Corporation: Sales – $9,133,089 and losses $961,942. We have savings there already of $1 million.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. JOHNSON: 1979, after a full period of performing the reconstruction that was necessary and doing systems of accountability, bearing in mind, Sir, that during their administration in every single case the Auditors had to qualify their accounts and so I am giving you these figures but I really do not know. We cannot find all

the details. We cannot find the stock. These are the kinds of statements the Auditors made.

Qualifications, the hon. member for St. Michael South West knows about qualifications. The hon. member for St. Michael South West got qualified in every single year that he was in the BMC. For the first time we have a clean audit on sales $11,246,770. The Barbados Marketing Corporation only lost $127,000.

Now, Sir, the situation here is clearly outlined that under the misguided, under the clumsy, under the enlightened, mischievous chairmanship of the hon. member for St. Michael West.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JOHNSON: I am talking about myself. Sit down. Under my clumsy, wicked, under my misguided chairmanship, inept, we were able to save for the taxpayers of Barbados over $2,300,000 in this Financial Year. $2,300,000 in savings at the Barbados Marketing Corporation.
4.30 p.m.

Now, Sir, given all of that, in 1976, under the able leadership of the hon. member for St. Michael South West, the assets at the Corporation were $1,541,355.00. This clumsy administration, according to them, that wants throwing out has assets at the Barbados Marketing Corporation of $3,280,516.00.

Sir, the hon. member for St. Lucy talked about the fact that we conducted dismissals and we sent home people and we have 300 people employed, that in 1976 we said that we had staff and there has been no growth at the Barbados Marketing Corporation so he cannot find any justification for the increase in staff. Obviously, what he is attempting to say is that we have put on people at the Barbados Marketing Corporation for political reasons but I would like to tell the hon. member for St. Lucy, I do not expect him to know this, we are here to educate him, the Barbados Marketing Corporation has a facility at the airport which started out from year one on a profitable footing and I can guarantee that it will never leave for this country the stain of mismanagement and corruption that was seen at the Barbados Marketing Corporation under the Democratic Labour Party. The hon. member for St. Michael South West ought to be glad that there was no inquiry over at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. (Mr. TAITT: Tell the Hon. House why I should be glad.) The hon. member for St. Lucy must be told that we have at the airport a facility that employs in excess of 23 people. We have taken over, as the Hon. Minister responsible for Agriculture just now eluded, responsibility for the experimental unit at Wildey. The only claim to fame which that experimental unit had was that it used to process instant yam. When we took it over, it was just there floundering about.

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central claims that the Barbados Marketing Corporation has not been focussing attention on its primary responsibility and that is, to provide markets for farmers. I would like to tell them that two or three weeks ago at the just concluded Agricultural Show and Fair in the Virgin Islands, Barbados won the second prize behind Puerto Rico for the most imaginative group and the greatest display of produce. Over 100,000 people attended that show in the Virgin Islands. We showed a number of products that are available here. We received inquiries that we have handed over to the Pine Hill Dairy for evaporated milk to be exported from Barbados, they will process that. We got an inquiry which we handed over to Roberts Manufacturing for margarine. For the Barbadian farmer, we have inquiries in respect of yams and in fact we have already sent 30,000 pounds of instant yam to the Virgin Islands as a result of that show and will continue to ship throughout the rest of the season. Furthermore, Sir, we have in hand at the moment a contract that has been offered to us by the largest and most important fresh produce producer in the United States, United Brands. They have given us a contract for 100,000 pounds of yams. We are going to be doing business with them starting this very year, as soon as we can get the contract wedded by the legal adviser. To tell us, that we have borne no fruit is to talk nonsense. The market is not an exercise that comes easy, especially if you are following the act of the hon member for St. Michael South West. So clumsy, so unimaginative was his approach that it was impossible for us in the short span of three years to be able to effect all the changes that we wanted to effect.

Nobody can get up in this Hon. Chamber and say that the Barbados Marketing Corporation has not performed a very significant duty with respect to the export of produce on behalf of Barbadian farmers.

Now, Sir, they speak about chicken. The Barbados Marketing Corporation has a duty as the sole importer of poultry in this island to make certain that we have adequate supply of that commodity available at all times in the interest of our consumers. I would imagine that the hon. member for St. Lucy would believe that the fact that the Barbados Marketing Corporation may have lost $56,000 in a transaction that involved the flying in of chicken to this island as something of a great moment. He does not worry, or flinch at the fact that when he was in Government, the losses were $2,400,000.00, but the fact that one transaction in the interest of making certain that this market does not run bare of an essential commodity and I would not really call it a loss in the tragic sense because it is recover-

able. It is only one of the incidental transactions that the Barbados Marketing Corporation will carry throughout because of its operation.
4.40 p.m.

We brought in chicken but we brought it in as essential duty and as a responsibility to the consumers in this country for whose welfare we are at the moment responsible, and we make no apologies to anybody for it, because you have not heard a single consumer in Barbados complaining about chicken within the last five months; I can guarantee you that. The only complaint you have is that you have not been able to get chicken backs lately, the hon. member for St. John. That is the only thing he can complain about, that he has not been able to get his normal supply of chicken backs. We have been feeding him with legs and I can understand that he is accustomed to the other product.

Now, Sir, I have urged on my Minister on a number of occasions that he has to give serious consideration to the regulation of the poultry industry in this Island. He has to consider it because the industry is growing, Barbadians are consuming 1,300,000 pounds of poultry a month. That is a long way from what it used to be when this Government came into power, and when we are dealing with this number of chicken no longer can it be left to the willy-nilly feeling of the people in the production business. He has to make those producers out there give accurate numbers to his Ministry so that we are able to predict and plan for shortages if they are likely to occur and not have to rely on guessing. Now it is essential to note that any chicken imported into this country over the period in question was arrived at in consultation with the producers and if a few of them walk about and holler now, it is not anything they are not accustomed doing. We can remember the days when they used to walk around and throw the carrots in Broad Street and all about when there was a glut, and I am suggesting that in order to have a more accurate marketing arrangement, we must look at this business from the time a chick is a day old and even before until the time it reaches the consumers' tables. If we do that we are going to be able to eliminate some of these artificial shortages and very short-run shortages that disrupt the whole marketing process in this product.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, before the hon. member rises, I think that the hon. member is entitled to speak next, but before he speaks, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for ten minutes.

Mr. TAITT: If I may speak on that motion, Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect...

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, yesterday we had a ten minute break.

I beg to move that the hon. member for St. Philip North take the Chair temporarily.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that I do report progress and ask for leave to sit again, Honourable members in favour please say "Aye", those against please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Chairman is temporarily absent and I would move that the hon. member for St. Philip North be appointed to act as Chairman during the absence of the Chairman and that the House resume Committee of Supply under his Chairmanship.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am a bit reluctant to accept the motion in that it ought to have been done at the appropriate time. It ought to have taken place at the beginning of the sitting rather than in the middle. We need not go into this detail but the proper thing to do if it is to be ten or fifteen minutes, I would much prefer to accept a motion for the suspension of the sitting for fifteen minutes.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If we suspend the sitting for fifteen minutes we have to add it on again on Friday; it makes difficulties counting indeed that should have taken us out of the session. Anyhow, Sir, I remember the days of Mr. B. L. Barrow when I believe the rule was first set that you had to suspend the sitting after Mr. Barrow one evening was sitting in the Chair and he told members they didn't realise they had him staked out here like a goat without a chance of getting water or passing some, was the expression used, but that is all like 30 years ago now or more, and I would respectfully submit that the business of the House should not be interrupted for the needs of a cup of tea or physical relief, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I find that it is the wish of the House to accept the motion, then and only then will I accept it. Is it the pleasure of this Honourable House that the Chair accept the motion for the appointment of a temporary Chairman? *(Affirmative replies)*

It being the pleasure of the House, I now take the motion that the hon. member for St. Philip North be appointed temporary Chairman during the absence of the Chairman of Committees.

Hon. members in favour please say "Aye", those against please say "No"; I think the "Ayes" have it.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. SIMMONS in the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of things to say about this Head under the Ministry of Agriculture, but unfortunately the hon. member for St. Michael West preceded me as the speaker on the floor of this House, and I believe it incumbent to deal with what he purported to say to this Honourable House. In making his statement he sought to give this Honourable House the impression that he was quoting from a document that had been laid in this Honourable House. He said, and I heard him say, that he was speaking from audited accounts. I challenge the hon. member if he has audited accounts in his possession to place them at the disposal of this House, otherwise I reserve the right to say that I disbelieve the information which he has given us.
4.50 p.m.

But I go further, Sir, he said I was reading from a piece of paper, and the Chairman of a Marketing Corporation is coming in here for a debate that he knew would take place and he says that I was reading from a piece of paper. That is symptomatic of how he runs the Marketing Corporation, he runs it from a series of pieces of paper in his pocket. That is how he runs it, masquerading in the benefit of gratuitous praise from the Prime Minister. I recall, Sir, on one occasion, the hon. member for St. Michael South East made what was agreed on all sides to be the worst speech ever made in this Hon. House at any time; the Hon. Prime Minister walked right in immediately he sat down and stated it was the best speech he had ever heard.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. I am not going to say that the hon. member who has just sat down that his speech was the best or the worst speech I have ever heard, or that of the hon. member for St. Michael West, but I do not think it is fair for him to say that there are no audited accounts because I have a copy of the audited accounts here in my hand. He said he wouldn't believe it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think the Hon. Prime Minister has misunderstood the hon. member for St. Michael West.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Sir, I will go on to look at the figures. Here is a man who is reputed to understand business, to understand accounts. He sets out to give information and he starts off with sales and losses. Now it is a special kind of accounts that deals with sales and losses, he does not give a single indication of what is the capitalisation position at any point. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The assets). The Prime Minister shouts less than *sotto voce,* the assets. Let us hear how much money the Barbados Labour Party Government put into the Barbados Marketing Corporation during the interim period that he is discussing, that is the first thing that we need to know. When he talks about how much money the Corporation is saving he is now discussing it in terms of less losses, losses have been translated into savings. I confess not understanding that. He talked about double speech but that is a new accounting system which may be called the Johnsonian accounting methodology. He is a consultant management, that is what he is, he is no management consultant, otherwise he is misleading this House. It is because I do not believe that he has the kind of capacity that the Prime Minister keeps saying that I would not accuse him of misleading this House. He has misled himself.

Mr. Chairman, hear him. Sales $10,783,767 and losses $2,451,594 in 1976, sales $10,643,168 and losses $2,573,007 in 1977, and he gives that all to the enlightened leadership of the hon. member for St. Michael West. When he takes up the figures from 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973 he will see a consistent pattern. What he elected not to tell this Hon. House is the extent to which the Barbados Marketing Corporation removed large parts of non-remunerative but development areas of the BMC. It is not proper.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order, Sir, or on a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which one? Make up your mind.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of elucidation. The hon. member is saying that we removed from the Barbados Marketing Corporation large segments of development activity. That is not technically correct, Sir, what we have done is to remove the chronic losses, we do not any longer dump them at sea, we employ them constructively, we still carry on the same developmental functions, we still have the same subsidies for developmental activity but it is no longer possible for anybody to come in and sell the same load of carrots five times.

Mr. TAITT: You see, Mr. Chairman, it is that kind of cheap intervention which will continue to mislead people in this country. I am not even going to discuss the quantity of okras that were destroyed under his personal direction, I will not discuss that at all, I am not getting into it, I will not be lured into that at all. He said that he has not removed the production sectors. I am dealing with facts and figures because he has been put forward as a management person. This is a document which says "the Barbados Sugar Industry – problems and perspectives". This is a report which was prepared by McGregor and Baxter. I am going to give him an example of what I am talking about, Mr. Chair-

man. On page 77 it reads as follows: "A survey of small farmers with over one acre of land in vegetable production conducted by the Barbados Agricultural Society in 1979 suggests that a considerable number have abandoned agriculture because of difficulties in marketing their produce and finding labour. Of 92 farmers interviewed, only 58, or less than two-thirds, were still producing vegetables after eight years. The increasing involvement of estimates in growing vegetables was cited as one contributing factor in the minds of small farmers. Because plantations could produce on a large scale and offer a more reliable supply, hawkers, restaurants and supermarkets turned to them first." Listen to this, Mr. Chairman, I wish you would listen carefully, and I wish the hon. member for St. Michael West, the Chairman of the BMC, to listen too. "In addition, the dis-continuation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation's pick-up service has been a blow to small growers." (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What's wrong with that?) Not a thing wrong with that, if you were speaking, but he got in here.....(Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: That was in your time too). It was in my time? Everything was in my time. I do not mind your saying that, he said that we are Rastas over here, that up is down and forward is backward. Whatever you say, the people in this country will judge us, the people in this country will judge the Barbados Marketing Corporation, but I go further. I am saying, and I am charging the hon. member on the floor of this House with mismanagement of the Corporation. I am charging that he interfers and had continued to interfere on a daily basis in the running of the Corporation. I am charging that he has used personally the General Manager's.....

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I am coming in on a point of order this time. The hon. member is charging that I have failed, I mismanaged, I interfere with the day to day activities. I interfere, that is why we have a saving of $2 million.

Mr. TAITT: Good. Now that you have admitted interference, let me tell you the line I am going, Mr. Chairman. On a daily basis he goes in, no one can employ anybody at the Marketing Corporation without his personal acquiescence. It is for that reason that the Personnel Officer at the Barbados Marketing Corporation has resigned. He has prepared documents which he has placed before her and insisted that she signs as Personnel Officer, and when she refused to sign them he threatened her. *(Asides).* Well, if she telephoned me she is doing no more that the lady from the Light and Power used to do for you, than the lady from Cave Shepherd did for you, than the lady in my Ministry used to do for you, than a lady in nearly every Ministry in this country used to do for you, I am merely taking a leaf out of the hon. member's book.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Keep the ladies out, please.

Mr. TAITT: To say nothing of the lady from the Nation. Mr. Chairman, he said that the auditors qualified the accounts of the Marketing Corporation every year; what he did not tell you was what was the qualification. Mr. Chairman, the property of the Barbados Marketing Corporation was not vested. For those reasons, as you will appreciate, no auditor would be able to take a figure given as assets when the property was not vested in where the Barbados Marketing Corporation is. I think it is misleading to talk about an audited statement having been qualified when the nature of the qualification is a technical one. I go further. Let him tell us about the receipts that have been missing from the Barbados Marketing Corporation in 1977, receipts that have not been found. I wish to see those audited statements, that is why I wish to see them. I want to hear about the receipts that cannot be found and have not been found, the receipt books of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I do not know who has them, I know he is the day to day Chief Executive, he drives the Manager's car, which as I understand it is not the proper thing to do, but I'm not even getting into that. He involves himself in the election – I call it election, it may be selection – of each single, solitary person.

He is going further, Sir. While carrying on a negotiation with the Barbados Workers' Union, I am charging that the Chairman on behalf of his Board has been subverting the process of negotiation while promising the Barbados Workers' Union and the Labour Officer that they will negotiate in good faith, they have intimidated the ordinary people working at the BMC, asking each one of them if they will take 25% instead of the 30% which the Labour Commissioner has recommended. *(Aside).* You see, it is that kind of moral support which he gets from his Prime Minister that allows him to feel that earning the name of Ayatollah is something to be proud about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And I will "told" you that you have exactly one minute to wind up or wind down.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I shall be back to discuss the stinking chicken, the stinking meat that I wrote the Prime Minister about, that I go on the platforms and talk about, about the rat infested meat which has been sold at the BMC, I am prepared to discuss all of that when I come to speak the second time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak purely as Minister of Finance. The interest of the Ministry of Finance in the Barbados Marketing Corporation is that the Barbados Marketing Corporation under the administration of the hon. member who has just sat down when he was Minister used to lose money, that it had a reputation abroad of buying the same load of carrots five times over, and that good vegetables used

to be sold by farmers to the hotels and the bad ones to the BMC, that there used to be stealing and fraudulent entries relating to things like yam boxes, relating to the supply of pigs – there have after all been prosecutions – that whatever the situation was in terms of honesty and integrity and corruption or lack of the same it could have been the most wonderfully run place from the point of view of integrity, but it used to lose a catastrophic amount of money, and it was losing money in the food business at a time when every other food business in Barbados was making money. It used to get a large subsidy from the Government, and it used to be bailed out ever so often in the light of debts it had accumulated despite its earlier promises.

When I became Minister of Finance the Chairman of the BMC did not have the experience in those days to understand the people with whom he was dealing. I hope he doesn't mind my putting it as bluntly as this, and they did come forward in 1977 with the same rotten projections, the same incompetent financial system as they have been doing over the years. They would ask for the same sum in more than one place of a request, Sir. They would bring two sets of accounts and you would find things entered in the assets side in one account and on the debit side in another, and on each occasion being used to solicit funds. They had no sense of financial responsibility, they would enter into their accounts something inherited from the regime of the hon. member, for example, a claim against the electric company for spoilage of goods, a claim which they never pursued, perhaps would never have succeeded had they pursued it, but it merely became an accounting figure which would pass the scrutiny of the hon. member for St. Michael South West but I was unwilling to allow it to pass my scrutiny. This is something we inherited from earlier. I don't know if the Rt. hon. member for St. John is explaining to the hon. member that he too recalls this, I don't know if he is.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, Sir, since my name was called. I had no intention of intervening, it is not my portfolio. I was only saying it sounded as if the Rt. hon. gentleman had absolved the Barbados Light and Power Company from a liability. That is all I said.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I have no idea of the nature of the contract between the Barbados Light and Power Company and the BMC, what I know is that they used to put in a figure, and if I remember the figure, it is $106,000. This figure used to be put up regularly to the Ministry of Finance as an asset of the Corporation when you wanted to make the accounts look good, and they used to put it on the other side as a liability of the Corporation when they wanted to get money out of the Ministry of Finance rather than out of the Electric Company. I remember that there was a very arrogant Manager at one of the Canadian banks who was responsible for the BMC, who more than once sought to exercise his petty authority and refused to honour a commitment authorised by the Cabinet and conveyed to him over the signature of Mr. Harcourt Lewis, the Permanent Secretary, Finance, and I resolved that once and for all I was going to put an end to the arrogance of some of the people at the BMC, the behaviour of the people who dealt with the BMC, the lawyers, the bank and so on, and I authorised a sum of money and I said 'pay that bank and take the account away and let them see who they will find to lend the $1.8 million to at the rate of interest which was then in the region of 13 or 14%.' That put the bank in its place. They were paid the money, and I think the Area Manager subsequently asked me to give them back the work because it would be very embarrassing to them if it was revealed that the Government had taken its work away from them.

These are some of the problems which we had with the previous staff of the BMC. Eventually we got the BMC's day to day financing settled, we opened two bank accounts. I hope the hon. member for St. Michael West will forgive my going into this in detail, but these are things that occupy me as Minister of Finance that should not have occupied me for something like a year and a half, the first year and a half in office. We got the accounts under control, we got working capital injected, we explained what the situation was with the payment of past debts. We settled an amount, we said, now look, the Government is charging you, the BMC, with running the abattoir, but the abattoir is still to some extent an open sore, because I am informed that for the work the abattoir does it is heavily overstaffed and the staff there enjoy salary scales outside their responsibility.

5.10 p.m.

I admire the Union for the resolute fight that it has to put up and I will tell the hon. member for St. Lucy this, left to me he could have called a strike and closed down the Abattoir.

As far as I was concerned there were two occasions when I told the BMC to convey to the Union,first for the salary negotiations in 1977 I said you will strike at that point, prepare to shut the BMC down altogether if there is a strike because it will save the Government money and the second relates to the Abattoir. I said let them close the Abattoir but the present Minister and the Chairman had emphasised to me that we do not in Barbados want to go back slaughtering animals under the trees and we will just have to let attrition deal with the Abattoir problem. That is one particular thing.

Cold Storage used to be another. Government used to pay for that. I could not understand how it is that all

over Barbados you have people that rent cold storage. There is one at Bico, by Mr. Lamming who was charging less than the BMC which was not always full so the BMC sometimes when full would have to solicit them for space who were making a profit so I said this cannot continue and I am glad to see as far as I can remember that if there is a subsidy for cold storage it is very small. It has either vanished or it is very small.

The equipment which was ordered during the regime of the other hon. member at the BMC is reserved for the new Headquarters. I quite accept that but the cold storage has been brought under control and I think that it is only now, if there is no cold storage, that the Government pays the BMC an amount to run the Abbatoir because we regard that as a public service, however, inefficient they are over there, however much it needs regripping and perhaps for a smaller number of even better paid butchers but certainly not a large number of butchers working in the primitive conditions that we have now and we also pay for a market support scheme. Some money is still paid for that. All the fancy schemes that used to turn up in the requests for money, something like boxes for chicken and chicken and at some stage there were even a lost on chicken, I cannot remember the details but that has all come down.

I do not know why the Audited Accounts have not yet come before the Cabinet and Parliament. Perhaps it would help if the Deputy Chairman signed that as well, Mr. Chairman. The Audited Accounts are for the 31st March, 1979 and therefore I cannot produce them in the House. I can say I know they exist and I have a copy in my hand but I cannot produce them because they have not gone to Cabinet and therefore there may be some reason relating to the Ministry with which I cannot deal but as I have said in here before, the Audited Accounts of the BMC show a situation which was very precisely and accurately outlined by the hon. member for St. Michael West.

It may very well be that if you are in a closed room and you are dealing with something like this you will see sales: $11,246,770 and then you go on to say whatever the expenses are. I am looking at the wrong page. I am looking at the statement of deficit and accumulated deficit. I do not have the profit and loss figures. You better change your Auditors. Anyway, whatever it is, the fact is that in the year ending March 31st, 1979, the sales did go up by $2 million and the net operating loss which includes the sums for which the Government is paying but has not yet paid.

The net operating loss did diminish from $1.3 million to $600,000. When the Government then paid its $640,000 for the Abattoir and so on you arrived at the position of a total loss of $127,000 of which the depreciation covers $163,000 and I said so already.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way on a point of elucidation. Are you finished?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have started so you can go ahead.

Mr. TAITT: Now that the Prime Minister is reading a document in a little greater detail the document is making a different kind of sense and this was the whole argument to my note. If he looks at the same figures reproduced in the previous year's Accounts he will see a similar pattern. Now indeed he would see that actually in one year it showed the net operating profit but when the total amount of subsidy, etc., is finally brought into the Accounts it showed up the loss and he himself is now admitting it and I would say that his statement is a reasoned statement that the BMC has always had an element of what used to be part of the old markets for which there is no profit and if they have been able once finally to give them a large sum of money and told them this is it he would be able to achieve something which the same officials functioning in the Ministry of Finance did not permit when there was a request for a similar approach. It is very simple.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member is missing the point. The amount of money which we have given was less. I think it was $1.3 million as against $3 million less than was ever given before when the BMC was bailed out and it achieved its purpose because in previous years the wants for all payments were very soon compromised by bad bookkeeping. Every Account at the BMC that I had ever seen says that we are unable to certify these Accounts because of bad bookkeeping and only this one, the latest one which you have not seen does not have that qualification.

It speaks of weaknesses in the system of internal control purchases in previous years but it does not say that the system of bookkeeping is so bad that the Accounts cannot be certified which was what was the case in the past. Although the hon. member for St. Michael South West feels constrained to put a case for his Administration as opposed to subsequent administrations, I am going to say that with great respect, I do not think he has a very good case and I say that as objectively as I can. I am indeed astonished to find BMC in as good a position as it is today.

The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has been unkind enough to say that it has become a commercial organisation at last and it is learning how to make money on a supermarket like anybody else now namely by charging the same prices as other people but even that is not altogether true because every week there comes to my desk the BMC Survey on prices at six leading supermarkets and it is virtually never the case that any one of the items from salt beef to steak, from fruit juice to corn

flakes, cost as much at the BMC as it cost at more expensive supermarkets. The fact is that although it is tempting to think that the BMC has been raising its prices and that is why it has not been losing money, its prices bear the same relationship to prices in other supermarkets.

I will say this that I am very satisfied at the moment with the BMC and I think that you have to give Jack his jacket even where the jacket may have to cross from over there to over here. You have to give Jack his jacket. The BMC is not now one of the open wounds on the financial body concomitant to the Government of Barbados. It is pulling itself together. It is pulling itself together and it would only now go down if it falls into careless hands once again which will break its financial heart in two and I would like to reiterate my support and my pleasure at the administration of the hon. member for St. Michael West.
5.20 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would like to say as a taxpayer that I wish I could share the enthusiasm of the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance. I think that he is deluding the Chairman into believing that he really is congratulating it because what he did, during the course of his speech, is to completely demolish the presentation which was made by the Hon. member for St. Michael West which carefully omitted all the elements of Government subsidy which the Barbados Marketing Corporation has been receiving and is receiving. He does not appear to appreciate, despite the fact that he was recruited to the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity by the hon. member for St. Michael South West and was detained against the advice of the Committee in that job.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order. I do not expect that the hon. member for St. John would be in possession of all the facts so he is misleading this Hon. House inadvertently.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West has nothing to do with my coming to the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point of order taken.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Blow, blow, thou winter wind, thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross talk please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What I do know, Sir, is that he was detained against the advice of the Committee of Management through the good offices of the Hon. member for St. Michael South West. Be that as it may, we learn as we go along. I said detained Sir. I am not suggesting that he was detained against his will. The Bill against forcible entry and detainers was the first on the Statute Books of Barbados and I do not think there was any infringement on the....*(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order on the Government benches. Would the hon. member for St. Michael West please lower his voice.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The point I want to make is this. The hon. member got up and read a piece of paper and said it was an audited statement. The first thing I would expect from someone who is supposed to be training people is the ability to distinguish between a balance sheet and a profit and loss statement. The second thing I would expect from such an exalted personage would be the ability to differentiate between a net as the Prime Minister has been able to do, not even being so exalted a personage in this field as the Hon. member for St. Michael West, in other fields, maybe, a net loss and accumulated deficit. One would also expect that a Deacon, a Layman will be able to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth particularly, if you have to answer under fear of being read out of the Church or to the back of the church if you do not adhere to the principles which you are supposed to inculcate to others. I am not speaking personally, I want to make that clear.

We had an exhibition here today, the hon. member for St. Michael South West; St. Michael West, I beg your pardon Sir, I apologise to the hon. member for in any way suggesting that he is equal in stature to the hon. member for St. Michael West. *(Asides)* The point is this Sir, he got up and made it appear that the Barbados Marketing Corporation was losing $2 million a year because of bad administration of a Minister, the administration of the hon. member for St. Michael South West and that when he was elected to the post of Chairman that a miracle took place and that was turned into a saving of nearly $2 million. All I can say is this, if I were building a house and I needed $50,000 mortgage, I hope that the hon. member would be able to lend me that $50,000 out of the saving that he had made during the course of that period of time. That is the kind of saving that I would not have much faith in being able to get it, politics aside. I know, that christian gentleman that he is that if he had the money in his pocket he would lend it to anybody, so I am prepared to give him credit for that. He said he would not lend me, you see that now.

The point is this Sir, the Barbados Marketing Corporation was not established to be a supermarket. During our regime, I regretted that it ever took on any supermarket functions at all but it was pointed out to me from time to time that the supermarket operations was probably one field of activity in which it could at least break even and make a small net profit. The supermarket activity was also a kind of safe development, so that when the Corporation sold wholesale to, they call them

"higglers" in Jamaica, we call them "husksters" in Barbados which is a less musical word, the ladies who do their trade with they trays and baskets outside the market place; that the B.M.C. itself having a retail outlet would act as a kind of balance, so that people could not charge whatever prices they like. That was the only reason that I agreed we should retain any supermarket operation, there are enough supermarkets in Barbados and for the Government to invest enormous sums of money to have another supermarket in Barbados, in my opinion, is not the best kind of socialist activity to which public funds should be diverted.

What has not been stated by either of the two speakers on the Government side on the subject of the Barbados Marketing Corporation is the total amount of funds, not the $1.8 million, which was so easily forgotten by the hon. member for St. Michael West and which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister himself mentioned. I wish to say this at the outset. I am not saying anything against the Civil Servants. Some of my best friends are Civil Servants. I was a Civil Servant myself. Some of my best enemies are businessmen. I am a socialist. I would not like to say that some of my best friends are businessmen because somehow or other, their philosophy does not necessarily coincide with mine.
5.30 p.m.

What I found is this, a kind of narrowness of vision among some of the Government's principal advisers, and I mean Government before I took office, the Government when I took office and the Government at the moment. Now you know you get criticised for not taking advice. No one has been more critical than the now Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas about not taking advice from time to time. He even set up Commissions of Enquiry to find out why Ministers did not take advice. One of the things why the BMC has never got off on the right foot was that the BMC was always undercapitalised. The Government did not invite shares from the general public or from the farmers. I feel that the farmers should have been brought into the operation if the Government did not want to put in more than $1 million, and as far as I remember most of that $1 million went in buildings and in equipment. They had no working capital and the real shareholders in the BMC were the commercial banks, so that a substantial part of the earnings – I am not dealing now with what you call it?....I can't remember what the gentleman called it, but I call it earnings – a substantial portion of the yearly earnings of the Barbados Marketing Corporation went straight to the bankers, so what we did at a certain stage as the Prime Minister has disclosed that he had to do was to lose them and let them go, because here was taxpayers' money paying interest to the banks year after year, $300,000 to $400,000 in interest and that showing up as a loss on the books of the BMC. Nobody had to steal carrots. You cannot steal $400,000 in carrots. It is the bankers who were carrying away the money, and all this could have been circumvented if we had had people who were willing to be realistic about the socialisation of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, wherever we were going into ventures which meant that the people of Barbados were having a share in running the economy of the country, we found a kind of parsimonious attitude on the part of people who were responsible for, I would not say for making the final decisions, but certainly for making the recommendations; they got on as though they could not spare it from their fob pockets, and therefore the BMC was under-capitalised with, as far as I can remember round about 1960–61, $1 million, and that was not enough. So then all the working capital came from the banks and the banks were glad because any bank would lend the Government of Barbados, whichever Government it is, the money because in the long run the real guarantors are the taxpayers of Barbados and their money is always safe, and as far as I can remember Barbados has never defaulted up to that time on the payment of any of its debts; so the banks in Barbados really should lend the Government $1 million because that is the best kind of investment that any commercial bank in this country could get. They would like to lend $100 million, then they would not have any headaches. I am sure they would. But the point is that the debt equity ratio at the BMC was always wrong, and therefore the BMC was always short of cash and they always had to be borrowing more money.

There is a certain amount of stealing that goes on in any Government institution. You cannot blame Ministers for that. You cannot even blame, no matter how benighted he may be, and I am not conferring any honours on him now, I mean the present Chairman, no matter how benighted he may be. You can only lose so much by mismanagement, you can only lose so much by stealing, but when you come to these astronomical figures, you have to take and examine deeper. Now there were substantial losses during his regime in ordering things that should not have been ordered. That is mismanagement. Dumping things at sea which were going bad; that was happening down there all the time; lack of cooperation between the agricultural sector and the BMC, and I come to the most important. If the BMC is only going to run a supermarket, they might as well close down business, because they are doing nothing to establish those inter-industry linkages in a country which is dependent upon tourism so that the farmers can be encouraged to produce the kind of goods which we need not only for the tourist industry but for the consumption of the local population, and in order to minimise the imports of foodstuffs which we hear from time to time inside this House and outside of this House as one of the greatest problems facing the country. The next time the hon. member comes in here with figures, let him circulate the audited statements for us to see so that we can show him the difference between a profit and loss statement and a balance sheet.

The one final thing I would like to say is on the abattoir. The Minister of Finance decided to pay. He says it is the Union. Do you know why everybody decides to pay the people at the abattoir who have the shortest working week in Barbados? It is because they got knives and they tell you they have knives and they are accustomed to blood. They say blood does not frighten them and therefore they blackmail the whole community. Captain Fergusson and I went down there one day to settle a threatened strike at the abattoir and to suggest to them that there should be another method of remuneration, and they suggested to us that since they had a lot of respect for us and they were just about to start work, they were sharpening the knives and that we had better go along and leave it to them, and we cleared out in a great hurry.

The whole thing is that with the butchers at the abattoir there is nothing that you can do with them until they have passed away. There is no way that you are going to put them on any liberal basis because they are going to sharpen their knives for you. They do not know the difference between pig blood and human blood and it is as simple as that; so if the hon. member decided to pay out $600,000, consider that cheap. At that price the saving in human life has been inestimable. That is all I have to say.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. members who have spoken. What has been clearly demonstrated is that while the hon. member for St. Michael South West and the hon. member for St. John may get up and filibuster, they cannot quarrel with what is clearly a very impressive performance if I may say so myself and a very impressive recovery at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Sir, the hon. member for St. John seems to be indicating that the Barbados Marketing Corporation in order to turn around has cut some of the essential services which it once performed. Now that is clearly not the case because I am sure he is aware that the BMC took over the experimental unit at Wildey, and I am saying that they only produced instant yam up there. The hon. member for St. Lucy was drawing attention to the members of staff who are resigning. I would like to tell him about those who are coming. The measure and the viability of an organisation is not to be determined by who leaves necessarily, but the quality of the people we are able to attract at very short notice. Now we fully expect that in very short weeks we will be in a position to employ a gentleman of great competence to the job at the experimental unit. The gentleman who has indicated that he is interested in that assignment is a man who is a food technologist, with a Master's degree in Science and Food Technology and a Ph.D. in food micro-biology.
5.40 p.m.

That is the quality of the present help coming to join the staff, to turn the experimental unit into a division of the Corporation able to produce some additional processed foods from the raw materials here in Barbados. (ASIDES) Somebody mentioned that the Personnel Manager has departed. We have applications in hand from persons interested in coming abroad as personnel manager of the BMC with Masters degrees in Industrial and Human Relations. The point I am making is that we are attracting to the Corporation quality personnel, something which was not possible in 1976 when we had trouble attracting people. So if there is a reign of terror those people are not frightened by it, because I told them we operate on performance basis and that if they meet our objectives they will have no problem with the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

The Development Section of the Corporation will be coming to fruition not long from now when we undertake the construction of the new manufacturing and processing section at Lower Estate. This project has been delayed because of the need to take a look at the various proposals that were left us by the previous administration and we had to under-take a wholesale reversal of the projections and conduct new studies to determine the scale of that plant. We have now determined the scale, have prepared the necessary drawings and will shortly be undertaking the construction of that new facility which in addition to processing primary foods – washing, grading and sorting of vegetables, etc., – will be using the Research Division which will take over the function of the experimental unit and develop new uses for local foods and develop new technology for the use of raw materials in Barbados in the area of food. We will have in that facility an onion drying capacity that will allow us to further develop the onion industry in Barbados. We will hopefully have a poultry processing facility to process 1,000 birds an hour, and that project will support the small farmers who have been affected by the fact that the Barbados Marketing Corporation, although one of the main dealers in poultry, has not been able to offer this service to small growers and as a result many of them meet with serious hardship through being unable to get their birds into the processing factory at the most suitable time. So it is not fair to say we have neglected the development aspect of the Corporation; indeed we are still performing those services but we perform them on a scale and in a pattern that will make it possible to use the taxpayers money productively and at the same time afford that service to the farmers in the interest of the development of local agriculture. If the hon. member for St. Michael South West would go around and notice, he will find out that one of the largest suppliers – I understand the hon. member for St. Michael South West to be saying that we are discriminating against people who want to sell products to the BMC on the basis of political affiliation as this is the most prevalent kind of charge that one hears.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, he seems to have misunderstood that part of my speech.

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central; he was pointing out that we were not being open in our policy of purchasing from local farmers. But I would like to tell him that one of the major suppliers to the Barbados Marketing Corporation is Dumb Boy and I am sure the hon. member knows who Dumb Boy is – a very staunch supporter of the Democratic Labour Party. But we deal with him because he is one of the most reliable suppliers of produce to the BMC. We do not deny the opportunity to persons who are interested in working with us in this development venture. So the Barbados Marketing Corporation is not a hell hole. There are persons who have survived at the BMC regardless of their political affiliation and we have some fine hard-working people from the Democratic Labour Party who have been invaluable to us in the performance of their duties. I can mention Miss Jordan as one of our prime supporting people – a good worker; she works and will survive at the BMC as long as she is prepared to do her duty.

I would like while I am on my feet to thank those workers at BMC who have dedicated their energies to productive enterprise rather than running around carrying information about people to undermine the operation of the BMC. There are some disloyal persons who have engaged in that kind of activity and therefore may have passed by the way. But those who have helped us in this productive enterprise are still surviving and will continue to survive.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I believe we have spent enough time on the Marketing Corporation and the information submitted by the Prime Minister and the subsequent reverse gear into which the debate went on their part puts me in the position where I can now move on to deal with the Ministry of Agriculture proper. Mr. Chairman, just one small point concerning the Barbados Marketing Corporation, only incidentally, but it has to do with a thesis which I heard the Minister of Agriculture and other hon. members mention – the distribution of land in the context of agriculture and the misuse of land. It is an interesting fallacy which suggests that because the Barbados Marketing Corporation is dealing in agricultural produce, to take a large building which is a project the feasibility study for which has been done by the Caribbean Development Bank and which was a project conceived during the time we were in Government, a concept which would have been.... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hon. member has a right to be heard in silence.

Mr. TAITT: You see Sir, the hon. member does not understand, but the Prime Minister must understand the Marketing Corporation better than the Chairman. The Prime Minister was able to say he had reserved a cold storage which was ordered in my time for the new project. How can the hon. member in light of that be suggesting he has thrown out the project? But if you look, Sir, at the project that has been announced for Lower Estate, if you take into account the quality of the soil at Lower Estate, I wonder if the Government has given sufficient consideration to the decision they are making to put a large amount of concrete on some of the prime agricultural land in Barbados. It has been established in the McGregor Report.... *(ASIDES)* The point has to be considered because when we talk about the Barbados Marketing Corporation and a new development structure, the Barbados Marketing Corporation itself is not the structure which will be put up but we must know what is going in the structure. I read earlier – I refer to the point made in that study – it is a private sector study; they said that a major contribution to the demise of the small farmer is the failure of the Marketing Corporation's pick-up system. Now this is not the Chairman's fault; this is the Minister's fault. The Minister has demonstrated a lack of capacity to understand the problems of the farmer. I am trying to be charitable, but we have a fiasco in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister that was of Agriculture – and you Mr. Chairman, must know, – was a total and complete failure in the Ministry; that is agreed on all sides; there is no argument in that and even the hon. member himself will agree that it was a fiasco. When he left the Ministry and the other Minister took over we thought that perhaps the new Minister coming as he did without any previous technical knowledge to the Ministry would be in a position to take a look at some of the problems affecting especially the smaller farmers and take the advice of the technical people in the Ministry. It is ironic that the Ministry of Agriculture has some of the best qualified persons in their field in the community, so it must mean they are giving advice which is not being taken; but this Minister demonstrates that he does not quite understand the small farmer in this country because he ought not to have allowed a number of services designed primarily for the small farmers to do abegging. I believe at some point Korea or one of those countries wanted to give us some equipment about three or four years ago and I thought the Minister would be able to tell us that the tractor scheme is now in full gear and going well. I also would have thought that the Minister would be able to tell us what improvement there would have been in the production of produce in this country.

I go a step further and I want to talk about the sugar industry. It is popularly bandied about that nothing was done for agriculture, especially sugar agriculture, and there has been a whole lot of argument and confusion. I have heard some information given from 1970 to 1979. Mr. Chairman, would you believe that profits for the

sugar industry over that ten year period amounted to $56,025,499? And if you look at any study that has been made on the sugar industry in Barbados over the last ten years you will see that the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank has been a bulwark of assistance for the sugar industry to the exclusion of all others. They have even on occasions borrowed money at 9% from commercial banks and lent to the sugar industry at 6%, and the Minister of Agriculture sits down and allows either the Ministry of Agriculture itself or the Barbados Marketing Corporation to stop a number of ancillary services which were very germane and crucial to the development of the small agriculturists in this country. *(ASIDES)* Like the pick-up service such as Dumb Boy is doing for you. Dumb Boy is going around and buying from the people out there – *(ASIDES)* You know what kind of business they understand – everybody is to get a piece of the action. But I will not tell this House anything about any arrangements I know. Mr. Chairman, the point is that everybody is getting a little 2% and the farmer is dying because he is not getting a guaranteed market for his product. All the little farmers who were in chickens had a guaranteed market scheme going with the BMC but the Ministry of Agriculture has allowed that to die; apparently the problem had to do with difficulties between the BMC and the former Minister and I would have thought that when the new Minister came he would see that this programme was reinstituted. Ask any small farmer in your neighbourhood and he would tell you that there was a time when they could produce chickens and have a guarantee that the BMC would take those chickens. *(ASIDES)* At a loss to the BMC but as a substantial gain to the total community. And that is why the Deputy Prime Minister was able to stand on his feet today and say that Barbados has become self sufficient in poultry and in eggs, in pork, and particularly in vegetables. Yes, that happened in our regime precisely because we used to operate on what he chooses to describe as a loss. But if you are discussing agricultural development you cannot discuss it purely in the context of the small farmer in terms of dollars and cents.

6.00 p.m.

How much money do we lose on Education, Mr. Chairman? Who can work out what we have lost in money on Education? It is true that when we hear certain hon. members we might come to the conclusion that we have lost a piece of change. This is true but it is in the minority, Mr. Chairman, generally speaking.

Who can say how much money we have lost on the market, the market system which we have always known those of us who have grown up in this country. You cannot on the one hand say you want people to go back to the land and turn to agriculture and on the other hand discuss Agriculture in terms of profit and loss only.

I would like to ask the Minister how many Extension Officers we have. Perhaps we can get the Minister to take some notes because I would like him to answer some questions. The Hon. Attorney General told us a little about agriculture. He has a garden he says but I would like the Minister to answer these questions. How many Extension Officers we have? What areas they work in? Does he have any statistics of the number of areas they have covered, the number of person they have seen, the amount of acreage that has been tilled and the kind of advice that has been given?

I should like to know if he can give us a breakdown of the advice. *(Asides).* You will not give me now, I have got to put a question? Mr. Chairman, you hear the Minister? You see when I tell you that he is incompetent I do not mean that he does not understand anymore. I mean that he is totally incompetent. He now tells me during the Estimates that I have to put it in a question for him to answer. If you do not know, say so like you said on the Television. No wonder the Minister made such a clown of himself on Television getting up there and trying to answer questions which he ought to know as Minister.

I am saying that any Minister who is worth his salt ought to know those routine questions. You want to tell me that you are the Minister and you do not know how many Extension Officers you have? You have to ask one of the civil servants. That is what they are there for. The Deputy Prime Minister says a sufficient number. You understand that it is your responsibility?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member.....

Mr. TAITT: I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman, but you would appreciate that in the face of this colossal incompetence which confronts me I have no alternative. I am not asking him how many exactly. I am asking him for specific information. Show me where they are in the Estimates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members must stop shouting across at each other. Use the Schedule on Personal Emoluments. You may get some of the answers from there.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, that will tell me the number. What I wish to know is how they are deployed, a question which I am sure you to as a representative from a rural district would like to know, Sir, I ask this question not only on my behalf but on yours. I wish to know if he has 36 and how they are deployed. You understand, Mr. Chairman? I have got an answer from the Deputy Prime Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister has answered me saying that the Extension Officers are deployed growing their own vegetables.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear that through the microphone.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, Sir, as demonstration plots. That is the best way. Teaching by example. I am very pleased to see that they have good vegetable plots.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what is the Hon. Leader of the House now?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Attorney General.

Mr. WARD: No, I was standing first.

Mr, CHAIRMAN: These are my eyes, not yours. I caught his first.

Mr. WARD: I am sitting down but I was up first. I am only letting you know early o'clock.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not show dissent either.

Mr. WARD: I am seeing the line.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you take your seat. I am hearing the Hon. Attorney General.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I need to make only two points under this Head and one is really to congratulate the Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation and the Ministry on the turn around in the economy and financial affairs of the BMC. I do not mind if the speech has been made already, Sir. I want to make the point by beginning to congratulate him in the turn around in the economy of the BMC because one of the serious indictments in the Democratic Labour Party has been the inefficiency of Statutory Corporations and their drain on the public purse in this Island and I am glad to hear that the Rt. hon. member for St. John now acknowledges that the BMC was badly capitalised from the beginning. That is a management decision and if the decision is taken at the level of the Cabinet then he particularly as Minister of Finance must accept the blame for the improper capitalisation of the BMC from the beginning.

It was not for want of advice to him on this particular point and, Sir, I want to advert to some figures because we tend to forget those figures. The Capital contribution by the Government to the BMC up to the 30th June, 1976 was $8,974,376 and in fact in the year up to June, 1976 Government in that area alone put in over $3 million and despite paying in $3 million in one year there was a colossal loss in the trading in that year alone so that if one wants to bring into account.....

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. As you yourself know, Sir, if the requirement to recapitalise a Company is $5 million and you are given $4 million it is almost as if you are given nothing. When the hon. member said it was given $3 million, if he would check the records he would see that the amount asked for was cut on the advice of the Governor of the Central Bank and the Officials of the Ministry of Finance and bearing that in mind how now we are hearing that the Minister did not take that advice.

I am glad that the Hon. Minister took that advice otherwise God knows what they would have against him. All those people looking at the request cut it and what we have had is an accumulative handing in of money over a period of time but not sufficient to correct the ill although we have heard today the Prime Minister said that he finally did what ought to have been done in terms of the amount to be put in.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South West got responsibility for the BMC at a late stage of the Democratic Labour Party Government. I well recall the Debate on capitalisation of the BMC and I recall very well many times on which successive Ministers other than himself have come down to this House asking for supplies to be granted for the BMC and I recall very well the criticism of the under capitalisation of the BMC.

I am not going to accept from him, however, the suggestion that the Governor of the Central Bank and the Financial Experts are the ones who would have made the ultimate decision on the level of capitalisation and I am saying that one must not allow the Rt. Hon. member for St. John to hide.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member said that I said they made the ultimate decision. I am sure you did not hear me say that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He did not say that. You said that they had said you would not accept the suggestion that they had.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Alright, Sir. Who was the Minister of Finance? The Minister of Finance was the Rt. Hon. member for St. John and he had a Corporation that was causing the taxpayers millions of dollars in money. He received the advice that it was under capitalised and he persisted in the condition and he was the Financial Expert. He is the Financial Expert and he knows that.

He has heard it being told to him on many occasions and he cannot get in here and say they are not taking any blame so if we take a Management decision that we are recapitalising it properly and bringing it out of a loss position to take the taxpayers out of the problems what criticisms are they going to give us on that today?

6.10 p.m.

It is the difference in management and approach to management in this country, on issues such as this and the Democratic Labour Party cannot get away with it. They keep getting away in this country with spreading rumours. When they deal with hard facts and balance sheets and look at economic reality, you find that their wizzards are no wizzards any longer. They want to call people Ayatollahs. Sometimes you have to make harsh decisions. They either would have closed down the Barbados Marketing Corporation and stop the losses or use the public purses once and for all and you swipe and reorganise your management, get efficiency going and stop the drain on the taxpayers' pockets.

You would expect them today to come in, not in trying to take the hon. member for St. Michael West to task, nor in taking the Government to task, but in congratulating the Government for dealing with the level of the problems and getting on with it.

I want to come back to sugar Sir, because I hear a lot of talk about sugar. I heard the McGregor Report being looked at in snibits. The essential thing about agriculture in this country, particularly in sugar were two bad mistakes made by the Democratic Labour Party Government. I would like to think that one was a good reason. I doubt whether the second was. People in this country seem to have short memory. It was only three years ago that these points were being made and one tends to forget. The introduction of burning sugar cane by Law in this country was introduced by the Democratic Labour Party. It had the result of making soils that before were almost fertile, infertile. The other result of course, was that it created the habit in people's minds that you had to burn canes in order to get anywhere. Those were the high living days that you only wanted to take an acre of canes and you put on it a few of the Sunset Crest and you were solving the unemployment problem in Barbados.

There is no country in the world developed or undeveloped, which has been able to progress to a stage of economic take off and a high standard of living unless it put money into agriculture and had an agricultural sector of the economy that was paying it significantly. The United States of America today is the highest performer in agriculture throughout the world and I believe between itself and Canada accounts for feeding 80% of all of the people of the world and to have played down as the Democratic Labour Party did at the time, the significance of agriculture, regardless of whether the significance was in cane growing or vegetables was a fundamental mistake and economic nonsense.

What did they do with the cane lands? They took the idle lands and they were cut up, it might have been laudible to think that you were going to pay for all the lands and divide them between all of the people and that therefore you are getting into an egalitarian society but unless the lands can be properly farmed, regardless of whether they are owned by the state, a few individuals or co-operatives you are making a sad mistake and with the brand of agriculture, particularly sugar agriculture that we have gone into, you cannot do very much for farms of a certain size. I do not mind how many degrees they may bring people here with in agriculture to tell me about. The historical record is there, you have to face up to the facts, some units are uneconomical to cultivate certain types of crops and sugar happens to be one of those. Although at present agriculture makes a significant contribution, it is not yet as efficient as the people who have bigger farms can make use, of course lesser overhead cost.

Either we are going to take co-operatives seriously, if we are going to have smaller units, so that we can share the cost particularly of tractors and fertilisers and of the reaping implements, otherwise, we will also fail by going for smaller and smaller units. The Democratic Labour Party not only went for smaller units, they went for non sugar agriculture, no agriculture because a lot of the idle lands that were cut up in Barbados, the plantations, were taken out for a few people to build houses on. That is a fact. All the supporters of the Democratic Labour Party, contributors to their coffers, were the people who were allowed to cut up land around here as they pleased.

When I took over the Town Planning Department I stopped it, there was no way that they could get pass me without those sorts of applications. It is true, they contributed to the Democratic Labour Party's coffers so that even when they lost the Government, they had $1 million in the bank in their assets, that is a fact. *(Asides).* Well, if you do not know what goes on in your party I could tell you. I do not want to show you the balance sheet. They were the heavy contributors. The Hon. Minister has listed a series of plantations which moved straight from agriculture to non use. There was no policy on idle lands, a record to stand up to scrutiny. The hon. member is going to cite McGregor's comment on the siting of the Barbados Marketing Corporation on 20 acres of land. The point is that the hon. member can say what he likes, but there has been no further cutting up of mass agricultural land in the manner in which it has been done under the Democratic Labour Party. Go and look at the figures and find out which plantations have been put up for sale. You look at Page 78 and you will see which ones have been cut up since then. None.

The former Minister of Agriculture had a field day up at Sanford, various interests had a field day at Blowers, next to Blowers on the Hill, Lascelles, that was cut up too. The Rt. Hon. Member for St. John and I know what I am talking about. I know that you know what I am talking about. You know a lot about secret trusts. *(Asides).* You do not know what I am talking about? You may know that I am talking about Turners

Hall, but you do not want everybody to know that. Estate after estate was allowed to be cut up. It was the wrong policy, you made mistakes, you took your blows for it in 1976 and you can take them in 1981 because you have to pay a lot longer outside in the dark for these grievous errors that you made in this country. You sat down and presided with Mr. DaCosta Edwards in the Cabinet, a name that is going to haunt you in your place in history in this country. Some good work but some damn bad ones too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ask the Hon. Attorney General, he got carried away by his own language, to withdraw the use of the word damn.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is not unparliamentary language Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you to withdraw the word damn.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Some damned then Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is more acceptable.

Mr. Acting Chairman left the Chair, Mr. Odle took the Chair.

6.20 p.m.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, before I became a member of this Honourable Assembly, for a number of years I had heard on the radio and read in the press how a grant of money was given to the BMC, and an increased amount of money was given to the BMC, it didn't make money this year, but it is going to make money next year. Every year they say the next year is going to be better. If I understand it correctly the BMC has been going now about 18 years and well over $10 million have been poured into the BMC. I heard this evening a loss on savings. I really believe, Mr. Chairman, that when the history of the 20th Century is written on Barbados, you will hear about two World Wars, television, penicillin and BMC. It is one of the most scandalous organisations that has ever been organised in this country by Government and continues to be a ridiculous state of affairs. Any organisation that every year for 18 years cannot show a profit and taking up money every year, there has got to be something wrong.

Now let me tell you, Mr. Chairman. The best place to steal from is an organisation that is losing money. You can only show a little more loss. If you sit on the splice where things are coming in, that is where you can strike. Any kind of organisation losing money today, a man's money scatters on the floor out of his purse, that is the time to hit; so if the BMC continues to lose money, there is going to be continual problems down there. I told the Chairman a year ago, I said, you are getting hit at the BMC and you are getting hit at X. Oh no, man, it can't be, he said. Six months after he came back and said, you know what you say is true. Let me tell you how it used to happen years ago. A farmer who ran a small kitchen garden would carry five bags of produce to the BMC at 6 o'clock in the morning and he would be given a number. He would carry so many carrots and so many beets and so many cabbages. When he came back he was given a voucher for twice as much as he had taken there with the understanding of course that when he drew his cash he went back to pay back the fellow who was doing the weighing; so obviously now the books are going to show that far less merchandise has come in or in stock than what has been sold. How did they balance their accounts? When the trucks were dumping the spoilage and three tons went out on a truck, six tons went out, so therefore the books always balanced.

Mr. Chairman, I think that the Government of this country has got to face up to the BMC. It is an imposition on the taxpayers of this country to run an organisation that we can still talk about saving in loss. I think if the BMC was a bulk purchaser and a wholesaler, they would be a good service to the country, but in the retail business I think the Government should get out of it.

Now I accept that within the BMC the abattoir would show a loss because the abattoir is a public service; it is a health service for this country to make sure that all animals are tested for any germs or what have you they may have, and killing animals in very sanitary conditions and through the conditions which give the least amount of cruelty to the animal. All these things I accept, therefore I am saying to the Chairman of the BMC now that the accounts for the abattoir should be shown separately, and therefore you would not get this colossal loss because if every year you get a grant for $½million as he is getting this year and then next year we come back and hear a saving in loss, this is not satisfactory. Every department of the BMC that is losing money we should have separate accounts for.

Now if the Government has a policy that is a way of subsidising the poor farmer, say so; but if you are running it as a trading organisation and are not showing up the departments that are losing...*(Asides)* You showed me a balance sheet today and I did not see it in that. The point is, Mr. Chairman, that the BMC should show up their various departments that are designed for losing money and stop these great losses. It is $125,000 losses this year, but we have not seen those papers yet, but we see a reduction in losses. Mr. Chairman, this is unsatisfactory, and I am saying this; I am submitting that Government should face up to the BMC which has not been the success it was anticipated to be.

I heard the hon. member for St. John saying that he was persuaded to go into various avenues that it was not intended to go into. Well then it has been a trial; get back to the bulk purchasing, wholesaling, make contracts with the hotels and the supermarkets to sell the merchandise and get out of selling corn flakes, flasks, phensic and tooth picks and this kind of thing and get into what it was originally designed for, wholesaling and bulk purchasing and do not let us keep coming back to this House and saying again next year we are going to make money, because up to now it has been 18 years the BMC has been operating, over $10 million granted and cannot show a profit yet. Something has got to be seriously wrong.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to make a few points in this intervention, but I believe that there are certain misconceptions which have to be cleared up, certain cobwebs which have to be removed from our thinking about agriculture in this country if we are really to understand the role that it has played and that it can play, its potential for contributing even more to the development of this country.

I have heard a lot of talk about plantations being cut up or taken out of agriculture as though this is some particular invention of the Democratic Labour Party. The impression that is being given over there is that the removal of land from agriculture to non-agricultural purposes is something invented by the Democratic Labour Party because it does not know anything about agriculture, and that was the first time that it happened in this country. I am very glad that the hon. member for Christ Church West referred to the productive capacity of the United States and Canada to produce agricultural products where they can feed not only themselves but have large quantities for export to other countries. Yet it is an inexorable fact that in these countries the land allocated to agriculture has been on the decrease, and the number of people employed in agriculture has also been on the decrease. What has happened is that you have had other inputs, other resources being put into agriculture to make good those deficiencies on that particular part. So what has happened in Barbados is nothing new or unusual as far as agriculture is concerned.

I have heard a number of estates being mentioned. I heard reference to Bagatelle, Frere Pilgrim, Blowers, Rouens, Neils and some other estates as well, but we have heard no mention of the other estates around Barbados which were in agriculture before. We could mention all of the areas around Bridgetown, Grazettes, Bush Hall, Bay Land – I represent the Bay Land – all of these were plantations producing agricultural products and which have been taken out for other purposes. 6.30 p.m.

Sandy Lane itself – I do not know if the hon. member for St. John took Sandy Lane out of agriculture, but we can take the blame for it, we took out, nothing to do with the Barbados Labour Party administration. You are giving the people of this country the impression that it is the Democratic Labour Party which has committed some grave blunder as far as agriculture is concerned and that you have all the answers to it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the hon. member will give way, the hon. member should surely distinguish between the Government purchase of a plantation to put down a housing area, as the Pine or Grazettes, or the development of a plantation on the beach to give employment to more people at Sandy Lane between allowing private people to cut up a plantation into uneconomic lots for private gain.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am talking about taking land out of agriculture, this is the point that is being made, taking land out of agriculture for non-agricultural purposes.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, a short point of elucidation. Technically, the plantations of which we are speaking have not been taken out of agriculture – Blowers and all the others. Technically, they are cut up for agricultural purposes but in fact they have been taken out of agriculture. It was a fraud to say they were cut up for agricultural purposes.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I do not want to establish that particular point. The second point I wish to establish is this, that there has been an argument developed that over the past three years great miracles have happened in agriculture in this country and that the Democratic Labour Party is trying to deprive the Barbados Labour Party of credit for those developments. Now, I try to take a balanced view of developments and of politics in this country, and I wish to see this country developed, I wish to see this country prosper because I know when that happens prosperity will come not only to Barbados Labour Party people but to everybody, or should, to everybody as a whole. I do not wish to take away any credit for anything that has happened during the past three years. I will congratulate the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture who have continued to make their contribution, in very difficult circumstances, I must admit, but whatever progress has been made I give credit. I give credit to those to whom credit is due, but at the same time what you have had from the Barbados Labour Party is arguments throughout this country that the Democratic Labour Party did nothing for agriculture in the 15 years that it was in power.

Now, these are the types of non-arguments that tend to debase the debate on public issues in this country. They are not going to come and tell the people of

this country that the poultry industry in this country was a creation and development of the Democratic years in this country. They are not going to tell the people of this country that the development of onions in this country was a development during the Democratic years in this country. They are not going to tell the people of this country that the development of peanuts in this country – and I am not talking about Andy Morrison either – they are not going to tell the people of this country all of this. What they come in with now is a lot of long words, I hear a lot about agro-industry now in this country, but we had agro-industry in this country for a long time, rum was the biggest agro-industry in this country. *(Aside).* You are clapping, I know you like the stuff, man, you just had one.

It is time that we stop this type of debate which is sterile and non-productive. Admit that there are problems in agriculture which faced the Democratic Labour Party, which face the Barbados Labour Party, which face Barbados. Admit that the technical officers of the Ministry have been trying to deal with these problems both during the years of the Democratic Labour Party and now the years of the Barbados Labour Party, but don't think you are any magicians who have the answers to these problems which we do not have. I had a visit to China, I see the Minister of Housing there, and he saw along the roads that we drove that there was agricultural development as far as the eye could see. I don't know what else he saw, but certainly as far as that is concerned I can attest to that fact, too.

The third point I wish to make relating to the seeds of discontent that are being sown in this country relates to this question of cane fires, and it is doing no good for agricultural production or for the production of fertile debate or understanding of problems in this country when you get some wicked statements being put out, suggestions, insinuations and innuendo that the Democratic Labour Party is responsible for the spate of cane fires in this country, and I think any Minister who gets up in this House and claims that he is speaking responsibly, or wants to speak responsibly, especially during an Estimates debate which was introduced by words of no more hate, I don't want anything like that in this debate. To get up and say that it is the Democratic Labour Party, or suggest that the Democratic Labour Party for political reasons is setting fire to the cane crop of this country, I think that is a most undeserving comment or suggestion that should be made by any Minister, and he should get up and apologise to this House and to the nation for having said it. I think a Minister should be big enough to say that.
6.40 p.m.

Now it is clear that the impact which the Democratic Labour Party is making on public opinion in this country is causing deep concern to the forces over there as they see their popularity slipping.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member has said a very truthful thing that we were very worried about the preachings of his party concerning the burning of canes.

Mr. SANDIFORD: That is exactly what I am talking about, another innuendo, another suggestion. In 1977 when the cane fires prevention appeal was introduced in this Chamber one hon. member from over that side said openly that it was for political reasons and that members of the Democratic Labour Party were associated with the burning of canes. It is these types of comments that makes political life in this country the type of activity it is. If we want to get down to the problems of this country, let us stop all these gross charges and unfounded allegations and innuendoes; let us apply the intelligence that we have for dealing with these problems rather than try to suggest that one side is indulging in treasonable activities and that the other side is all purity. Above all, let the Minister of Agriculture know that he has a very serious responsibility and that all eyes in Barbados are on him to see how he is going to deal with this problem. It is a most difficult task because he has succeeded one expert who worked in the Ministry of Agriculture before, the present Minister, he grows limes and he will advise the people not to eat corned beef.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. One thing I can say is that the Prime Minister can never say that I lit a fire and burned down St. Philip Church and then it was an act of God.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I can now see why you were moved from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: When the Democratic Labour Party went around the country in 1977 lighting cane fires and Sleepy Smith who was Leader of the Opposition acknowledged that the canes were being burned and the church was burned down because he felt....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the hon. member on? Not a point of order but a point of elucidation probably.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: They did not understand the point of order so it is elucidation at this point, because he knows full well that when St. Philip Church was on fire the then Leader of the Opposition got in here and said as far as he was concerned it was all right, it was retribution and an act of God.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to get back into the general run of the debate on the grounds covered before, but since the intervention of the hon. member for Christ Church West and the nonsense which was put out by him – a lot of lies, as a matter of fact – one must respond.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member saying that another hon. member is telling lies?

Mr. GREAVES: I said if I were to respond.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member withdraw the remark.

Mr. GREAVES: I withdraw. But let us look at what he said. The hon. member for Christ Church West said that the Democratic Labour Party did nothing to promote non-sugar agriculture. I want, Mr. Chairman, to read from some of the statistics which are available in this particular area so as to demonstrate very clearly that when we said this afternoon that an agricultural revolution had been taking place in this country now for years, indeed it began under direction and leadership of the Democratic Labour Party.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is misquoting what I said in this House; he obviously was not listening carefully. Nowhere can he point in Hansard to a statement that I said the Democratic Labour Party did nothing to promote or not promote non-sugar agriculture.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, now that the hon. member has come back into the Chamber and indicated that he did not say that the Democratic Labour Party did nothing to promote non-sugar agriculture, we must conclude that he is in agreement with the agricultural diversification which is taking place now and was begun under the Democratic Labour Party; and I will demonstrate with facts and figures the role the Democratic Labour Party has faced and demonstrated with this whole question of agricultural diversification which was a very important plank in the agricultural policy of the Democratic Labour Party.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is obviously arguing with himself. I was specific on the points which I made in the debate, one of which dealt with the question of the Barbados Marketing Corporation and its capitalization and the second of which dealt with the mistakes made in relation to agricultural policy and I said we are paying the price of that. I did not intervene in the debate beyond those points. But if he wants to use new points and wants to hear me debate them and reply to him I will reply to him.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, all I will say is that the record when it is published, if it is published, will indicate what the hon. member said. But let us get on.

In 1971 the level of production of onions was 823,500 pounds; in 1972 it was 1.6 million pounds; in 1973 the amount was 557,000 pounds and we come right down...*(Asides)* We are dealing with agriculture, the whole question of pests, diseases and so on.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is trying to use the tactics of deception. He must read the statistics from 1970 to 1978 in onions; he must read the statistics in regard to cotton, but he must not take out the high points as against the low points, when the cost of sugar rose and the farmers decided to put in sugar rather than onions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken. I do not believe the hon. member intended any deception. He will give us all the figures he has and tell us where he is quoting from.

6.50 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: From the Report of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, the Annual Report, 1973. The hon. member can see it. Now let us move on to the question of yams. Look at the growth of yams in terms of the production – over 1 million pounds in 1971, 1.4 million pounds in 1972 and we can go down the line, beets, carrots, cabbages, eddoes, potatoes, sweet peppers and cucumbers. All of these are things which are part of the Agricultural Diversification Programme which were initiated by the Democratic Labour Party.

Now the hon. member for Christ Church West referred to land which was taken out of production under the Democratic Labour Party Government and one would have thought that with the strictures which they have levelled out against the Democratic Labour Party about taking agricultural land out that one would not have seen that kind of policy practised by them but they set up a commission on the Barbados Sugar Industry and the Report was submitted in July, 1979.

This Report was circulated and on page 70 of the Report Dr. McGregroire had some very harsh words to say about the siting of the BMC in the Lower Estate Area. He said that "insufficient thought is given to the question whether non-agricultural installations could not be allocated on non-agricultural lands" – a case in point – "is the decision to divert over 20 acres of cane land in the Lower Estate area for the construction of a Processing Complex for the Barbados Marketing Corporation."

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. Dr. McGregroire could only be an idiot because that is like telling you that you cannot put a Processing Factory in an agricultural area. What sort of agricultural use is that if you are using land for agricultural products? That can only be foolishness.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, we are having some very surprising revelations here today. Imagine the Deputy Prime Minister sat down in Cabinet and appointed an

idiot, in his own words, to come down here and review the Sugar Industry.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, Sir, he only proved his idiotsy in that particular statement and that was after he was appointed. We ran after his qualifications just like many people ran after yours.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, order, please. Let us hear the hon. member for St. Lucy in silence, please.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I must confess that Dr. McGregoire has a lot of qualifications to be called an idiot by the Deputy Prime Minister. I think it is a very serious stricture which is being levelled at the Government and it shows very clearly that when one gets into this question of being critical of policies and practice by one party as against another kind of policy, one must recognise that at times there are certain considerations which go into making decisions and even although these strictures which were levelled by Dr. McGregoire it does not necessarily mean that we in the Democratic Labour Party agree with the points which he made.

It shows you this whole question of taking land out of sugar production and putting it in other things. There are many views and one particular view need not necessarily be correct even although it is a view held by a large majority of people so that in the same way that they are accusing me of having taken land out of sugar production, we can demonstrate very clearly that those strictures can also be levelled at them.

Let us move on, Mr. Chairman. We talked this morning about the way in which the Minister of Agriculture presented these Estimates and the omissions which we found in the presentation by the Minister and I indicated that I would have liked to hear the Minister explaining more fully, for example, the role and indeed what kind of progress has been made on the Caribbean Food Corporation and the Caribbean Food Plan. That is very, very important. I thought he would have come back on it.

I wanted to hear something on this because if we are on the diversification programme, if we are going to talk about marketing these things, we would want to hear something about the policy of the Minister and what they are doing to reach these objectives and we wanted to hear some of those things in his presentation. We wanted also to hear something from the Minister.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, please. Do you have something to elucidate?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, Sir. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member when he is obviously in stride, Sir, but we have agreed on certain hours and it now being 7.00 o'clock, Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that the CHAIRMAN report progress to His Honour, the SPEAKER, and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 8.00 p.m.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting until 8.00 p.m.

7.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On the resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply, to that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. If no other hon. member desires to speak, I ask the Minister to wind up the debate.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to say a lot in reply to the hon. members who have spoken. I heard a diarrhea of words, that was all the Opposition indulged in during the time that they were actually dealing with these matters.

I must confess, I sympathise with the hon. member for St. Michael South West who was not in his seat when I started to speak and therefore was not able to appreciate what I said when I opened my remarks. He has only heard about a quarter or less of the speech which I made, outlining the approach of the Ministry in a number of matters. The hon. member in his usual pulmination said that he saw a monumental amount of ignorance. It is certainly in the hon. member to be so inclined to always make those types of remarks but of course, he must know that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

I am not going to reply to him in like form, I am going to rise above that. When he put the question to me about how many extension officers are in my Ministry and if I can tell him where they are deployed, that is not a

question for me where they are deployed, that is a matter for the Chief Agricultural Officer to deploy the officers under his control as he considers best in the circumstances, at any time. *(Asides).* Why not behave yourself? You have very little manners any how. You are showing up yourself. Of course, you are still behaving like a student which you are and certainly not like a man. You have extension officers who are working, Senior Assistant Agricultural Officers and all types of agricultural officers at various levels. What I can give to the hon. member; I cannot tell you whether they are deployed, there are 12 extension officers at large, nothing to do with those who are stationed at various points in the country. If you do not know where the agricultural stations are in Barbados and if you do not know the points where officers would be placed throughout the length and breadth of Barbados, some will be at the Port to look after the plant section there, some would be at the seaport and the airport. Some will be in the seed store, some will be at Haggatts, some at Sayers Court, Groves and all over the place I do not know if you want me to tell you I do not know. To come in here, because you want to be difficult to ask me the name of the messenger at the Ministry of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, or who is the maid. I do not get involved with those things. It is a matter for you. You have to be concerned with those things. I am concerned with the broader policy for the Ministry. *(Asides).* I am not paying any attention to you, your style of operation is not conducive to being here.

I am doing the people's business and I am trying to be as pleasant and polite as possible. You have asked a lot of questions and you have certainly made a mockery of yourself by continually asking the same question and trying to make two speeches. You want to know about C.F.C. about the position with the Spring Hall Development, and all types of things you are asking for before you put up the questions in a straightforward manner and let me deal with them in a manner in which they should be dealt with. You come in, trying to confuse the issue and to cloud everything but I am not going to pay attention to you. A number of sensible questions have been asked by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central but he is not present and therefore it is clear that he does not deserve to have a reply, if he wanted one, he would have remained. Equally so, for the member for St. Michael South, if he wanted an answer he certainly would have remained to have the answer and therefore, I am going to equally dismiss those.

Somebody raised the question of nuts, and the pricing of nuts, I am told, that the rastafarians are very concerned with nuts and like to deal with nuts. I do not know, if because he might be a promoter of them that he is seeking to see what the Ministry will do on their behalf. What I can tell him and everybody is that Barbados at the moment, can only produce sufficient nuts for a six week period at anyone time. We have got to be importing nuts all along and I know that the Ministry responsible for Trade and Industry has given pioneer status to a company in order to process nuts in Barbados. The Ministry of Agriculture had a say with respect to that and it was agreed that that industry will take off all the local nuts that cannot be utilised locally.

As far as dairy – in that regard we are moving forward. Again, he asked what is to be the fate of that. A study is being carried out to see if it is economically feasible to continue to carry on the Hope Dairy bearing in mind that it is a liability. We are wondering if we put an injection of capital into it, if we would not be faced with the same type of stricture as we were faced with today with respect to the Barbados Marketing Corporation. The authors of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, in the form of which it was, have come to criticise even their own baby and similarly, they will be criticising the Hope Dairy. We are having an indepth study of the Hope Dairy and if it proves to be a feasible proposition: as at the moment, it is not, but probably, given the necessary finance and the necessary injection of new cattle, you may be able to have a viable industry there. We are looking at other alternative areas by way of the Hope Dairy and when a solution is found, it will be made known.

The hon. member for St. Lucy who has now let it be known, he has the clear distinction of being a parish pump politician will know about the fate of the project. There are no problems as far as that is concerned. One thing I have to assure him is, whatever is done, the interest of the workers will be taken carefully into consideration.

8.10 p.m.

During the course of the debate I heard mention made about a lady resigning from the Barbados Marketing Corporation, and I want to say this, that that lady has not resigned because she does not want the job or because she is being hounded down and is going out of a job. She is going into a job that is going to pay her I believe twice to three times more than what she is now getting at the BMC, and she must thank this Government for making it possible that she can go into that job because we have allowed Women in Action – that is the title of the organisation – to come and set up itself in Barbados; Women in Development, I am sorry, to give a prominent advocate of opposition causes an opportunity to go abroad and to distinguish the present Government and the country. This is what we have been doing. This seems to be our pattern. We are not wicked, we are not spiteful.

The hon. member for St. Michael South in speaking earlier today talked about a scorched earth policy in my accusing the Opposition of burning the land down, but when he was talking about removing and depressurising nobody had any right to say anything. They alone had rights to say whatever they cared to say, but nobody else has any rights. As far as the Ministry is concerned, the

Ministry is well aware of the problems within agriculture. The Ministry has taken the necessary steps to rectify the problems which exist, and all we need to do is to move in the direction in which we are going and be positive in what we are doing. I have given here a break down of what the Ministry has been doing over the past year or two. I had done that before the hon. member for St. Michael South West came and I want to repeat it is not my fault he was not in his place, and I don't quarrel with him on that. I quarrel with the hon. member for St. Lucy who in the face of sitting down there and hearing all that I said continues to propound a theory that he knows is totally unacceptable. What does he want me to give him other than what I have given him. I have given him all that is possible.

He has talked about the project at Spring Hall being the project of his party and that they set it in motion. You have set a lot of things in motion and you have put them badly in motion. You bought the North Point and a lot of things; you had Bath lying down there doing nothing. I have brought figures here today to prove that Bath is going to produce 190 acres or 77 hectares of canes, giving you something like 43 tons to the acre or in the region of 203 tons to the hectare. That is what we have done, but you had Bath. What do you want us to do? You came and found this Assembly. Because you have lost power do you want us to push it down and not to go on? We are not doing anything that concerns you. We are doing the people's business, and Spring Hall concerns the people, not the Democratic Labour Party. When we leave here and when the time comes for us to leave, we will leave it for those who follow us to carry on, and we would be passing on to them the legacy which they are entitled to have passed on to them, and there is no question of what you had. You had the Spring Hall development and you could not put it in order and we have come to put it in order for you.

You had also the distribution of land resources of the country. I have started that in ADC. I have started to give the lands to the people who are working them, and the people who want and come for land will get so long as they are *bona fide* agriculturalists. That is what we have started and we will continue the process; and more than that; we have made a pledge in our manifesto that we will take over the tenantry lands, and we are firm in taking over the tenantry lands. I mentioned when I introduced the Heads the question of the integrated rural development scheme. That is what I am talking about, where a number of people will be going into units and the Government will be providing the infrastructural facilities in terms of water, housing and roads as we will be doing in the area of St. Lucy, Spring Hall. That is going to be brought under. We are talking about de-emphasising the role or scaling down the role of ADC. By scaling down, what I meant was that we were moving them out of certain areas where they were not doing well, but now the integrated rural development scheme will come under the ADC, therefore instead of reducing its work as such you will be increasing the work, but in the area that you believe it is most capable of handling. So while you are scaling down in one direction, the lands that are not the best for agricultural production you are seeking to increase their responsibility and give them more work to do. That is what we are doing.

I have also pointed out that we are having a study made here on marketing. There is no sense in encouraging people to plant and to plant and to plant and at the end of the day there is no place to sell their produce. Nothing can discourage a farmer more than that. When he fails to get his produce sold at the end of the day, he is not going to easily plant again, and until we have the marketing intelligence and until we are able to place the produce where we feel it should be placed, it is pointless over-producing. But the country is doing well in terms of what it can consume locally and the question of the local supply market; but it is in the area of external sales that we are concerned, and we are looking in that direction. I assure hon. members that everything is done in order to put agriculture on the pedestal that it is deserving of being put.

These are my few remarks in reply to hon. members, and I assure them that any question that they might need to ask as I go along I am willing to answer, but from the type of discussion we have had so far, Mr. Chairman, I am doubtful there should be anything further to be asked.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 25 with amendment stand part. All those in favour please say "Aye"

(Mr. CHAIRMAN consults with the Clerk)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The next Head is Head 26.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We can't go on with that yet. Let's get this position clear.
8.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have been under the impression that the Committee was agreed that you will call the Heads *en bloc.* Although the other Heads we have done were called by Subheads, considering the extent of the debate on this my feeling is that it is perfectly in order to call Head 25 *en bloc.* However, I would certainly like to have the Committee decide finally now whether we should call the Subheads. Let me hear from the Leader of the House.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we specifically called Head 25 and Head 25 was debated generally. We now have Head 26. The Estimates are quite clear, if you

look at the pink page, Head 25 was called by the Clerk, so all we have to call now is 26 and 27, and then we go on to Capital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will now put the Question.

Mr. TAITT: No, Mr. Chairman. If that is the position I have a number of questions to ask still under 25, so let me ask these questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the Hon. Minister began I asked, does any other hon. member wish to make a contribution to this Head 25.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No hon. member indicated to the Chair that he so wished to do.

Mr. TAITT: Because, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I thereupon called – please do not interrupt me. I thereupon called upon the Minister to wind up the debate, and it is known, it is well established parliamentary procedure that the Minister having wound up the debate, unless he has brought in some new matter which the Chair has not seen or heard, there can be no other speeches on this. That is clear.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege. With the greatest respect, when Your Honour asked the Minister to wind up I was under the impression that the Minister was winding up on what usually is the General Administration of the Ministry; that is all. We have six pages constituting Head 25. The Estimates as they have been debated so far, Mr. Chairman, yesterday we called Subheads, you will recall we did Subhead A one time, we did Subhead B. Now, we have discussed the Ministry of Agriculture. Included in that Ministry of Agriculture is a sector called Consumer Affairs which starts here at F. There has not been a single word in the debate that I have heard, Mr. Chairman,.... *(Asides).* I am only saying what leads to my.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Aren't you addressing the Chair?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to explain the source of my difficulty, so you will understand why when you said, does any other hon. member have anything to say this hon. member did not get up and say, yes, I have something to say.

Mr. Chairman, I am not trying to be difficult, but may I explain. There are one or two questions which I would have liked to ask under this Head. If Your Honour rules that this is the position, I will abide by the ruling, but I felt bound to explain my position so Your Honour will know that I was not contesting the Chair, I was merely in a position where I was mistaken.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I listened to the debates during the Estimates and when the Prime Minister was doing his part of the Estimates he was calling Subhead A, Subhead B, Subhead C, Subhead D, E, F, G, whatever it is. As I understand it, there is a Head there under Agriculture for $8 million, Head 25. If any member during the debate wishes to debate the $8 million under Head 25, it is his bounden duty to look for the areas to debate. There is no need for a Minister to be calling Head A, Head B, Head C, there is one amount of money, an amount of X million dollars or X hundred thousand dollars under Head 1, 2, 3 or 4, but what is wrong with the Opposition, and I have listened to them very carefully all along, they have been filibustering hoping to keep off a particular Head. That is all they have been doing. Head 25 is quite clear. Now the hon. member is saying that he wants to ask a question under Head so-and-so, but in the meantime Sir in Committee, as I understand it, a Minister does not wind up, the hon. member can get up as long as the question has not been put and ask any amount of questions. It is therefore the Minister's duty, if he so desires, to answer the questions or not. If I were the Minister of Agriculture you would have from me a stony silence. That is what you would have from me.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ingore the concept of filibustering, I believe I have put the position. He himself said that the Prime Minister when he started the Estimates did A and B and C and D.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. The Prime Minister is no god to tell a Minister how he must call a Head. If that is the Prime Minister's style, that is his style. I am going to have a different way to call mine, so you had better be on the alert. Let me warn you very early.

Mr. TAITT: As far as I am concerned the hon. member can call it in any way he wishes. The point is, Mr. Chairman, the format of these Estimates has been changed this year, and no one can tell me that it would be intended that persons...*(Asides).* No one can tell me that we would have been expected to debate in 15 minute about six pages of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Affairs. No one can tell me that that is intended.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG rose.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to stand for this, am I permitted to continue or do you wish me to sit?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, if I may assist the hon. member. During last year's

Estimates there was a model and it was made very clear on the floor of this House. Under Health, if I am not mistaken, there was a model system where it was drawn to the attention of Parliament that we were going to bring down the Estimates just like that. If the others can understand it, what is wrong with you? You are supposed to be some B.Sc., M.B.H., you should be able to look at it and grasp what is going on, you are not like me.
8.30 p.m.

I do not know what exactly is the procedural difficulty, but however the form of Estimates has changed the Standing Orders have not changed, and the Standing Orders make it quite clear there is a motion to be moved by the Minister and it is that the sum of so many dollars for Head so and so stand part of the Schedule; and when the debate is exhausted and all members have had an opportunity to speak, then the Minister may reply, but I believe – and it is what I would advise this House – that if in spite of procedures that have taken place before an hon. member wishes to make additional points, so long as the debate time has not been exhausted I would counsel that members be allowed to make their contributions, but the Minister will always have the right to the final reply.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, just one last point. The hon. Minister of Housing made the point that last years Estimates were set out this way. I have in my hand last year's Estimates. The Ministry of Health was set out basically this way, but if you look at Heads 13(1) (2) (3) and (4) – I am not going to pursue this matter, I will just ask the Minister if he is inclined to answer. *(Asides)* If you do not want to answer, let posterity show that you refused to answer the question. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. The time has come when I as Chairman must rule on this matter and this will be final. The position is as I have already said: Debate has taken place generally over the whole issue. It is my view that the debate has been exhausted and my ruling is that the hon. member will be out of order in attempting to prolong the discussion. I will now put the question.

The question that Head 25 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26 – COOPERATIVES – $26,950

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to move that Head 26 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 27 – METEOROLOGY – $836,049

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to move that Head 27 as amended stand part.

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

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

HEAD 74 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS – $13,893,084

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to move that Head 74 as amended, stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, will the Minister indicate how far the construction of the buildings at Graeme Hall has reached? How the concept of air conditioning the building through the use of solar energy is working out, if it is feasible, if it is going to be functional, if he is going to be able to tell us that the engineering difficulties have been overcome, when he expects this new complex to be over, how many square feet of space he expects to occupy in the new building, the number of staff members who will be going there and those staff members who will be left in the old Ministry of Agriculture, if any; whether all of the technical people will be going to Graeme Hall or whether it is the intention to deploy some of the technical people elsewhere and keep the main administrative section of the Ministry at Graeme Hall. I am very interested in the solar energy concept, and in the context of the research laboratory will the Minister indicate which part of this will overlap with the work of the Barbados National Standards Institute Laboratory which has been constructed at Culloden Road; if there is research to be done at both these institutions or if this research laboratory is going to be supplementary to the National Standards Institute Laboratory, bearing in mind the speech made by the Minister about two years ago in which he indicated that now we have a Laboratory of the National Standards Institute all of our research relating to agriculture and standards would be embraced within this complex. Will the Minister indicate what is the Government's policy on housing of agricultural officers in the respective areas where they work. Sub-head 3 specifically suggests that a Senior Officer's house which has been built on lands of the Central Agronomic Research Station, occupancy of which it is envisaged will result in improvement of security – I am not sure if I understand how the building of a house for the senior officer is going to result in improved security. Will the Minister indicate how he proposes to improve security by the placing of an officer in a house which has been built, bearing in mind the number of priorities the Government now faces in various agricultural

areas. Will the Minister indicate if the building of that new house will be a new policy, a department policy or a functioning of the same policy. Will the Minister explain the relationship between the Government Analyst Laboratory, the Research Laboratory at Graeme Hall and the new laboratory at the Barbados National Standards Institute. Will the Minister indicate how these three are going to be sharing the work for research which will require the use of a laboratory, or whether their work will overlap and does the Minister not think that this is going to lead to some duplication and hence a waste of funds.

In the context of the statement made by the Prime Minister in the introduction of these Estimates, will the Minister outline the policy with regard to Soil Conservation in the St. Andrew area, an area which it is believed the Minister should have some knowledge of.
8.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may continue his debate.

Mr. TAITT: In the context of the statement made by the Prime Minister I would like to hear the Minister relating his policy to the Prime Minister's statement on Soil Conservation. The Minister must be taking notes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is a silent interruption. I do not believe it would affect the hon. member.

Mr. TAITT: I just want to make sure he takes notes, Sir, because I want very detailed answers to these questions. You see, Sir, land development and soil conservation have been a long term project. It is a long term project that goes back many years and I should like to know where we are.

I formed the impression that the Prime Minister was suggesting that the Soil Conservation Project had come to fruition or was coming to an end or that an end was in sight. I should like to hear from the Minister what the position is at the moment with regard to the Soil Conservation Project in St. Andrew.

Now, Sir, Subhead 5, Crop Research and Extension. I see here that we are making a provision of a revote of $5,000 to purchase a rotorvator for Codrington Agricultural Station and token provision for a Multi-Centre for the 4-H Movement as part of a programme aimed at accelerating development of the Movement.

Mr. Chairman, the 4-H Programme has been in Barbados for a very long time. Is the Minister restudying the entire 4-H Programme and restudying a new policy or is what he said about 16 months ago regarding the 4-H Movement still the policy? I had some difficulty understanding it as outlined then but I formed the impression that he was saying that the 4-H Movement had done very well and if the 4-H Movement had done very well then I am not sure that I understand why we are going to be accelerating its development.

I formed the impression he was suggesting that what was required for the 4-H Movement was a broadening or continuation of the same policy but a broadening of the areas in which the 4-H Movement was extended. I should like to understand the nature of the inability to get the rotorvator which requires the revote, if it is possible to give this information at this point.

Now, Sir, under Subhead 8. This project is aimed at improving farming efficiency in production techniques and research utilization. Is this different – I want to be certain that I do not confuse the issue – to the provision for the establishment of an economic size family? Is this representative of the term of diversification research project? Is this part of the rural development programme? Would this be the model plan of the rural development programme which is to be distinguished from the Spring Hall type project or is this a separate project type programme?

I should like to get an indication as to whether this is different or if it forms part of that integrated programme.

On this Cane Separation Plant, Subhead 9 has a modest sum of $28,000 compared with the approved Estimates of $50,000 last year and if I recall – You telling him to get a newspaper? A big Minister like him you have to tell him how to deal with.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: If a Minister chooses in the midst of the debate of the Estimates to read a Newspaper it would only be a reflection on the Minister, Mr. Chairman, and I humbly submit that bearing in mind, Mr. Chairman, the rules of the House, it is a reflection on the Chair.

Subhead 9 – Cane Separation Plant. I saw in the Newspaper some time ago a model house that is supposed to have emanated from this Cane Separation Plant. Can the Minister shed some light as to what has happened to that model house? If any other houses have been built since? If it is still the policy of the Government to build houses out of the cane resulting from the activities of the operation of the Cane Separation Plant? What is the relationship between the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Agriculture in relation to the Cane Separation Plant?

If so, can the Minister explain how he proposes with $28,000 to extend this programme which, according to the announcement of the Government on the occasion

of the viewing of the single unit made from the products of the Cane Separation Plant it was to become a new kind of indigenous raw material used in the community. Can the Minister explain how in the light of that policy statement then a vote of $28,000 is to be utilized in the context of that policy as expounded then?

If the policy has changed, will the Minister indicate why it has changed? Will the Minister indicate whether the Government has now decided that the building of houses from the Cane Separation Plant is no longer possible and if so, does the Minister intend to wind down the Cane Separation Plant and will this $28,000 form part of the expenses or has the project reached to a point now where it can settle down at operating expenses of $28,000 as opposed to $50,000 last year. I should like an explanation from the Minister if he is able to give one on that particular point.

In the context of the Caribbean Food Plan, looking at Subhead 10, Agricultural Planning and Development for Food Production counterpart plans for the project are partly financed by UNDP. Can the Minister indicate what proportion of the total funds of $125,438 represents and could the Minister indicate what is the totality of the funds which we shall be getting from the UNDP? Will the Minister explain as to what extent those funds will be integrated into the Caribbean Food Plan if at all?

Will the Minister indicate what has happened to the Caribbean Food Plan as worked out by the Chief Agricultural Officer in 1975 arising out of the Heads of Government Conference in St. Kitts? Will the Minister state to what extent there has been progress in the development of those aspects of the Caribbean Food Plan which Barbados is responsible for in the context of the overall plan?

Will the Minister indicate to what extent the Black Belly Sheep have been developed in the context of that Caribbean Food Plan? Will the Minister state what is the census of the Black Belly Sheep today as compared with the Black Belly Sheep in 1976?
8.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, it seems as though we are going to have – it says here "With a full range of customs designed implements for demonstration purposes with a view to relieving the demands for services of the tractor cultivation scheme." I would really like to hear from the Hon. Minister in the light of what has happened with the tractor scheme in Barbados over the years.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, he said he would really like an answer to this particular question he is asking. I am wondering if he is not serious about the other questions which he asked as well.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, apparently I am speaking too fast for the Hon. Minister. I said, I would really like to know. He said, I would really like an answer to.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am a little lost, you see, I wonder if the hon. member could tell us the question he asked again under Sub-head 9.

Mr. TAITT: Sub-head 9, the Cane Separation Plant. What I want to know is if the Minister remembers some 16 months ago having made a statement in the context of the Cane Separation Plant. A statement which announced that the products of the Cane Separation Plant would be used for the production of housing in Barbados. *(Asides).* You see, he remembers too. I want to know, if, in the context of that, bearing in mind the vote of $28,000 as opposed to $50,000 last year, whether the Hon. Minister is in a position to tell me whether he was scaling down the programme, whether he has changed the policy on the building of houses, whether it has reached the point where he can level off on $29,000 or whether in fact, he has changed the policy and now concluded that the product coming out is not fit for the production of housing. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Agriculture do not build houses.) Mr. Chairman, we all know that at this hour the Deputy Prime Minister is not necessarily responsible for everything he says.

Mr. Chairman, these questions that I am asking on agriculture are questions which all Barbados would like to get answers to. These might seem at first flush to be mere questions but when you look at the mechanical cultivation service which I believe is where I was before my good and learned friend, the hon. member for St. Philip North sought to discover whether I could still remember what was Sub-head 9. Sub-head 12, is this a new scheme for the tractor? We have heard a lot about the tractor scheme in Barbados. The former Hon. Minister did not pass his exams with regard to the tractor scheme. Therefore, we are looking to the present Hon. Minister to give us some guidance.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It amazes me that a supposed law student who is trying to follow in the footsteps of a very successful lawyer should talk about passing exams on tractor schemes. The hon. member has an exam tomorrow morning and I do not know if he is wasting time trying to keep his brain active until tomorrow. I am wondering why he should try to deviate to something he does not understand, rather than dealing with agriculture. He is trying to hold up the Hon. House at this late hour. That is all I want to know.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, bearing in mind what the Leader of the House has said, I find it impossible to see how my following sensible lawyers will have anything to do with the hon. member who just sat down. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will have another 15 minutes. Please take your seat.

Mr. TAITT: I will be back again, Sir.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: The hon. member has had his 15 minutes but he never had a law case yet. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Thirteen million dollars we are spending on agriculture, more than you ever spent.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask two specific questions of the Minister. In relation to the Integrated Rural Development Project, it seems that provision is being made for the take-off of that project this year. I have not heard any debate today on what I consider to be a very fundamental development for a lot of poor people in Barbados costing this year $12.6 million. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how far advanced is the planning in respect of this development, and whether the parish of St. Philip is included in this development as a rural parish and in particular whether St. Philip North, or tenantries, or plantations, or whatever are within the umbrella of this development because in the two or three years that this project has been going to and fro, nobody has mentioned one word to me about this project in relation to any of the tenantries in St. Philip North. I do not know if they are going to take over any of the tenantries and which ones in particular. I am not in a position to advise any of the people, let us say in Thicketts or whatever, as to what specifically the Government may have in mind for any of the tenantries in St. Philip.

The second, is a question in relation to fisheries. I believe it was in May or June last year the Hon. Minister and officials of his Ministry went to Skeete's Bay in the constituency of St. Philip North and looked at what is a shed at Skeete's Bay with a view to refurbishing and redecorating the place and constructing a more modern and congenial facility at the beach which would accommodate changing rooms, lockers and so on. Most of the people using the facility are bathers, as well as fishermen.

Before I left the Housing Corporation, it was agreed and I am addressing this question to the present Chairman of the National Housing Corporation, as well as to the Hon. Minister of Housing, it was agreed that the National Housing Corporation would do the construction of what work had to be done. Some figures in the vicinity of $17,000 or $18,000 was envisaged. To my knowledge, it was about October last year the National Housing Corporation started to excavate an area around the beach facilities or market as they call it.

9.00 p.m.

A vast hole has been left near the beach facility in which two persons have had the misfortune to fall without doing serious injury to themselves. It is in no way guarded or lit, there is no warning and it has been a thriving breeding ground for mosquitoes and insects of all types. What I would like to know is what is the delay in carrying out and completing the work at Skeetes Bay, how soon that delay can be brought to an end; in other words, when do the two Ministries plan to start and complete the work. It is not a kill-cow; it isn't $1,000 or whatever involved. It could be done I would think, in about six weeks at the most, and that is probably giving them a lot of extension of time. I just want a positive statement because it is unfair to the people who use Skeetes Bay to have part of it excavated and just left lying there as a trap for unsuspecting persons who can fall in and do injury to themselves, and I think it is really shoddy that it should be left like that. If there is a technical problem which has held it up, I would be grateful for the answer so that I can let the people know, it is a popular beach in the area, what is the true reason, but I can get nothing from the technical division of the Housing Corporation as to what is the real reason other than some vague talk about they are not sure as to who are the adjoining land owners and whether they are encroaching on the lands of people near by. I would like to hear the true position.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise a matter under fisheries development. I have heard a lot about fisheries and fisheries development. There is one aspect which I want to raise and draw to the Minister's attention in the hope that he would be able to say and I hope he would condescend to give an answer to this because I think it is of national interest to this whole question of boats which go adrift from time to time. This is a matter which I believe needs some very clear policy enunciation because from time to time boats go adrift and I have heard a number of people complain that when their boats go adrift that they have difficulty in recovering them. I know of a number of cases where boats have gone adrift and when the people go down to recover the boats the boats have either been taken over and they have a lot of difficulty in getting them back. I know of one gentleman from St. Lucy. I think I wrote the former Minister of Agriculture about it and up to now he has not got anywhere with it. Quite recently the boat of a lady from Six Mens went adrift and people are really concerned about it because I believe that there should be some policy on this, whether it is a question of a proper arrangement being made with the Islands or the countries to the west of

Barbados where the boats normally go, whether it is St. Vincent, St. Lucia or Martinique, where some arrangement where the boats can be recovered and brought back to Barbados. It poses a very serious problem to people. People invest thousands of dollars in these boats and then to be faced with a situation where they go adrift and they cannot recover them I do not believe is something that we should tolerate, and I think some proper arrangement should be made for this in the context of the kind of encouragement which is being given to fisheries.

I think it is a useful point and I would like to hear the Minister. I hope he will be charitable enough to give an answer not to me but at least let a policy be enunciated on this particular matter. And on that I would want to support the hon. member for St. Philip North on the whole question of fishing facilities for fishermen not only at Skeetes Bay which he has mentioned, but I could mention at Half Moon Fort. I think there is need for some upgrading of the facilities there and I would like to think that the Minister can also state his position on this.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear the hon. member raise the question of fishing. It is a subject that is very dear to my heart and I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and others on the very elaborate provision that has been made towards a realisation of a realistic fishing plant. I am very pleased to note that we now have a chief fisheries officer for three years. I am very happy to note that the deputy fisheries officer has just returned from a scholarship in Japan after having come back from Australia and has been trained, I believe, in the last 18 months. The deputy fisheries officer has had an extended training in the Pacific area of this world. We also now have the CIDA programme in place. We have of course the fisheries scheme in Oistin; the EDF has agreed to the fisheries scheme in Speightstown, and the Port Authority and others are dealing with the design of the new fisheries harbour in Bridgetown and we are still hoping to get detailed studies on the one for the Bathsheba area. All of this is towards the implementation of the Government's thrust in relation to fisheries. I am sure the other side will congratulate the Minister in having achieved so much in so short a period of time after the fifteen years of neglect that they experienced.

We know that the question of maritime fraud is a very serious one. If you have been following the reports of the Insurance Companies, Lloyds, do you know that Lloyds, the largest insurer in the world of maritime risks is in great danger of going bankrupt because of maritime frauds? As a matter of fact, I want to tell you something that a whole super tanker left Pionius in Greece to go ostensibly to transfer oil to the United States, en route went to South Africa, discharged the oil, filled up with sea water and sank off the coast of Senegal. You see what we are up against? And I agree with the hon. member. There are Barbadians whose boats drift from here and when they get into certain ports in the Caribbean area they leave here with one colour and within three days of getting there they have a different colour and a different number. Well I hope that now this Government has seen to it that the Insurance Corporation of Barbados charges a lower rate than Lloyds that everybody takes advantage and insure and pass that great burden on the insurance company. We are dealing with sophisticated maritime fraud and it is a very serious problem. I know the allegations that the hon. member makes. The problem of identity is a very important one. My view is that we have to be much more careful in this respect. We should start keeping specific, I don't even want to say it too loud, but we should start keeping specific numbers of the engines so as to be able to go down there with an investigative unit and be able to pick out and identify the boat which you say is your boat because they change the colour; say this is our boat and when they ask you how, the police would be able to say, let us see the serial number on the engine.
9.10 p.m.

The police would be able to go and say, let us see the serial number on the engine. You say that you have sail boats. I know of this problem, I had one of these problems already when I was in another sphere of activity, and it is all right to say that a boat looks like another boat, but the question is identity, and the serial number of the engine is a very important thing to be able to identify. Our trouble is that our boats do not have their Barbados numbers, whatever the parish is, burnt into the wooden hull, it is only painted in, it is not burnt in, so that although you may overpaint it it would still be indelible, like how you brand cattle you can brand a boat. *(Aside).* You see, the hon. member for St. James would not know about this, he only temporarily lived in St. James, he had no boy days. The hon. member is a land man, he is not a sea man.

It is a very serious problem. Many people do not know this, but with ships they have a special method of printing in the name of a boat, but it is a problem of identity. I have heard these allegations, when I was in another sphere of activity I have seen myself boats which are classical Barbadian boats, you carry lawyers down there, and when you try to recover the boats in an action you come up against the problem of identity, so I think we should be very specific in relation to how we number our boats with a view to insuring, in that you have to take out the whole of the particular board where the number is printed and you must brand it in. Secondly, that you must have evidence of identity of the engine, and if you have the serial number of the engine it is at least some measure of identity, and I hope that with this we will be able to do some tracing on this. I know the police have tried to co-operate on this, but they are hope-

less, they say it is hopeless, the man says it is his boat, we claim it is our boat, and that is the problem.

Very often, too, what happens is that while they are drifting they come up against canoes down there, the canoes give them a lift, the boat goes adrift, it goes ashore, and then people take hold of the boat. It is a real problem, but I hope that everybody who is in the insurance company, and it is only by the resources of the insurance company that we will be able to investigate the fraud.

In conclusion, Sir, I hope the hon. members on the other side who are very fond of being critical of the Government will know that this year we have appropriated $13 million for Capital development in agriculture. That is what I call a commitment to something that you believe in. Now, the only way we cannot spend that is if the functionaries fail to perform. The political will is there, it is evidence that with all of our seriousness we have come here.....You talk about inflation and increases, Mr. Chairman, from $9 million last year to $13 million. That is what you call a commitment to the infrastructure and the developmental process. I am sorry the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is not here, because he talks about neglect. No wonder he is not here, because he could not face us when he sees that we have appropriated $13 million for agricultural capital infrastructural development in Barbados.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe for the benefit of the hon. member for St. Lucy who throughout the years that he has been a member of the Government and the Democratic Labour Party and also a member of the Opposition party, he has always raised the question of fishing boats going adrift and their recovery. I would like him to know that the Ministry of Communications and Works has just completed a draft Merchant Shipping Bill in which we have paid particular interest to fishing boats in this country, and the functions of the Director who will be appointed under that Bill will be to make sure that all boats that trade in Barbadian ports, whether they be fishing boats, schooners that are called home going trade boats, or other boats, will have to be registered with the Director and carry specific markings. The markings have been designated, the markings will have to be embossed on certain parts of the boats which will overcome the difficulty which we recognise is present today with many of our fishing boats that leave these ports.

As the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has said, we have a problem with our fishing boats, the system of marking, and then they go adrift. As the Deputy Prime Minister has said, even before they leave the high seas the markings and the colours are being changed, and as a result of this the Merchant Shipping Bill has provided certain lettering, the height, the place where the lettering must be marked, and we will have for identification purposes documents in Barbados which will give the whole specification of the boats which will be used, and I go further to state that a document signed by the Director will be sufficient evidence rather than calling persons to identify a boat. As I said, we have looked at the problems and I believe that we should be coming to Parliament shortly with that Bill, and I hope that will allay the fears of the hon. member for St. Lucy, and as the Deputy Prime Minister has said, I hope that all fishermen, people whose livelihood is tied up with fishing, will follow the Act register the boats as soon as possible, and insure them, which would guarantee their own livelihood and safety rather than depending on politicians to come to Parliament thereafter to make sympathetic pleas for them when boats go adrift.

One of the problems I faced when I was in the Ministry of Agriculture was trying to tell boat owners that they should even register them with the Ministry of Agriculture. You only know when a boat has gone adrift somebody comes in and says they did not have the chance to register, or now the boat has been recovered the damage is more than they can pay for it, and when you ask about insurance they give you some kind of story, some sympathetic story about they could not afford to register, but they will then expect Government to do all that is possible to put them back in the water, and we have had cases where the same boat has gone adrift twice in one fishing season, and I know that when the Merchant Shipping Bill becomes law that all people dealing in boats, from speed boats up to big ships, will take the opportunity to come within the law and relieve the problems that are now facing the boat industry in this country.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, as we bring this part of the proceedings in another ten minutes to an end, let me just get in two small points. The Deputy Prime Minister said that $13 million had been committed. It is amazing how an analysis of $13 million shows that in fact they are going to be spending less money on the productive part of agriculture than they spent last year. They are going to be spending less.

9.20 p.m.

You see, Sir, of that $13 million, $4 million will be for the relocation of the BMC alone; another $2 million will be for the complex at Oistin; the Graeme Hall project is another half million, Spring Hall one and a half million. The Deputy Prime Minister ought not to have talked about money because I do not think it does him justice. He speaks about commitment; that is not commitment, but we won't get into that.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister a question. What exactly is the Minister's position on International SeaFoods Limited? International Sea Foods has lost over $13 million. The Deputy Prime Minister wants

to talk about – they have lost over $13 million in the three years. The $13 million that we are committing to International Sea Foods is lost under the present commitment. We have had no word from the Government but all they are doing now is sending more money into International Sea Foods. I go further: There has been a sweetheart contract – a contract where as they say in Trinidad you have at least a suspicion of boballe. There has been a sweetheart contract between International Sea Foods and a gentleman in Trinidad via a gentleman in Barbados, and when you check you will find that the gentleman in Barbados has as his agent one of the moguls in Roebuck Street who in turn has an executive position with International Sea Foods. I have not told the Chairman that I would call names but the man in Trinidad has a contract to take International Sea Foods trawlers at a price per month via Chally Jones – the same Chally Jones who appeared at the Duffus Hearing. If the Minister is not aware of it – as he might not be – *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to get as much information as he can. I do not believe the Minister is aware of this contract between International Sea Foods and some man working for the shrimp people in Trinidad via Chally Jones, and the arrangement is that they would have the ships at $6,000 each per month. Check this and you will find that the agent of the person in Trinidad with whom Chally Jones is functioning has as his agent in Barbados one Seale. Check that and find out who made the arrangement for the contract. I say International Sea Foods has lost $13 million in the last three years and have not produce a single figure since 1976 when that Government came into power and have bamboozled the Deputy Prime Minister into believing that ISL should shut down. I have always contended that the problem with International Sea Foods was the diminution in the negotiating skills of the present Attorney General and his staff. It was a simple matter of negotiating an agreement between Barbados and Brazil that would have permitted the shrimp industry to continue in some form, and all the little simmerings we have heard about what they were going to do with the shrimp fleet, all they have done is to make it available to Chally Jones for him to make available to this man in Trinidad. *(Asides)* A sweetheart contract, Mr. Chairman, is what they have on the docks in North America where the unions and the executives have a separate contract from the one that is signed. I go no further at the moment, but I drop this for the Minister to examine and to come back and give this honourable House some information, if he can, so that we do not have any Note in the Estimates saying that International Sea Foods is going to take off surplus fish during the glut. We wish to know exactly what is happening. I know this, that one of the vessels, a strange coincidence, a fibre glass vessel which is at the most five years old, sprang a leak in the Careenage and sank. *(Asides)* The hon. member says it was hit by a barge – I take it the insurance coverage is settled. *(Asides)* If the Deputy Prime Minister were here to do his job he would tell me the hour of intervention has come. Bearing in mind the plight of the staff of Parliament, I move, Sir, that you report progress.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other member want to make a contribution? We are going on to 9.45 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: I have not finished Mr. Chairman. We were given specific information by the Leader of the House that we would finish at 9.30 *(Asides)* I am saying that in the concept of running this programme of $13 million I must say it is nothing more than a theoretical project of the administration. But we will deal with that in due course.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I don't mind the question of theory, but what I regard seriously is when somebody puts his hand in the pot.

Mr. TAITT: Do you know of somebody who put their hand in the pot? If you find any body who put their hand in the pot lock them up.
9.30 p.m.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I believe that you should be able to diagnose the problem on that side. My grandmother used to tell me a story *(Asides)*. The hon. member has nothing to say. The Leader of the House might as well call for an adjournment because it is obvious that the hon. member has nothing to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has one more minute after which any other hon. member would be free to speak.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will make this last point here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: I can hardly hear myself. Mr. Chairman, I am going to end up with the Deputy Prime Minister in the whole area of Fisheries. In one minute, Mr. Chairman, let me say that if the Deputy Prime Minister would go into the Ministry of Agriculture, he will find there a Study which was prepared for the development of Fisheries in this country and the Caribbean as a whole done by the FAO UNDP Team.

It has been there in the Ministry and the particular Fisheries Officer who has not allowed it to see the light of day in the context of a policy of fishing is really a disgrace to the community. *(Asides)*. The one that was on long leave for a long time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this is a very interesting point because I believe that the only

Fisheries Officer we had was Captain George Fergusson who has done more damage to the Fisheries in Barbados in the last 20 years than anybody else.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I refuse to get involved in any vilification of my illustrious predecessor who has served the constituency which I now have to serve for a long time, with distinction, Sir.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member would like to refer to a speech made by the same Captain George Fergusson in this Honourable House in which he said that the boats in Barbados are wrongly constructed and designed and there is nothing the Government could do about fishermen in this country until they build a different boat and up to this day has never produced a plan as he said would be the correct design for boats in this country. I wonder if that is the gentleman he is talking about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Mr. TAITT: He was a Captain, not a Boat Builder.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to speak?

Mr. SIMMONS: Why do we have to go to Education and vote for a National Auditorium? Let us invite the people in here. Every night we have this thing going on just like a National Fun House. We have a Fun House in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Mr. TAITT: As I said before, all the hon. member has to do is to bring in his trumpet and we will have music.

I am winding up now, Sir. I am making the point, Sir, that Fisheries in this country has always been treated as something that people do not have expertise in. The point is that three or four persons have given people to believe that they had experience in fishing when in fact they might not have known enough about Fisheries Development.

Not everyone who has gone to sea and catch a dolphin is a Fisheries Development Officer. I wish to congratulate the Government on going to the Secretariat, if it is the Secretariat they went to. Whether it is the Commonwealth Secretariat they went to or whatever they have got this Fisheries Development Officer for three years, I wish the Deputy Prime Minister to hear this. He wanted to congratulate you and I am congratulating you.

I congratulate the Government on getting a Fisheries Officer. I hope the Government is serious about the development of a Deputy Fisheries Officer. I assure the Government that I will give them and this Party will give them its support in the Development of Fisheries in this country.

I hope the Minister will take steps to see that we have a Resource Almanac, as it were, so that we do not fool ourselves that we have resources in the sea which we do not have because it is a fact that the species of fish which are available to us on the Coast of Barbados to the best of anybody's knowledge are not sufficient to maintain any Fisheries Industry along the lines that some people have talked about.

I think the House will agree to let me finish with this point. The Fisheries that we can develop in Barbados if they are to be commercial on a large scale will have to include movement from Barbados to the waters off Trinidad between Trinidad and Venezuela or to the waters up to the coast of Guyana and Brazil. It would therefore be necessary for us to re-negotiate some kind of arrangement if not for shrimping in any event for our free access to the waters of Brazil.

I am sorry that I cannot extend this argument but it is clear that we will need a different kind of vessel and I hope that the new Fisheries Officer will include this in his Development Planning, together with his local counterparts. It is a waste of time to bring a man from England and have given him three years and do not develop within our own indigenous group persons who would be able to continue, develop and expand that kind of particular work.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is certainly knowledgeable of fishing much moreso than the Chairman.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I just want to assure the Honourable House that within the last three years we have done everything within our power to try and renegotiate the Agreement but he has had sufficient exposure to know that there are two Parties to an Agreement. One can only put an offer, but unless you have acceptance it is not considered a Contract.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak now. I am going to reply now. I do not know who the Chair saw first.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My eyes caught the Hon. Minister.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I am making my oral reply on this matter and, of course, the time is limited with which to do it. I want to say

to the hon. member for St. Michael South West that I am generally sorry that time does not permit me, given the time overall at our disposal, to reply to the series of questions which have been asked. There are some of them I believe he expects me to reply to and others I am sure he does not expect me to reply to. I promise him that I would. The questions which I think are very serious I would just briefly say something on them.

As far as the Administration Building at Graeme Hall is concerned, the space which will be occupied is in the region of 18,000 square feet and with the exception of the Plant Quarantine Section the Seed Store and the 4–H Office, all the other staff will be going and, of course, I am sure that you are aware that the Analytical Section, the Government Analyst, will be going to the building at Culloden Road and therefore he would not be going up there.
9.40 p.m.

You also asked the question about the functions of the Government laboratory vis-a-vis the Barbados National Standards Institute. The functions are going to be separate and distinct.

What we do hope to have and no provision is made for it is a ballistic type of laboratory attached to the Government Laboratory at Culloden Road. This is being looked after and that might be the only addition which you may have there, a forensic laboratory to do ballistic tests. That is what I can give you as far as that is concerned. (Mr. TAITT: Solar.) As far as the actual occupancy of the building is concerned, we can move there by the middle of April but we will not have the solar cooling facilities yet. There were a number of delays which we had during the time, but it is expected that the cooling apparatus will arrive some time in March to April and the glazing will take place for the facility, everything is actually done. The building has just mopped up operations by way of paint, etc. The information is and I believe that this is correct, that we can move in by mid April.

I want to say that I am grateful to the hon. member for the information which he has given with respect to National Seafoods and what he regards as a "sweetheart agreement". I myself will investigate that. I want to assure you that while I know that a local company was interested in the operation of National Seafoods I was not aware of the personnel involved, but on hearing the names suggested, I will have a careful look and see exactly what is involved. Where I can tell you that we have a problem with the International Seafoods, is with the arrangement we had with Guyana. We were never satisfied with the compliments of fish caught and shrimps that reached the Port of Georgetown and even now, we are getting complaints that there are problems with respect to the catch. When the boats come here you have problems of securing the equipment of the boats. Without any fishing grounds – let us face it and as you correctly said – we do not have the expertise of the current of our waters. Before you came in here, I am sorry you were not here from early, I mentioned that the C.I.D.A. Team looked into the whole pattern and is now here and have already embarked upon the task of actually surveying the whole area within the territorial waters and continental shelf and economic zone. They are looking at the potential within the area. They themselves, along with the new fisheries officer and I think there was a request made by the British and American Government to come in and have a look at the pattern of fish movement within the territorial waters of Barbados. I believe that coming out of these various studies we may be able to approach fishing in a very positive way, that is the situation as it is.

The hon. member for St. Philip North and the hon. member for St. Lucy touched on the question of facilities in these various areas. We looked at the one at Skeete's Bay and we started to move in to do some work but there were problems with the land, we were not quite sure of the ownership of the lands. We are trying to get that defined and as soon as that is defined, we will work on this. I myself, have had no complaints about Half Moon Fort, but I assure you that very shortly, officials are here as well and I hope they will take note and that we will move down there and look at the facilities because we plan to upgrade the facilities throughout the length and breadth of the country. I can assure you that there is no delay on that.

As far as the question of the Rural Integrated Development Scheme is concerned, in the area of St. Philip you have Hammars 1 and 3. I think that is St. George, Christ Church and Frere Pilgrim. Foursquare B, Carrington 1 and 2, I suppose that will be on to Ebenezer. Foursquare has 46 houses on it and that is something like 22.92 acres of land. There is Hampton B, that is small, 3 houses, 4.22 acres of land; Mangrove Bay A in the South by the hon. member for St. Philip South, 9 houses, 16.73 acres of land; Hampton A, 9 houses, 12.91 acres of land. These would be the irrigated areas. Applewaites, 24 houses, 15.7 acres of land; Drax Hall Jump Woods 128 houses, 139.5 acres of land; Drax Hall Green, 62 houses, 46.1 acres of land; Drax Hall Hope, 39 houses, 67.9 acres of land; Brighton A, 26 houses 16.7 acres of land; Brighton B, 23 houses, 16 acres of land. *(Aside: The North?)* The North will be mainly in the area of the Spring Hall Development and I will give you all you want and a little more. With the little time at my disposal, I tried to do my best by way of reporting. I can promise the hon. member for St. Michael South West that I would communicate further. I hope, that brief as it is that he will be quite satisfied, bearing in mind the limited time that I have at my disposal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael South, I believe you want to speak. Have you declined?

The question that Head 74 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and asked for leave to sit again.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your leave and the leave of the House I would ask that we revert to the item Notices Sir.
9.50 p.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, with your leave and the leave of the House I would ask that we revert to Item "Notices" to give notice of a consequential amendment to a Resolution that we passed. It contained another typographical error. It is "51" instead of "41". I want to ask leave to be able to give notice of this Resolution on behalf of the Minister of Finance and for an amendment. I am only giving notice today. I don't want to do it today.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance of the following Resolution:

"Resolution to approve an amendment to Resolution No. 18/1980 of 11th March, 1980, by the substitution of the words "One Million, one hundred and fifty-one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-four dollars" for the words "One million, one hundred and forty-five thousand, seven hundred and eighty-four dollars."

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the time being 9.55 p.m. I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until tomorrow, Thursday, 20th March, at 2 p.m., and I give hon. members notice that we will be going until 8 o'clock.

Mr. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

Mr. ODLE takes the Chair.

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT – $6,881,380

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, in 1976 the Barbados Labour Party was charged with the running of the affairs of this country. I, at that time was one of the members selected to Parliament and I was given the task to look after the affairs of the Ministry of Labour and Community Services. In 1978, Mr. Chairman, I was given duties to perform at the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Environment. In 1977 my predecessor, Ambassador Mapp, had the odious task of doing what was in his power to bring a degree of respectability to the Ministry of Housing. The reason for this is quite clear – the Hanschell Report reveals this. It was the Ministry in which one of his agencies, the National Housing Corporation, presented a very ugly picture at the street corners, on the public platform, in the drawing room and maybe in restaurants and bars. The ugly picture was painted by members of the Democratic Labour Party. We were told on public platforms that when we charged the then administration with absolute corruption, particularly at the National Housing Corporation, that we were talking absolute nonsense. But events have proved that we were speaking the truth. The National Housing Corporation in particular, Mr. Chairman, was saddled with all types of problems. They had outstanding some $2 million owing to their creditors in Bridgetown and to surveyors, architects and contractors. There was an additional $744,000 which should have been approved for the pension rights for the staff of the National Housing Corporation that was not taken care of. In 1977 there was a vote of $4.5 million given to the National Housing Corporation of which $2 million had to be paid to the creditors.

The Manifesto however of the Barbados Labour Party in its section relating to Housing was quite clear that every Barbadian should have a decent place to live and that we were committed to this. We were committed to this and the Ministry of Housing has been pursuing this policy successfully. We said in our Manifesto that we would build 800 houses a year, along with the

Barbados Mortgage Finance Company assisting people to get mortgages for houses by way of the National Housing Corporation or by buying or constructing privately. This was an incentive to assist Barbadians to get a home.

The first year was a very difficult one, but with good management and careful economic planning we were able to survive the first year and in so doing we were still able to build a number of houses. We were able to stimulate Parks and Beaches, we were able to restructure the whole management structure of the National Housing Corporation. For example, they had no Chief Technical Director – with great respect to the former manager of the National Housing Corporation who had to live through some rather perilous days as Manager. We were able to train a Manager, we were able to get the assistance of a United Nations consultant on housing to assist in the restructuring of the National Housing Corporation. We were able to sort out our finances by the appointment of a Financial Controller and we were able to employ a Chief Legal Officer. Now I am no longer hearing at the street corners anything disparaging about housing, a subject which I believe is very dear to the heart of each and every Barbadian in this country. The National Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment have stood the test and this is exactly what we said we would bring back to Government – integrity in Government. And how did we set about this? In any organization you must have a planner and during the years we were able to establish a Planning Unit within the Ministry to set a clear cut policy for the entire country. What is rather interesting, Mr. Chairman, is to know that in the fifteen years of the Democratic Labour Party's regime they built 2,538 houses and between 1976 and 1979 this Government has built 1,071.
2.10 p.m.

This was not achieved, however, single handed. It was the all round effort of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment and I will even go further, Sir, we were able to inject some $19 million in loans for mortgages of which 733 persons had applied.

I therefore, Mr. Chairman, feel more than happy to be associated with the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, but the Ministry is not only concerned with the building of houses, we are concerned with upgrading the quality of life in the entire environment in this society.

Our Sites and Services Programme is well on the way and I would say, Sir, that within a few months we should be in a position to produce the long awaited Sites and Services Programme which we have also set out in our Manifesto. That would include, therefore, all the Plantation Tenantries which for many years people live on lands owned by the Plantation but there was no possibility of getting roads, water and light for the people and this Government intends to make sure that those people who did not have such services over the years that the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment is going to make sure that that quality of life be there for them.

There are some cases where you have to bring people out of an area. For example, Chapman Lane was a very depressed area, Sir, and because of the Sewerage Treatment Plant we had to resite a whole set of families at Clapham where the Government provided them with what they did not have in the past. In the City, there were no toilet facilities. There was an old pit. If you go to Clapham now, Mr. Chairman, you will find adequate houses, bath and toilet facilities.

Springhead in St. James, a place I am quite sure, Mr. Chairman, that if I were to ask some people who live in St. James to find Springhead, they would find it impossible unless they had taken a helicopter and touched down on every village to ask if this is Springhead. Not even a sign post, Sir, they had to indicate where the village was and this Government within three years, after seven years living in conditions such as those in Springhead, we were able to bring some 26 families out of Springhead and bring them along Highway 2 which is known as Sion Hill, along the Sion Hill area. We resited the families there, gave them all the amenities they never had in the past. That is part of the quality of life which we feel the Government can introduce to those who were unfortunate over the years, Sir.

Cat's Castle, Church Village, Greenfields, here in the City of Bridgetown, I had to tell my colleague here, the Minister of Health, during the Election of 1976, I told her that I could not speak for her in Bridgetown because I did not have the conviction to speak seeing that nothing was ever done for the City of Bridgetown in the field of housing.

I was prepared when I went to the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment to do something to the rather depressing conditions for those people in the City and within a couple of months, Sir, a modern Housing Development will be going up at St. Cecelia. A model development, Sir, would be in the City that this Party can look at and say that we have done something for the people in the City.

Murphy's Pasture in that area, the whole of Cat's Castle, that whole Bridgetown area, Sir, the Ministry of Housing Lands and the Environment along with the Ministry of Labour and Community Services are making sure that the Housing and recreational facilities in the City for the people who live in the City and who work

in the City and whose contribution means something to this country that the people in the City can have the same quality of life as our more fortunate brothers.

I think, Mr. Chairman, you will agree with me that the economic barometer in any country in the World, Sir, is the construction boom. In any part of the World the economic barometer to prosperity is in the construction boom and wherever you go around Barbados, wherever you go in Barbados you can see building going up, building going up, building going up, Sir. We can say at this point in time that in 1979 approximately 2,000 houses were added to the housing stock in 1979.

I am going to make my position clear on that that the information which we got to go on with this type of thing was due to the Town and Country Planning Department, due to the Government Electrical Inspector's Office and due to the Waterworks and we know for sure that a number of people would still have built a house whether it be chattel or otherwise who may not have applied for electricity or even for water because they could get water from their neighbours next door but this is all the information which we can get.
2.20 p.m.

I think it is a record, 2,000 houses in one year alone were added to the housing stock in this country, that is an estimate.

There is another point which I would like to touch. The Parks and Beaches Commission have had, during the year 1976, another hammering, not because Sir of the quality of the Board or of the Commission but because of the quality of the Chairman at that time and the administration and it was branded about that we had dismissed 258 persons and they shouted victimisation from the house tops. That is what the Opposition did but what the Opposition did not say was that with the National Insurance money they were using to pay the 258 persons, the vote may have burst and the people may have been sent home any time. We all know the history behind the 258 Barbadians who at that time, were employed to work with the Parks and Beaches Commission. I just want to get that straight about the Parks and Beaches Sir, since that falls under the Ministry. The work of the Parks and Beaches Mr. Chairman is very well known to all Barbadians, but there is an area which is not particularly known to them and that is the area where you have quite a bit of beach erosion.

There are problems on the South Coast and on the West Coast. For that matter Sir, as I understand it, as long as you are having development in a country along the coastal line, you are going to have problems with erosion. There are a number of letters which have appeared in the Press recently. Let me give the assurance to this Hon. House that the Ministry is doing everything within its power to protect our coastal lines. A preliminary study was made quite recently and we were given certain ideas, technical knowledge was made available to us to have remedial action immediately which we are now pursuing but the Ministry is also seeking the advice of an overseas expert to do a complete study of the coastal line of Barbados which is a rather long term job. As I understand it, it is a very technical job with tides shifting as people build, the tides move. I have listened to the technical men and I have tried to understand as much of it as possible but I do not want to go into any more detail for fear that I may quote them wrong. I can assure this Hon. House that we are doing everything within our power for the purpose of making sure that the coastal lines of Barbados are well protected.

I would like also Mr. Chairman, to make reference to another department within the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, that is the Town Planning Department. I want to make a serious plea to all Barbadians who are setting about to build a house whether a chattel, or stone structure, to seek the advice of the Town Planner. Get the permission before they start to build because in recent times, I am having a problem with people going against Town Planning advice, then they come to the Ministry seeking assistance after contravening the law and the only thing that the Ministry or the Town Planner can do if you break the law, if you go against the advice, is to come and push your building down. I do not want to be the Minister on that occasion. I am not interested in pushing down buildings, I am interested in putting them up. I am making a special appeal from the floor of the Hon. House to all the people who, at any time, are setting out to get a home of their own to seek the Town Planner's advice. I am also happy to report that more permission has been granted for the building of houses and the various sub-division of lands, the smoothest time that the Town Planning has ever worked is, I understand, since this party has come into power, this is what I am told. I do not know how true it is Sir but I am not hearing the little things I used to hear. I remember on one occasion it is alleged that a very wealthy man walked into the Town Planner's Office and as soon as he got to the receptionist, he asked the receptionist in a very loud voice, where is the man that you pay in here to get planning permission? I have come to pay mine. How true that is Sir, I do not know. I do not hear any of this now. A gentleman by the name of Mr. Peter Bools will probably pass on to anybody about the money aspect of it Sir.

I would like to touch again on the housing stock which is rather dear to my heart Sir. The collection of the arrears in the rental unit. When we assumed office Sir I think it was something like $2.7 million outstanding in arrears Sir. Of the $2 million, 2,481 accounts were vacated, so you could write those off. Those are people

who rented the houses, owed the Housing Corporation $2,000 and $3,000. There was no proper system of collecting the rents. The people then turned around and gave the houses to somebody else to live in and in some cases had the audacity to be collecting money from the person they rented it to and not paying that money into the National Housing Corporation. Two million dollars in rents out of a housing stock of approximately 4,000 houses with the highest rent up to 1979, Sir, of $15.00 per week. The Corporation had something like $2.7 million outstanding in rentals.
2.30 p.m.

This is nothing to do with the commercial side of the houses which they built in places like Eden Lodge, Friendship, Oxnards and some in Wildey where people were given keys to go into the houses without even signing an agreement, and it is most unfortunate that some of the very people now cannot qualify for a loan at the Mortgage Finance Company because of their salary structure. Well a decision has to be taken on that. We will probably find ourselves renting out that type of house again or putting the people out. This is the dilemma that this Government found itself in and was still able to build 1,091 houses up to the end of last year, this Government with all of the problems.

Sir, it is the policy of the Government in its manifesto also to write off rents which have been paid by people, and I dare say those who are up to date, and make it possible for these people to own their homes, because the Government's ultimate idea is to make sure that the person owns the home. We are working towards house ownership, but it was a very difficult proposition we were faced with. We had to employ the former Manager after he went into retirement for the purpose of bringing these accounts, as a matter of fact examining that aspect of it to find out who were old age pensioners and who had vacated houses. The whole aspect had to be looked at before the Government could take the decision to make it possible for people who had paid their rents and credit it to the account for the purpose of purchasing their house.

Now this was not the only problem that we were faced with. As a matter of fact I will say something; I know of a particular person who had an orchestra, Barbara and the Rhythmaires – that was the name of the band. Barbara had a house to live in and the Rhythmaires had one to practise in, and 10,000 people out there looking for houses, and no Government anywhere in the world I believe could meet its housing demands, but you could allow a lady to live in one house and have her band in another house to practise in, and then on top of that got away owing the Government rent. I can only conclude that was a sad state of affairs.

Mr. Chairman, there is another matter which I would like to highlight and that is the accounts. By an Act of Parliament the Corporation must submit to the Minister an audited report and the accounts must be laid here on the Table of Parliament. Not since 1973 – I do not know if they ever heard of accounts, but not since 1973 were the accounts for the National Housing Corporation laid in Parliament. As a matter of fact not since 1972 because we were able in the very three years that we have been entrusted with the reins of Government we have been able to get out the 1973–74 report, the 1974–75 report, the 1975–76 report, the 1976–77 report and the 1977–78 report, and we are hoping that by the end of April this year we will have the report for 1978–79 completed. We are also hoping to have the 1979–80 report completed by the end of September thereby bringing the entire accounting and auditing process which is an Act of Parliament laid here on the Table of Parliament.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that hon. members will appreciate as I said earlier that the prosperity of a country to my mind is reflected in the quality of life in the field of housing. Not only, Mr. Chairman, have we built houses, but we have also redecorated some 480 houses alone by the staff of the National Housing Corporation, and in Silver Hill and Eden Lodge areas where the houses were actually falling down, we were able to redecorate 522. People complained that a toll was taken of their furniture by termites; the wood ants were eating the poor people's furniture. The Ministry examined all these areas and 1,380 houses we gave termite treatment to since coming into power. All of this is a background of all the problems. I have to speak about housing more so in the Ministry than anything else because it is here where the public sees this aspect of it. You would hardly hear anybody say well Craig is Minister of Lands; you hear he is Minister of Housing. That is the high visibility of the Minister.
2.40 p.m.

Where the roads are to be repaired there the Ministry has also undertaken that. Now, Mr. Chairman, it is said, you know I am not a person who can read, this is what I am told, I cannot read, I cannot write, so I am going to say that I heard that in the Duffus Report it said all roads led to the former Prime Minister, the member for St. John and Leader of the Opposition, who is now in the dining hall with his colleagues. This is the interest they show in the Estimates. They are in the Lobby Sir. If we were talking about Pele Parris or somebody's family or character assassinating someone they would have been up front. All roads led to the former Prime Minister of Barbados, and it is scandalous when one examines the Hanschell Report. It is not the two Ministers of Housing or Mr. Marshall or these people who should be condemned, it is the person who all roads led to, because if the man in the street was hearing of these

things which were going on at Housing and the then Prime Minister could have the audacity to come in here when the then Opposition had brought in a Resolution, some time in May of 1969, and drew it to the attention of Parliament that they should have an investigation into the National Housing Corporation, what was his reaction? This was the responsibility of a person who was entrusted with the affairs of a country. His reply to the Opposition at the time, Sir, in his debate on the Resolution was that the wrong people had brought the wrong Resolution in the wrong place – note carefully – you see, the wrong people in the wrong place, he had the divine right to be in here alone, so the wrong people had brought the wrong Resolution in the wrong place at the wrong time. That was his contribution.

Now, I say it should be the former Prime Minister, the member for St. John, who should be condemned publicly. He is on trial. He is the person on trial because he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Planning. 'The Lord giveth,' he was the lord, at that time he gaveth and he taketh and blessed was Barrow. All of that you had. Now that we have to settle down and discharge our duties in the manner in which a responsible Government, one which is the envy of all Caribbean territories, Sir, with no natural resources, can be looked upon as a model Government, with great respect throughout the entire world, which was clearly demonstrated with the Leader of Government Business, the Deputy Prime Minister, as President of the ACP group, Sir. That is a credit for Barbados, that is what you call respecting the ability of the man and respecting the country. Nothing so, nothing you hear from the other side on that occasion in Government. The answer to good Government at the time was nothing but what you call a sheer cover-up, knowing the facts. The facts were brought to your attention, if you did not believe them all you had to do was to have an investigation, and far from doing that they took the Burton Report and shelved it, Sir, put it in file 13, the waste paper basket. They put it, Sir, in file 13 and drawer 14, the waste paper basket in the last drawer, never to come outside, never to see the light of day. As they say, God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

Mr. Chairman, the Government is doing all in its power to upgrade the quality of life in the field of housing and the environment for Barbadians. When we go to the hustings, this Ministry like all other Ministries can stand the test of time. All that you had to hear about the other things in a country, the rumours and the scandal and gossip, you hear from them. What we are going to do is put the people's business as it was conducted in the highest office of the land to the people, and I have no doubt in my mind, I am still satisfied that the Barbadian electorate is entitled to that. They examine what is being done around them, Sir.

You cannot get a carpenter or a mason or an electrician in this country. As a matter of fact, I will go further, Sir, I believe you will find it very difficult to get a man to drive a truck today. You might get a man with a light goods vehicle licence, but to get a truck driver is something else. Imagine that; though, a truck driver is a very difficult proposition today, Sir, not to talk about a heavy duty licence, that is completely out.

Mr. Chairman, I will tell you this, that I told one of my colleagues at Cabinet this morning that I was sure the Opposition was not going to come in here today. They would come in when they would ask about a pot hole in the road or a bus coming late. Do you hear the soft work? A hole in the road where you could get some marl fill and patch it up until you get yourself straightened up properly, but I want to carry them into Fernihurst, I want to carry them down there, and I know if there is one person who should have been in here today, because he has thanked me, he called me on the telephone – I am talking about the hon. member for St. Michael North Central – he told me on the telephone 'I thank you' and I said, 'for what?' He said, 'for putting 145 houses down here.' I said, 'so how would that add up?' He said, 'I am a doctor, I am at the corner.' Good business, he is a businessman. He had me at a loss. I thought when he said he thanked me that he was going to ask me if I could put in a word to the Chairman of the Tenants' Committee, not demand now, put in a word to the Chairman of the Tenants' Committee for a house for a relative of his, Sir. He said 'I thank you' and when I asked him for what, he said 'for fixing me up down here'. At the corner, and he is the doctor there, and the drug store there? Homeward bound, he is no Minister, he does not want to be a Minister.

Sir, depending on if my colleagues on the back bench have any contribution to make.
2.50 p.m.

I would think, Sir, that I can beg to move that Head 43 stand part. If there is anything to be added, I think my colleagues will have to carry the debate. This is where you will hear that the backbenchers criticise the Government. The backbenchers will have to seek out from the Minister what he may have left out that the public ought to know.

Mr. Chairman, I would like publicly to salute the entire staff of the Ministry for their hard work, and in particular the Permanent Secretary because, as you know, you hear this nonsense that the Civil Service runs the Government. It is true they are the technocrats; you stand or fall on the ability of your civil service. If you are hard working, honest and loyal to them they in return will be to you. So I want to salute the whole staff of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment for making my task such an easy one and in restoring public

confidence and bringing a degree of dignity to the Ministry. The National Housing Corporation has had some bruises at times when I almost had as it were to read the Riot Act, but I have to thank the entire Board and staff of the National Housing Corporation and the staff of the Parks and Beaches Commission and all agencies of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment for making the Ministry one of which everybody can be justly proud. I would mention that there are now in the hands of the architects plans for a brand new building in Country Road for them to carry out their work in a proper atmosphere. After giving their efforts to the rascals for a number of years they are deserving of a proper place to work.

With these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 43 stand part.

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, I want to rise to support the Minister in everything he has said, I think it is my duty as Chairman of the National Housing Corporation to say what I understand the position to be and to give this House some indication of the forward planning of the National Housing Corporation so as to enlighten this Chamber of the burdens we have to carry as a result of the legacy we inherited. I think it is fair to say that prior to the advent of the new administration there appears to have been extremely sloppy planning at the National Housing Corporation. That is a fair point to make because it can be demonstrated by reference to the evidence. Let me take at random the establishment by this Government of a technical division. If one is serious about building houses, the establishment of a technical division is a must; one cannot simply attempt to build houses without having a technical division and I want to congratulate the Minister and my predecessor on establishing such a division and I will show the benefits of such a division. The National Housing Corporation is now able to produce new designs in houses, and the latest news we have is that in spite of increased cost, by using these designs the Corporation will be able to hold down the cost of houses being built and may be able to produce houses at the same cost as previously. That is what I mean by saying that you need proper planning and cannot just build houses by the Corporation without a technical division. That division is functioning sufficiently well that at this moment they are undertaking the planning of a projected housing estate and I think that at the moment they are actually working on the Bonnetts Development and that technical division will save the Corporation a fairly sizeable sum of money, for if we did not have that division we will have to be paying high architects fees and so on. That to my mind is very important, because not only are we utilizing the services of that division for more functional designs but at the same time we are exercising better financial control, attempting to make sure that the public gets maximum benefit for the money spent by the National Housing Corporation. That is a different picture from the one which existed at the time the Government changed hands, and one does not have to be involved with the National Housing Corporation to see the improvements achieved by proper planning.

To give two examples which relate to the constituency of St. Michael North West. I mention this not only because I represent that constituency but because it has the largest number of housing estates. We have for instance, in Eden Lodge a number of units and tenants in the units, but little regard has been paid to recreational facilities in the area. This is no longer the case in our housing planning. And what can only be regarded as a waste of money is a pavilion put down without proper planning and in such a hurry that the lower level of the pavilion is below ground level, so that now the pavilion is virtually useless. The National Housing Corporation is looking at the situation to see how it can be remedied, so that the money already spent is not completely wasted. Also at Grazettes there were hard courts put down on an ad hoc basis in 1976 but never used by the tenants because the sloppy planning resulted in poor technical work and the courts catch water very quickly. The Sports Department is looking at this and trying to remedy the situation. I mention these matters because it is our guiding principle at the National Housing Corporation not only to provide housing accommodation but housing accommodation making maximum use of the money given to us. This is consistent with Government's policy of adequate financial control and the use of public funds.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to move from that area of St. Michael North West to another area.
3.00 p.m.

I want to move from St. Michael South to another area to demonstrate the kind of problem which we have inherited, the kind of legacy which we must carry on our backs so to speak and try to solve the housing problem of this country.

Let us take the Oxnard's Development, for example. This Government has inherited a situation where in 1976 houses were going up in the Oxnard's Development. I do not know what went wrong at NHC at the time but whatever went wrong there appears to be inefficient control and bad technical advice. All types of things went wrong because as we try to build houses in 1980 and 1981 we find that we are now saddled with the cost of remedying defects in the houses.

That is the major problem because we are talking about expenditure in the vicinity of $1½ million. As I understand it our commercial programme, our programme of building houses for sale ought to be self-containing and in fact, of course, also to provide a profit so that we

can take the profit and use it in what we call the Public Housing Programme.

We find, Mr. Chairman, that the legacy is still there with us and that this Administration must somehow go back and try to remedy the problems which existed in the Oxnard's Development to the tune of something like $60,000 before it can get on with its essential work on hand and that work is the provision of houses for some 10,000 applicants, the provision of rental accommodation for some 10,000 applicants.

These are the serious problems which we face as we attempt to move during 1980, providing more houses than the past Administration and trying somehow at the same time to try and improve the accommodation which we have at Country Road for our staff from the start so that as the Minister said a few weeks ago that the National Housing Corporation is currently at full strength and I wish to give this House the assurance that so long that I am Chairman we will continue to keep it at full strength.

I want to say this that apart from those problems there are more fundamental problems which we face at NHC. The Minister has already congratulated the staff. I want to add my own congratulations.

One of the problems which we have at the moment and one which the Management was grappling is pre-project costing. Now it might not surprise you, Mr. Chairman, to discover that the routine, the method of dealing with Housing Projects at NHC appear to have been very *ad hoc.* My understanding of construction is that we ought to have pre-project costing, some pre-detailed project costing so that you can keep your expenditure within line.

We found that the system before we took over was the system that allowed Housing to start without any serious idea of where the profit lines would be and what the profit line figures would be. We have tried to correct that and at the moment we have under consideration a proposal which I think could effectively bring that matter within the grasp of the Management of the Corporation.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are important matters. We have a mandate to provide proper houses and we are fulfilling that mandate. We have our Technical Division whose function is to ensure that the best optimum use is made of the space allotted for housing development. That division is also ensuring that we get maximum use of the funds allotted to us and we have to ensure at the same time that the idea be that we must keep looking for new areas and we must experiment with new ideas so as to help solve the housing problems of the country.

I like to think that the St. Cecelia Development will start a new trend because my own observation since I was at NHC is this that if we are to really lick the problem we have to develop a new concept with the use of land space. We must start going for what is called high rise apartments. We simply cannot fulfil the housing needs or satisfy the housing needs of 6,000 applicants on file at NHC. We simply cannot do that with the available land space there.

We are going to have to start looking at new concepts and St. Cecelia may well point the way to this new trend. We may also find that in West Terrace new ideas in construction will come into play and I like to think that when we come back to the House next year at this time that the West Terrace Project would be virtually finished and that members can see for themselves the kind of new thinking is seeping into NHC.

I want, Mr. Chairman, before I sit to pay special tribute to Management for one aspect of Management and that is the question of the reduction of arrears. I do not think that the public quite understands how important that is to the functioning of the National Housing Corporation. We depend to a large extent on the collection of those arrears to turn those funds and build more houses and we are currently hamstrung by the fact that we cannot collect them as quickly as we ought to, some of the large sums which are outstanding in rents.

We have inherited situations where people have not paid rent for as much as eight years. Before I got to NHC I was approached by a man who begged me to beg the previous Chairman not to squeeze him too hard when he was put in Court for non-payment of arrears. The Corporation brought judgment against him. They waited and this particular tenant still refused to pay the arrears until such time as drastic measures had to be used and then he came in and paid the arrears off in I think in two instalments. That was to the tune of something like $3,000.

That is again the kind of problem which we face. Some people simply would not pay their rents. Unless they pay the rents we cannot build new houses and you get applicants coming into NHC day in and day out asking for houses and to some extent unless we correct that problem we will be caught.

I want to pay special tribute to the Management of the Corporation especially to the Manager and Chief Legal Officer and Financial Controller because I am sure that the Minister will agree with me that these three gentlemen and their subordinate staff have grappled manfully with the task and they have been able to persuade tenants to come in and to pay their rents some time. I think we also have to pay tribute to those Collectors who have gone out sometimes at weekends sometimes at nights and found tenants, collected their rents and have brought the rent into the Corporation.

I think you are indicating, Mr. Chairman, that my time is up and perhaps I can come back on this a little later but I want to say that we intend to move forward with the programme of building houses but we can only do so if we have the co-operation of the tenants and I appeal to those people who would not wish to pay their rents to understand the needs of the kinds of problems we face and to ensure that we do not have to take drastic measures in time with respect to arrears.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy to begin by observing that at long last we have managed in this country to inject some momentum characterised by some order and appropriated in the delivery of houses as far as the public sector is concerned. I have argued for a long while that houses constituted the area of greatest weakness as far as our infra-structural system here in Barbados is concerned and that as our incomes grew in Barbados that there would be and would continue to be a tremendous demand for houses and that the Government has a great responsibility to set about it in an intelligent and vigorous manner.
3.10 p.m.

I take some modest credit for persuading my colleagues in the Barbados Labour Party that this was a matter of maximum priority and I think that we are now on the right course. If we can continue to inject the dynamism into this programme, in a few years we will go a far way towards satisfying the demands abroad for good quality houses.

I am worried about one or two things however. The first is that we seem to be over concentrating on the provision of housing in St. Michael; Oxnards, West Terrace, Ferniehurst, Cecelia, Bonnetts Brittons Hill. They are areas of high concentration of population and many of these areas are characterised by substantial standard housing. It seems to me that we are creating a problem for ourselves if we continue to overload the services in the urban areas and not think about building on the marginal lands in St. Philip, St. George, St. Lucy and elsewhere. We are in danger as I see it Mr. Chairman of creating a kind of concrete jungle in St. Michael, overloading and straining your transportation services, telephone service already there are people in Oxnards who cannot get telephones who have been waiting for well over two years, electricity service, water service, sewage disposal service, everything will be overloaded and strained to breaking point unless we consider decentralising our services including the provision of housing.

The second aspect of the housing programme that worries me relates to the fact that I have not yet seen a plan relating to housing. I do not believe that there is any magic in the provision of a plan but if you want to persuade me that you have your priorities right, that your targets are realistic, that your methodology with respect to catering to targets is sensible, that you have any prospect of mobilising the finance necessary for housing, I want to see it all set down on paper, published, so that we can conduct the debate on intelligent premises. My quarrel is that there seems to be still a large measure of ad hocism in the National Housing Corporation and in the Ministry of Housing, to the extent that they have no way set out their priorities, their targets, their strategies and the like. I say, let the Chairman of the National Housing Corporation match his commitments which he has just expressed and which I do not doubt, by setting forth a plan so that the debate can continue on an intelligent basis.

I am concerned too Sir, with what I regard as the lack of imagination with regard to the designing of the low income housing in the country. I am not satisfied when I travel abroad and contrast and compare what I see in low income housing with what I see here, that as far as the designing of the houses is concerned, that we have done the best. Certainly, I believe that given the pace at which incomes are rising in Barbados that many of the persons who enjoy those houses would be happy to pay a few more dollars and have an additional square footage so as to give them three comfortable bedrooms in those houses, instead of two comfortable bedrooms and no more than a coup constituting the third.

The development in Ferniehurst which is a variant of the Wildey Development is marginally more attractive but I believe that we have got to do something about arriving at far more imaginative and aesthetically satisfying designs than the ones which we are currently working on in relation to low income housing.

The performance of the National Housing Corporation too, in relation to Parish Land constitutes no more than an embarrassment if not a disgrace. I have spoken about the problem in Parish Land before. Just let me restate it in a nutshell. We have substantial acreage in Parish Land that formerly belonged to the Foundation Schools. The land has been acquired by the Government somewhere between 1975 and 1976. They were supposed to have the land surveyed, divided up into house spots, put in certain services and allow those who are interested in acquiring the house spots to move on. It has taken from 1976 until now and the people have not moved on yet. The exercise has not been completed. A few impatient people and they have my sympathy, if not my total support, have move on notwithstanding the fact that they have not got any commission. I found it very difficult not to have the greatest sympathy with them. They were told in 1976 that it would happen the next year, in 1977 that it would happen the next year, in 1978 that it would happen the next year and in 1979 it would happen the next year. We are now told that we have some hope

that by mid-year they would be able to move on. It worries me that if a simple exercise like that could not have been completed in a much shorter time, then it is likely that the corporation does not have all that they need by way of capacity to deliver the goods that they are talking about. If you cannot deliver the simple things, you worry me in relation to tackling the problem at the national level and on the scale that is necessary.

The second point, at a lesser level which I wish to make relates to Sayers Court in Christ Church but I think that I can make a point of national significance while focusing on Sayers Court. The broader point is this. We have got to be very careful as I see it, Mr. Chairman, not to concentrate so much on the provision of new housing, necessary as it is, that we ignore completely a necessity to maintain the existing stock. There is a development in Sayers Court which was built immediately after Janet in 1955 that has run into a state of disrepair. Efforts are being made to put on a coat of paint here and there, repair a window here and there but generally, the estate is running into a state of disrepair. I think it is indicative of a wider problem, that we are likely to be concentrating so much on the provision of new housing stock that we are ignoring to maintain the existing housing stock belonging to the National Housing Corporation.

One further point before I give way Mr. Chairman, it is this. People are interested in a total sort of existence. It seems to me that if you develop 1,000 houses in an area as is likely to happen in the West Ridge, Cave Hill, Oxnards complex, that you have a responsibility at one and the same time to ensure that there is provision for a baby creche, a school, a community centre, a playing field and all the things that go to make up a full life. You do not only live in a house, there is more than that to a total existence and I am not satisfied that the Housing Corporation has as yet, addressed their mind to the whole question of a total development, not putting up some houses and leaving them there.
3.20 p.m.

Children need somewhere to play; adults need somewhere to play, there is need for a community centre, there is need for a baby creche and all of the other facilities that go towards making a neighbourhood livable and desirable. I would very much hope that in their planning which they will make public a fall of these models are set forth so that we can feel reassured that that is going to be the path of development for the future.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that the older corporations in this country unlike the newer corporations like the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, the Central Bank and others have too little power under the Act. The National Housing Corporation is a big commercial organisation; it is a service and commercial organisation involved in spending large sums of money, and they are so inhibited under the Act, they have so little power that I very much hope that the Minister will give consideration at an early date towards revising the Act so as to ensure that they are put on a comparable basis to the newer statutory corporations. We are either serious about running this service, managing them by way of a statutory corporation or we are not. We either want civil service departments and regard all of them as outposts of the particular department or Ministry to which they are attached and take away all the powers and run them as a civil service department or alternatively we are going to have to give them authority and the flexibility so that they can continue to do the job without reference from day to day to the Minister.

And this brings me back to the earlier point, that unless the Minister can participate and involve himself and his Ministry in a plan along with the corporation and agree that these are the goals, these are the priorities, these are the strategies, I only want to hear from you when you are not realising those goals or when because of new circumstances you want to depart from the strategies, this is the agreed plan, go ahead and do the job, report to me from time to time as to how you are getting on; it seems to me if you take part in the plan and approve it, as Minister you can have confidence. But if you are to proceed on an adhoc basis and you are not sure what is going on next week and the week after, you are always insecure and want to get in the act. That is the case for planning because if you plan and you involve yourself in the planning, you can have confidence in giving your corporation much more power.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this will be the first of many. I will keep them staked out in here all day on housing. Don't talk. You came in late, don't talk. This is the first of my fifteen minutes, Sir.

Let me say at the beginning, Mr. Chairman, that having had some association with the National Housing Corporation for three years immediately after the years of inefficiency, I am not even referring to any words used in this, I was in a position to see the problems of the past and to try to chart a new course for the future. The Party's manifesto made a commitment that the party would embark on programmes designed to deliver 800 houses a year. It was widely understood, but not a fact. Indeed I was at one time slightly misled by the language or by my failure to read the language closely that the Housing Corporation itself was to build 800 houses. That clearly was not the policy, was not the intent of the manifesto and cannot be reasonably deduced as the intent if anybody reads it with more intelligence than I read it when I first came upon it in 1976, because what follows shows clearly that the plan of Government was to have the public sector through National Housing Corporation

deliver a stock of houses at the same time as the Government was creating a climate within which the private sector could deliver a stock of houses, totality of the two amounting to 800 houses a year.

Some time in early 1977 a report was handed in. *(Asides)* I would say a lot of provocative things here and see if you would not get up and talk. A report was handed in by two consultants from U.N. whom Mr. Ronald Mapp when he was Minister of Housing was able to get on loan to advise us as to our programme at the Housing Corporation, the Christoffe Report. Christoffe recommended in 1976 that the Housing Corporation itself could never hope to build more than 600 houses a year, because they did not think there was the manpower capability within the Corporation or that Barbados had the artisans to go around when you pitted it against the Corporation's plans and development in the private sector, and I am very pleased to be able to say, Mr. Chairman, that it was envisaged to build 500 houses for this financial year, the one ending in March, and I am assured that the Corporation is well on the way to building the 500 houses conceived and planned and indeed started during my third term as Chairman of the National Housing Corporation. For all the papers will write or Neville Duncan will say in Contact about the promises and performance of housing under this Government and the impression given especially in the newspapers, not all, that housing had not made any progress, the figures and facts are there to prove whoever said that to be talking off the top of their head.

In 1975 the year of boom, $3,000 a ton for sugar, the Housing Corporation the year before election – it is in the Central Bank Report – built 195 houses. It is in the Central Bank Report for 1975. I gave you all licks until I was tired in 1976 by quoting the page. I can't remember it now, but it might be page 40 or something like that. See how bad your record was. In 1977, 1978 and 1979 the Housing Corporation has never built as few as 195 houses.
3.30 p.m.

It has never built as few as 195 houses, despite the problems that you had, the general economic depression in the area which affected this country when you all went out of power and for a period of time after we took over. We never built as few. At the same time as the Housing Corporation was being given a subsidy by Government of $4.5 million, without having to come back in here for any supplementary, 131 new people were taken on at the Housing Corporation in less than a year. I gave the figures already last year, so you were building more houses, giving more work to people, and we had started on a programme of decentralisation of maintenance which is now a fact of life at the Housing Corporation.

We are seeing the importance of linking housing to agriculture, something that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central would like to talk about but he is constrained by the limitations of his party today not to speak on housing, but I can say it for you. At Sion Hill in St. James there is a scheme, I think there are about 33 houses, where the houses are put on a quarter acre of land and the person who is inhabiting the house is selected because he has an interest in the development of agriculture and is going to produce. So there is encouragement given to people to do some farming at the same time as you are giving them housing, and yet the record would be poor or disappointing.

Now look how we have upgraded things at the Housing Corporation. We had to make changes in the administration, we had to ensure that some of the things complained of in the Hanschell-Walmsley-Gibbons-McConney Report never happened again. We had to set up proper systems for tendering and the award of contracts. You did not have a system where a former Board Member, for four years at least, Marshall, could then turn around and become Collector, and then as we have been saying in here this week, put his hand in the pot and rob his own servant who was cooking the pot. Marshall had to leave. After I put the police on Marshall he went to Martinique and I believe he is still there, and for all the Opposition, they want to talk but cannot. One person during my three years as Chairman of the Housing Authority was dismissed in circumstances where I had anything to do with it, the Messenger, Grazette, who abused the Assistant Manager with language that could never be repeated in here or anywhere else except under pain of prosecution, and I wouldn't have it. There is no way that he could behave as he behaved that morning, slammed the door and nearly broke down the door, and I still retain him. One person in that Statutory Corporation was fired in three years, so when you are talking about firing and dismissals single out the National Housing Corporation. All the old Dems who were there when I took over are still there, never harassed but spoken to and asked to be loyal to the entity called the National Housing Corporation, and asked to ensure that the image of that place which had taken a battering over the years, and even this week, I believe that during my time they heeded the words that I had with them in November 1976 and I got the maximum co-operation from the staff, to my face at least.

But, Mr. Chairman, the National Housing Corporation is now a much more efficient entity than it was in October 1976 when I went there. It is not perfect, it can never be perfect unless a number of things are done, one of which is to determine early o'clock your objectives for the Statutory Corporation. You see, not unlike other Statutory Corporations, it is charged with responsibility to operate more or less along commercial lines, and at the same time it has to perform a number of social service functions. This is one

of the problems. The rents that you charge, there is nowhere in Barbados you can get a three bedroom house to rent for $15.00 a week comparable to what is being rented by the Housing Corporation. These rents are heavily subsidised, and although you are performing that social service function, do you know you cannot even collect the rents properly, going way back to 1961 when people were advised and encouraged not to pay the rents so that a psychology of delinquency has been built up since 1961, where people feel they can rent houses provided by Government but do not pay, but they will pay a private entrepreneur. So how can you ever operate properly along commercial lines when you have that kind of situation?

You have also the question of old age pensioners. I would wish to hear from the Minister. Before I went there, Sir, in pursuance of a pledge in the Manifesto to write off the arrears owed by old age pensioners, I had a survey carried to ascertain those who could genuinely pay from those who could not pay. When I left in September last year the survey had almost been completed, I know it is now complete, and I believe that there is in the vicinity of $100,000 on the books in respect of old age pensioners. Now, this $100,000 should be written off. It is a Manifesto pledge, it is making a nonsense of the books, you will never be able to collect it, in all conscience you cannot try to collect it because they are pensioners, so you must do something now.

3.40 p.m.

I am calling on the Corporation, the Chairman, the manager and the Minister to do what is necessary to get that $100,000 off the books; it causes endless problems for the Auditors. Talking about auditors, when I went there there was not one financial report put out by the Corporation. I think the hon. member for Christ Church East was calling for a kind of development plan for the Housing Corporation but he was unaware that the Corporation was set up in 1973 and that under section 16 it had the responsibility to lay on the Table of this House a Report and Statement of Account every year but up to now no report has been laid. When I went there they had not done any reports going all the way back to 1973. I had to start then and I said I was not signing any back reports because I was not Chairman then and I was not going to take the blame for anything done before I went there. They had failed to bring the necessary reports and have made no reference to that. But how can you go anywhere to borrow money from a bank or financial institution for use by the Corporation when you can't show people a balance sheet? No reputable organization would lend money without seeing the financial state of the organization wanting to borrow the money. We have got over that now and by April or May the reports and accounts will be laid for the period 1973 to 1978, according to my information.

I have asked the Minister about writing off the $100,000. I also want to enquire of the Minister as to what progress is being made with the development for Duncans in St. Philip. I am not going to let him rest on this, and I also want to hear about proposals for Six Roads; but I want to hear about Duncans especially.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister of Housing in introducing this Head made a few comments. I want to refer to one particular matter, that of the rents and the corporation being able to recoup some of the very high arrears – over $2 million – as result of defaulters on the National Housing Corporation estates. Now this is a matter which I would not like to go too deeply into the real political aspect of, because every time you have to allude to certain cases or matters which have got some political implication for one party or another, you will find hon. members or other people feeling that you should not allude to these particular matters. However, it is important for us to understand why we as the Government have had to tell the public of Barbados that we inherited a very undesirable situation as far as the collection of rents is concerned. Why we as a Government must of necessity make mention of arrears and defaulters and appeal to people to pay their rent, is simply because if we do not collect rents it means our capital programmes will not have the finance which is so necessary to help us execute those programmes; we must therefore insist – even though some people are annoyed because of the methods we have to use of getting collection and at times even prosecuting some people. We must let them know it is important we collect the rents and that they pay their rents so that we will be able to provide with a house people who are in need of a house. There are hundreds if not thousands of applications at the National Housing Corporation and hardly a day will pass without people coming and asking you as a member of Parliament to assist them in getting a house. We know that from time to time people are becoming more home conscious. We are faced with this situation and therefore people should not feel that the Minister is being harsh when he appeals to people to pay their rent. There are some people and irresponsible politicians who because they want to obtain cheap political mileage say that the Minister is unsympathetic, that this is a harsh and wicked government. But we must make people understand the true position and understand that they must pay their rent, because it is not only helping them and the National Housing Corporation but also helping others to get a house.

Now I would like to draw the attention of this Honourable House to a situation that developed which should not have developed but was a situation where political patronage took preference over commonsense. We had a situation in Wildey in 1976 where a man by the name of Frank DaSilva, a well known businessman, was given a house in the Wildey area but.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member should refrain from calling persons' names.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I apologise, Mr. Chairman. This house was used as a campaign headquarters for a Democratic Labour Party candidate. No application was made for the house, no rent was paid; it was a single unit, the price of which was in the vicinity of $19,000. 3.50 p.m.

This particular man was given this house and it was used as a campaign house in East Terrace. It is the Third Avenue in East Terrace if hon. members on that side want to know. I have seen and I have got in my possession copies of the electoral details coming to that house and when we came into power we saw lots of the Manifestoes.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member telling us that a house was given away?

Mr. BRADSHAW: I do not know if it was given away, if it was stolen or not. It was allocated and occupied without a single application.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must warn the hon. member that I will not be tolerating behaviour of this kind. If you want to speak you will have your opportunity to speak. Need I tell the hon. member that the Chair must be heard in silence? You will now apologise.

Mr. TAITT: I apologise, to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point I am trying to make is this that no application was submitted to National Housing Corporation yet someone had a house and the keys, a house costing $19,000. It is no wonder that the National Housing Corporation was short of money and could not collect money because it was $19,000.

The thing that baffles me is that if there was a poor person, someone else renting one of the National Housing Corporation houses and were owing $100 or $200 you would have found someone running them down but what I am concerned with is no application was made and yet someone had a house for $19,000.

We have had situations, Mr. Chairman, whereas the Minister pointed out where well-known established members of the Democratic Labour Party, a women who was referred to as "The First Lady" of the Democratic Labour Party who had three houses, Mr. Chairman, from the National Housing Corporation inside National Housing Corporation Estates and one of the houses she used to rent out and collect the money and never paid that money into the National Housing Corporation.

You see, this was the situation. I would hope that this situation is not allowed to happen while or during our regime because it is not a desirable situation.

Now we have heard the Chairman of the National Housing Corporation mentioning the fact that now he has got better Technical staff and better adequate arrangements that it is now that this Technical staff, and organisation, are able to do a better job and to assist in the planning of Housing Estates. This is very much welcomed.

It is welcomed because when we came into office in September, 1976 we found the situation where all the architectural planning had to be given out to private people although there was established in the Ministry of Housing or was supposed to be established in the Ministry of Housing a Technical Unit, but the Technical Unit was not operating and what little attempt there was to operate was defeated because the Technical Officer, or the man in charge did very little collaboration with the Minister and the Permanent Secretary. Now this causes a lot of problems and all attempts were made seeing that situation to get or to set up a proper Technical Unit so that we could get some work done.

I am glad to hear that after a series of recommendations and the Board's recommendations were brought into being that we now have a better Unit. That is good because not only will we have better planning within the National Housing Corporation but it will go towards helping us as a country, as a Government, to save money because it seems the money that was paid out to private people to do the consultantcy work and so forth can now be saved by the National Housing Corporation and therefore this should be welcomed.

This is a very good point and it goes a long way in ensuring that the Minister has got the foresight and the understanding to know exactly the material benefit of having properly constructed technical arrangements.

We must look, Mr. Chairman, at the possibility in the future of having Housing Estates related to Industrial Estates and development. By that I mean that we have got a situation in Barbados where Housing Estates are developed and they bear little relationship with the development of Industrial Estates, and people have got to travel very long distances in order to reach the Industrial Estates.

What I would advocate at this point in time is that some serious consideration be given to having Housing Developments taken into consideration development of Industrial Estates with a view to having Estates near to the Industrial areas. That would go a long way towards helping first of all to promote a better industrial relationship, people would get to work sooner, they would have

to pay less bus fares, less transportation and I am sure that the manufacturers will benefit a great deal from this.

Industry as a whole will benefit because in case of a strike, but on that I would not wish to rehash an argument that was put forward, but we have got to bear in mind that when transportation becomes a problem they are those people who have to travel long distances sometimes taking two and three buses to get to work that suffer and as a result the Industry or industrial input suffers and that is why I am calling on the authorities or the Ministries concerned to take into consideration that particular aspect.

I would like to see a speeding up of the surveying that is done in the Estates of the National Housing Corporation. I know that something is being done. I know that since we came into office there has been an improvement in this area. Something was done in the former administration, Mr. Chairman, but what I am saying is this that today there are a number of people who would like to own their house. They live in single units and it is the single units that I am referring to specifically and those people are unable to purchase their houses because the land is not surveyed and no plot can be provided.

Though I do agree and I accept that there is a shortage of Surveyors in this particular area and it has been causing the Government a lot of concern and it is a national concern, this lack of Surveyors, this scarcity of Surveyors, but I would still like to see what little extra effort there can be made in this particular area so that the people can have their lots.

Mr. Chairman, before I sit down I would like to make one final point. I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member for Christ Church East that there is repair work being done in the Housing areas, Silver Hill, Eden Lodge and Princess Royal and those are repairs that have been done to those houses that were left there in disrepair.
4.00 p.m.

I think that the programme of the Hon. Minister and the National Housing Corporation must be complimented. I would not like to sit down before I make this position clear. Something is definitely being done to rectify this particular situation.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in making my contribution to this debate on housing, I wish to start by quoting from the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements of 1976. That Declaration, among other things stated and I quote:

"The improvement of the quality of life of human beings is the first and most important objective of every human settlement policy."

Throughout its years as the Government of this country, the Democratic Labour Party has always kept before itself and the people of this country the objective of improving housing conditions in this country. There was a particular and special need for this because if we cast our minds back over the history of this country, one of the sad deficiencies and one of the legacies of colonialism in this country has been that our people have never been properly housed.

Indeed, the poor housing conditions in this country was one of the main factors leading to civil and social unrest in this country in the 1930s. As a result of that unrest, the conditions were studied, a report was made and poor housing conditions identified as one of the major areas for thrust as far as the social development of this country was concerned. It is pointless to think that any Government in this country can in three, five or even 15 years completely wipe out or obliterate that inheritance of bad housing conditions that this country has experienced over the years of colonialism. The most that each Government can do, is to try to improve the housing conditions and to attempt to ensure that when it passes on the reins of Government to a succeeding administration, that it would have left conditions better than when it found it. This is what in Gulliver's Travels, Dean Smith said:

"Those who have responsibility for Government, if they can make two blades of grass grow where one grew before then that Government was making a significant contribution to the sum total of human existence." That is all that the Democratic Labour Party attempted to do as a Government when it was in power in this country. *(Asides).* What nonsense am I hearing that Smith did not write Gulliver's Travels? You are the Hon. Minister of Education, get up and tell us who wrote Gulliver's Travels.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the hon. member, I do not know why he picks on me, as far as I know, Jonathan Swift wrote Gulliver's Travels not Dean Smith. I do not even know who Dean Smith is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: This is the Hon. Minister of Education in this country and he does not know that the man is Dean Jonathan Smith. You should know from your Prime Minister not to challenge me on these points.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: All that the Democratic Labour Party has tried to do over the years is to improve on the conditions that it found and to hand over to the successive Government a situation better than the one we found in 1961. I hope that when you lay down office later this year, or next year, or whenever you choose to come, I suspect it is later this year, when there is that change of Government, we hope that we will find housing conditions in this country better than we left it for you in 1976.

How did we go about trying to improve housing conditions? What is the record? We have nothing to be ashamed of as far as our efforts to improve housing conditions and the housing stock in this country. It is a record that any Government could be proud of. Over the years, 3,550 housing units built, 5,000 persons granted loans totalling more than $8,000,000 to build, buy and improve their own dwellings, a large number of houses repaired for old age pensioners. Mr. Chairman, in addition to that, you look and see how the face of this country has been transformed by the Democratic Labour Party in its efforts to improve those housing conditions. Developments at Wildey Terrace, Friendship Terrace, Lodge Terrace, Oxnards, Husbands, Free Hill, Cave Hill, Sion Hill, Orange Hill, Wotton, and Clapham.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. They had nothing to do with Free Hill. I believe the houses have just been allocated. That is where we started the experimental scheme with the houses using the new floor system.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am saying – you were the Chairman of the Housing Corporation – but I am saying that your memory is not long enough, history did not begin in 1976. Ask your officers, let them go into the Archives and find that the initiation of that project at Free Hill was in the Democratic Labour Party days. I am saying that there was an ongoing project at Free Hill and at Sion Hill as well. I for one know where Spring Head is, I do not know what the people in St. James are talking about, I could find it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Silver Hill in Christ Church, the Farm, Grazettes, Eden Lodge, Haynesville, sites were identified at Nestfield in St. Lucy for the Rural Development Project.
4.10 p.m.

All of these are projects and developments either initiated or completed by the Democratic Labour Party in its administration. However, let me register it again. Over 350 housing units built over the years. Now what is wrong with that record? Are we to be pilloried for that? Why? The people of this country know that a serious, determined and conscientious effort was made to improve housing conditions in this country, and that is why over the years they expressed their confidence in us and returned us to power. We are not ashamed of that record and to think that all of that could be developed without any type of planning is really amazing. It is really amazing that all of that work could be done throughout this country without any type of planning. Well I am not getting into the planning part at this stage. I believe the hon. member for Christ Church East has made the point that as far as he is aware he has not seen this plan yet. Your manifesto promised a National Housing Plan and he has not seen it yet, so you can account to your own members for the absence of that particular plan, but I am not getting into that.

I believe that there was a planning unit in the Ministry of Housing headed by a technical officer. I believe a considerable amount of planning was done inside the Ministry of Housing. If I am wrong on that you can correct me on that, but that is my belief. What I am saying, however, is plan or no plan, you look at that development which has transformed the face of housing in this country.

Now let me deal with one particular problem. We provided those houses over the years. The Barbados Labour Party came up, they were going to work miracles in housing. "The Party", this is the document on which you campaigned, "The Party will therefore on being returned to power", I am quoting from page 10 of that particular document: "The Party will therefore on being returned to power embark on a programme for the building of at least 800 houses per year". Now we have heard that particular statement ....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, he stopped short of a length. Continue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Next paragraph. "Necessary steps will therefore be taken to direct finance towards mortgages for owner occupied buildings and in this way provide a badly needed stimulus to schemes for privately-financed housing." What is that? I am talking about 800 houses per year that you committed yourself to build, and what has happened on the floor of the House today? We have heard the former Chairman; he has just re-written it and said they really did not intend to build 800 houses a year. He read it and he thought that is what it meant in 1976.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, for all the brilliance and the mental gymnastics of the hon. member, let him not misquote me. What I said was that it was clear that 800 houses were to be built but not all 800 by the Housing Corporation. I explained it like old Judge Vaughan. On the one hand the public sector would build

so many, and on the other hand the private sector would build so many, the totality of which would be 800.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I do not want to misquote you. I am not going to misquote this document either, and I have not seen anything in here like that. I believe it is a good document. *(Laughter)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Some order please!

Mr. SANDIFORD: But I have not seen anything about what you just said, that gloss and these emendations and corrections that you are just putting in. You yourself said that when you read it in 1976 that you thought it meant that the Government was to build 800 houses. That is what you said. I was listening to you quite carefully. You yourself were deceived. You were misled. Look at the whole electorate in this country, no LL.B. or LL.M., no leading Attorney-at-Law at the Bar, and if you were deceived what would you think about all the persons from Cats Castle? Oh dear! This must have been the document, the confession coming from the mouth of the hon. member for St. Philip North. If he was deceived and he campaigned on it, he must have been deceiving a lot of people in this country also, I believe unwittingly. I believe you did not know you were deceiving them because you believed that the party for which you were campaigning also felt it was going to build 800 houses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. You can come back.

Mr. SANDIFORD: How come time, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Fifteen minutes. You will be able to come back.

Mr. SANDIFORD: How many kinds of different rules we are having? You gave the Minister one hour; he is only entitled to half an hour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, continuing in the vain of my illustrious colleague who just sat down, this document which he described as a good document would have been deceptive to anybody except the person who wrote it. The person who wrote this document chose the words very carefully and indeed anyone who knows the Minister of Propaganda on that side, he is not in this Honourable House, knows that he is extremely good at deceiving, but they will not be able to do it again.

Now, Sir, that side over there on the back benches asked if we are not going to talk about the Hanschell Report. As President of the Democratic Labour Party I am going to speak about the Hanschell Report. The Hanschell Report is nothing more than the observations of three men whom I will not attempt to describe in the short time allowed to me here, Sir. I am going to pick one of them who is alleged to be a management expert and I am disappointed on reading this unscholarly, unlawyerly document which would have better come from the pen of the same person who wrote the Barbados Labour Party manifesto. There are phrases in this document that embarrass all of us as Barbadians, phrases which cannot be heard falling from the pen of one who would have approached the matter in a judicial manner, and I believe that all of the lawyers over there and all of the Ministers except those who were purblind will wish to agree that there are phrases and methods in this document which they themselves would never have put forward.
4.20 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we come to the thrust of this document. This document is supposed to indict the Democratic Labour Party. This? The ordinary people will read it too, the ordinary people will not read the headlines only, the ordinary people will read what is in between it as well. *(Aside).* You may hear what you wish to hear, but we know that you do not hear very well.

Mr. Chairman, first of all we get the word "malpractice", then we get a definition of the word "malpractice". We go into the dictionary and we find the word "malpractice" and we find the first meaning of malpractice is wrongdoing. Then we say we are going to accept that particular definition for the purposes of this document, then we say we accuse a Minister of malpractice – geographic, geological, arithmetic, algebraic, all logic suggest that things that are equal to the same thing are equal to one another. Malpractice in this document, it must be understood, means wrongdoings. That is what Philip Greaves stands indicted of, according to this document, wrongdoing. This document itself took the trouble to point out that it is not ascribing unto that Minister anything remotely connected with what is normally meant by malpractice in legal parlance. This document itself says so.

Mr. Chairman, time does not permit me to use quotations, but everybody will get a chance to read this document and they will know what I am saying is valid, so that I will not stand up and say I am embarrassed or ashamed, because Philip Greaves does not stand indicted by this Commission or by anyone else of any criminal activity, he stands accused of administrative wrongdoing.

Now, Sir, let us examine administrative wrongdoing. Let me establish for the record that when I speak of administrative theory, I am qualified to speak about it. Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that in administrative theory there have been two broad approaches to administration in a department. In the ministerial system under the old British system there is an alleged ministerial practice

where the administrator is the Permanent Secretary and where the Permanent Secretary and every single person who speaks or writes or behaves for him is behaving and acting for and on behalf of the Minister. That is the trite administrative unconstitutional position. Therefore, unless an official in a Ministry deliberately and clearly disobeys a lawful instruction by his Minister, whatever he does he does in the name of the Minister. There is a new trend in administrative tribunal approach which suggest that even a Minister who believes that he is acting in a discretionary manner is still subject to review before the courts because he is required to act lawfully, and what constitutes lawfully is determined by an interpretation of the particular Act within the context of the particular circumstances.

There is another administrative theory which emanates from the United States which is contrary to that theory. It is contrary in this sense, the administrative head is the Chief Executive Officer who may or may not be an elected official, but he is the Chief Executive Officer, he is the person who makes the decisions on broad policy, but there is nothing in that theory which says that he is removed from participating in the implementation of the policy if in his opinion the implementation of the policy requires his personal direction. *(Aside).* I am coming to it. No, you see, you do not wish the people in Barbados to have this background, because they will be able to analyse like you and I, we both know that what I am saying is valid, but I am going to give them the background no matter what you say.

Barbados is a hybrid, Barbados is neither British nor American. Its institutions are British and in many ways its practices are American. There is a lot of argument based on British theory being applied to a practical application in Barbados. Nothing that I say here, Sir, suggest that anyone is entitled to break the law, I am explaining how the word "malpractice" substituted for "wrongdoing" can come to appear in the minds of people as criminal intent and criminal action where none existed. I continue. (A VOICE: come out of the sun, now). I am coming. Mr. Chairman, protect me from this onslaught. I am coming different from how they expected and they are now trying to put a spanner in the works. *(Asides).* I am speaking on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party and its members. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it therefore follows, as happens now, Sir, as happens today, that Ministers in the Government of Barbados, trying as they are to move a developing country into a level of development as quickly as possible, will do things and are doing things that are not considered necessary or perhaps even indeed desirable in a place like Britain, like talking directly to officials working in the department for which they have responsibility on matters which they consider to be sufficiently urgent and important as not to allow the long direct or indirect travel through the files and through the Ministry. I see the hon. member for Christ Church East shaking his head. As Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation, I am saying on the floor of this House that that hon. member on more than one occasion has gone directly to the Prime Minister instead of through his Minister, primarily because he perceives that he could get the particular action completed faster by going directly to the Prime Minister than going through the Minister who has administrative responsibility for him, and he has said so on a number of occasions. I am not accusing him of any wrongdoing, I am only making a point, I am not accusing him of any malpractice, except if you look at the administrative structure, and if he has to be held accountable in the manner that this document seeks to hold someone accountable, they might find that he, by acting in such a manner had committed some wrongdoing. *(Asides).*

It is not coming the way they anticipated, Mr. Chairman, they did not expect us to talk about this document. Mr. Chairman, I look at the malpractices, I look at what has occurred and I wonder to myself what are they talking about

4.30 p.m.

Award of Contract – It appears that under the Financial Administration and Audit Act a certain system was laid down in 1964 for the award of contracts. I have heard them in this very House during their time wonder why it is that certain matters which were alleged to have started months before are still at the stage where you cannot say they have been implemented. If in fact every project was implemented in the manner we would like to see implemented, many would have been finished in 1975, Spring Hall in 1976, the Harbour in 1974, the Airport in 1977. And I could go on. Each project I call would have been completed two years before it was actually completed. We have had the Governor of the Central Bank complaining publicly and intra-ministerially that the procedures which are currently laid down in the administrative system of a country operate to the detriment of a country because they take too long to be implemented. I have heard the hon. member for Christ Church South Central on more than one occasion pointing out a lot of procedures which led to delay and wastage. It is entirely possible what my colleague has said about bringing Barbados from a state of almost substandard housing into a position where there is reasonable housing for a reasonable number of persons. It is entirely possible that a Minister pushed on and driven by people saying we want something done – it is entirely possible that a Minister acting in good faith could have done something which was not entirely by the book according to the Financial and Audit Act. *(Asides)* I was a Minister and

there were times when in order to get something done I have taken a course of action which to the purist might be considered interference in the department. But I say if you look at the constitution of Barbados you will see the Statute says "to administer the department", and to administer the department means exactly that. And I challenge anyone to produce a description of administrative practice which suggests that a Minister does not have the right to find out what is happening in any section of any department for which he has responsibility. The selection of tenants for the renting of houses – that apparently is a crime if it was done. I do not know if it was done or how, but I know that in order to get a house from the National Housing Corporation you have to know the right people. I can speak for the people of St. Michael South West constituency. Let them bring the record and show me one person from St. Michael South West who has been able to get a house in the last three years, because if that constituent was sent by me there is no way he could get a house. If they were not members of the right group they could not get a single house.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I just want to correct the hon. member for St. Michael South West. He said if you are not a member of the Barbados Labour Party you cannot get a house – at least he is implying that. But there is a man by the name of Roderick Alleyne who I am sure is a person who got a house. You can check out who he is – I don't know if he is a member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, let me repeat, I am not afraid to make the charge. I am saying that in the context of this Report on the selection of tenants.....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I want to answer that specific charge and I am going to answer the charge by asking the hon. member about Shirley George who works at.....

Mr. TAITT: She got a loan.....*(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please, there are too many interruptions.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I know they do not like this but I am stating categorically that you cannot get a house unless you know the right person. I have sent a number of people to the National Housing Corporation and it is only if you use a subterfuge in sending that they have a chance. They know this is true but yet they come here today trying to prove that Philip Greaves did something wrong. I say that people are scared at what is going on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time is up.

Mr. TAITT: Let it be understood that there is no question of our not discussing this matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we are debating Housing and for some reason or other hon. members of the other side seem to have some guilt complex in relation to this area of activity and they want to rush off and discuss the details of a Commission Report in here. I do not think this is the proper place to discuss that.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, if the hon. member will give way. The point the Minister is making about not discussing the report in detail is valid, but the reason why I am referring to the report is because hon. members over there dared us to discuss it.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is good to hear hon. members over there say that they are not afraid to discuss the Hanschell Report because I think that the former Minister of Housing, Mr. Philip Greaves, was criticised in another report – the Burton report – and they kept it in their breast and did not bring the report to the House of Assembly. What I am interested in is the hon. member's concept of administrative propriety. I have always said that the hon. member is apparently a great admirer of the former President Nixon of the United States.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, each time I hear that I say that Nixon did not represent what is good in America and I do not admire him or any of those people.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I think that this debate should fix its attention on the solid performance in this area of housing and I want to underscore a few points that have been made.
4.40 p.m.

The actions of the Government in trying to increase the housing stock and improving the housing conditions in Barbados are matters which should receive the commendation not only of this side but of the other side. I had always thought that when we came to this area of housing that we would rise above partisan politics.

The Government in its Manifesto, whatever the interpretation that the hon. member for St. Michael South chooses to put on it, pledge itself to introduce a number of comprehensive measures to ensure its speeding up of the housing stock in Barbados, both through the Agency of the National Housing Corporation and through inducement of the private sector to encourage genuine house building. I am very heartened to know that the Hon. Minister of Housing today can report to this House that last year it was a proven fact that both in the private and public sector units to the number of at least 1,600 were completed.

I want to recall some of the measures we have introduced by way of inducements. Hon. members will recall that tax concessions were granted to genuine house builders by way of a reduction of the rate of Income Tax for those people who deliver total product instead of only part of the product, namely, sub-divisions.

In addition to that, the very positive step of bringing under national ownership The Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation has had the effect of that Corporation receiving resources of an adequate amount in order to be able to disburse loans to a variety of people who are in need. My understanding of the situation is that in 1979, loan disbursements by the Mortgage Finance Corporation have reached somewhere in the vicinity of $9 million. This sum is far in excess of anything that has ever been achieved before. I am still looking forward to the day when the disbursements will be $15 million on an annual rate.

We have also by exhortation and by persuasion been able to revolutionise the concept of lending to house buyers in Barbados. Any hon. members on the other side and on this side can testify to the fact that it is only of recent origin in Barbados that people are able as a matter of course to discuss with Lending Agencies loans for periods such as 20 to 25 years. That is an indispensable prerequisite of financing if we are to achieve a really great boost in house ownership in Barbados.

We have also seen the development of great competitive mortgage finance terms both by private and public sector Insurance Agencies. It also would help by way of inducement to ensure a flow of finance to the mortgage market in Barbados.

I am hopeful that this Resolution will continue and that the Banking Institutions, both public and private, will continue in this vein and that special provision will be made for a longer term than the existing seven years for Chattel Mortgages.

We should really be concentrating our combined efforts in this direction and persuading both the private and public sectors to regard the Chattel Mortgage in Barbados as being in the light of our large number of Chattel owners, in the light of the existing and promised improvements, the security of tenure as being a very good mortgage security and deserving of at least 15 years for lending money on.

If we do not achieve this, if we cannot persuade the private and the public sector to regard a Chattel Mortgage as being a good form of security for periods as long as 15 years, I do not believe that we should be able to speed up the units of new completions to the level where there would be an adequate supply of units available annually. When one considers all of these things, I think that great strides have been made towards implementation of our Manifesto promise.

Like the hon. member for Christ Church East, I am very concerned at the slow pace with which the Parish Land Development is proceeding. The roads are in, the water is in and the surveying has been done. My understanding is that regrettably a typographical error crept in in the vesting instrument and that had to be corrected and that is the reason why the Housing Authority was not able to give the leasing documents to the existing occupants and the potential occupants.

I can also state as a fact that Cabinet has approved the draft of the promised Statutory Conveyance and Guarantee of Titles from Housing Corporation transfers. The only thing that remains to be done with that is the necessary Attorney General's Certificate of the final draft of the Bill and passage by this Honourable House. These are all measures which we have introduced in the course of the last three years in an attempt to speed up the number of houses in Barbados.

The time has come also when as politicians we have to take a serious look at our responsibility in relation to our public education of tenants and purchasers. This is not a problem peculiar to Barbados, it is a World wide problem. I believe, Sir, that perhaps the best way to ensure a smooth revolving of money is to concentrate on sales of houses rather than rental of houses.

4.50 p.m.

I believe that more and more the Housing Authority will find that it is better economic sense to sell than to lease or rent. As co-Chairman of the Estimates Committee, I presided over the Housing Authority Estimates this year and I think that hon. members would be shocked to know that despite the great improvement in rent collection that has taken place that rents collected, assuming 100% collection in housing estates in Barbados are barely sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance. There is nothing left to repay loans, nothing left to provide for expansion. We know that we have a heritage of irresponsibility on the part of the other side in this respect. We do not need to go over the past in this respect but I hope that now the debts have been cleared, now that the hon. members on the other side are forced to look for justifications of a particular line of conduct that they would look about Barbados, have time to reflect upon the difficulties of administering a housing programme and that we will join together in trying to hammer out agreed procedures with a view to ensuring that money that is appropriated from the general taxpayers of Barbados is spent in such a manner as to create confidence and to deliver as many housing units as possible. It is no point us trying to prove that black is white, that wrong is right, that is not going to carry us anywhere. We know the malpractices that occurred.

What we should do, is do like what the Americans did and decide in our minds that all those who are involved in it are banished from political life, that we learn a lesson from it, that we in future, ensure that we have so attuned the public's minds to proper standards of administration so that these things will not occur in future. The Housing Report is a Report which should be a vital document to all who are interested in Government, it is essential reading. It shows you very clearly how a Prime Minister can cover up for a Minister, how a Minister can abuse his office, it shows you how a Minister can interfere in the day to day administration of the department, usurp its functions and create confusion. It shows you how a Chairman can be bullied into irresponsible actions. These are lessons, these are precedents. We do not have to look to England or America, we have our own precedents now of wrong doing. We ought to be able to benefit from it. I would hope that all Prime Ministers of Barbados, present and future would look at the mistake of the former Prime Minister of not dealing with Minister Edwards at that time instead of coming in here and trying to cover up. If he had fired Minister Edwards at that time, he would be able to walk now with his head high. As it is, he has to leave this Chamber when this debate is going on. It will haunt him for a long period of time, it is not a nice thing to have been a Prime Minister when one of your Ministers on the floor of the Hon. House of Assembly could have been accused successfully by the Opposition, of putting his hands in the pot and you as Prime Minister, did nothing about it, it is not a nice thing either to be a Prime Minister and one of your Ministers could have had a report which showed criminal activity and abuse of office and you did nothing about it. These are the precedents, it is all part and parcel of our growing up. Democracy is a very difficult thing to practice in any part of the world. We will have to learn from our own experiences and I would hope that the Housing Report would be regarded as a precedent of what not to do by any person who happens to be in public life in Barbados. It should be a warning. I am shocked that serious students of Government on the other side can attempt to rationalise the type of conduct which was set out in that report. I do not think that we are alerted from our experience when they try to do that.

As usual Sir, I now beg that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that the CHAIRMAN report progress to HIS HONOUR the SPEAKER and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. member for St. Philip North be appointed temporary Chairman of Committees.

5.00 p.m.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, on seconding the motion of the Hon. Leader of the House, I want to make just one point, and it is that I think the time has come when in looking at these Estimates, the House may well consider and it might be a matter for Parliament to look at the question of having two Chairmen of this Honourable House. It is useful that we look at that because it is certainly asking too much of the Presiding Officer to sit in here for an inordinately long time, and I think rather than having a situation which we have now, it might be useful in the future to look at having two Chairmen of Parliament whereby when we are dealing with matters like the Estimates and the Chairman is away that we would not need to have an arrangement like this to call Your Honour in, but that the second Chairman can act in his place.

With those few remarks, I second the motion made by the Hon. Leader of the House.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I understand that it would be even more appropriate if we had a suspension of this sitting for ten minutes.

I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 5.18 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is to be appreciated, but there are now two motions before this Honourable House.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to withdraw the first motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking the leave of this Honourable House to withdraw his first motion.

There being no objection his motion can be withdrawn.

And now your motion.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 5.20 p.m.

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

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I never believed that I would have heard the type of defences that were essayed in here today by the two hon. members of the Opposition who spoke. In the case of the first hon. member, he soon got into the area of deep conflict and preferred to deal with history and operate in a neutral terrace in the hope that sparks would not fly, and so he started with a quotation from the United Nations Declaration on housing, and recited a number of housing areas which he attributed to his party. For the sake of balance and for the sake of the record, there are approximately 21 housing areas in Barbados. In fact there are 21. Of that 21 there are eleven which were built during the administration of the first Barbados Labour Party Government, and I will list them, Sir: Pine, Bay Land, Thorpes, Grazettes, Belleplaine, Colleton, Six Cross Roads, Gall Hill, Sayes Court, Ellerton. Some of them are now renamed. Ellerton is now Waverley Cot and Six Cross Roads is now Farm Gardens. I do not see Clinketts on this list, but I believe Clinketts was built by the Barbados Labour Party also. That would make it a round dozen. He claimed 11 and we are claiming 12.

I accept the proposition that because Government is a continuous process and because housing is a basic need, successive Governments would have to address their attention to the development of a housing stock and the provision of proper accommodation for its citizens. What I can't accept from the hon. member for St. Michael South is that there was no great planning to be seen in the Ministry of Housing especially in the last five years of the Democratic Labour Party rule.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would give way, what the hon. member said was that planning or no planning the result was there.

Mr. SIMMONS: That is a negative way of looking at it, Sir, but that is typical of the Democratic Labour Party doing things in an ad hoc manner. They ran the economy in an ad hoc way, they built houses in an ad hoc way. He is now saying that you need no planning so long as you get structures up, the end result was that what you can very well have is a concrete jungle. You build on green belt if you like; just put up some houses, and that is what led the Democratic Labour Party, the former Prime Minister and my Brother-in-Law Philip Greaves into the morass that they found themselves in with Oxnards. That is what led them into confusion in Oxnards; no planning, so that when the Housing Authority was going to start work at Fernihurst, the Prime Minister as he was at the time called and said, go to Oxnards and put up some houses, they have high visibility content, and shifted from an area where planning had been arranged and went straight into Oxnards and started without any planning. That is how they did it and it landed them in this Hanschell Report. (Mr. TAITT: The houses falling apart?) Yes, some of the same houses that were built in a hurry are leaking and falling down.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the houses must fall down because in Oxnards the Ministry of Communications and Works has one of the biggest problems of solving the drainage problem, because there was no planning, houses are built that the slightest rain that falls a whole lot of the houses are flooded out. Not only are they cracking, but they are causing concern to the Fire Department who have got to turn up and bale out people from their houses and pump the water out. That is what the hon. member is trying to say. You must plan before you rush in and put up.

Mr. SIMMONS: Yes, they have problems in Husbands, they have problems in Oxnards and now we see the reason they had these problems out of the mouth of the hon. member for St. Michael South West. They did not have to plan; put them up even if you build across a watercourse. I would invite hon. members to look at the difference when the project in West Terrace starts this year; look at the difference in planning, the engineering work that has gone into that.
5.25 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, Sir, I hate to interrupt him, but I would not wish him to continue going down the road and talking about planning in that context because he would be casting aspersions, it seems to me, on the technical persons in the various sectors in the department. Do not talk about planning and putting up like if the former Prime Minister used to go out there with a hammer and a saw and put up the houses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask all hon. members on both sides of the House to desist from constant interruptions.

Mr. SIMMONS: How could the hon. member be suggesting that I was reflecting on a technician who was responsible for planning when they had none? They had somebody called a Housing Development Officer in the Ministry who didn't plan anything. When he came to the National Housing Corporation and was made Chief Tech-

nical Officer, then he started to function within the scope of the development that was envisaged for the Corporation, but up at Marine House he had no opportunity to function. It is all there minuted, Sir, and that is why the decision was taken with his agreement to come down to Country Road, and ultimately now he has moved on to Black Rock. He was anxious to come down there so that the man could properly function in a situation that he was best qualified to function in.

Now, the hon. member for St. Michael South West – he has just gone but I will still deal with him, Sir, he will hear it outside – he began by saying that the Hanschell Report – he is decrying and down playing the value of the Hanschell Report – listen to him, Sir, the Hanschell Report is nothing more than the observations of three men. What he is seeking to suggest is that the Hanschell Report did not make any findings of fact, observation. What happens when a jury of twelve men say guilty of malpractice? What happens if a jury of twelve men say guilty of murder? Is that the observation of twelve? Found guilty, Sir, and throughout this report the Commissioners have been very careful to say it is not only our opinion but it is also our finding that so and so was the case. Not observations, facts, and they are there to find facts and that's what they found.

The stance adopted by the hon. member for St. Michael South West is interesting. It is not dissimilar from the stance adopted by his party in respect of Neville Maxwell - ditch him – anticipating what would probably come out in this, they took steps since last year to chase away Mr. Edwards out of the party. I say that, in anticipating and well knowing what was likely to be contained in this, as we would say in wrestling, Sir, there is no on top, leave him there, and today in this House of Assembly the erstwhile colleague of the members on that side cannot point to one of them or even a sentence by one of them in his defence in here today. That is how they behave to their own, he is still their own, they keep ringing him and begging him to run, he is still their own. *(Asides).* When you made the offer to Amory Phillips week before last and he told you he is not running, you went back to Joy begging him, since the constituency group said they do not want any Hunte, you went for Amory Phillips and he said no, and you went back to Joy to see if he would run. We are well seized of the happenings within the breast of that party, Sir.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West who currently lives in a house – and Mr. Cameron Tudor, his neighbour, also lives in one – built by the same Mr. Edwards today did not get up in here and raise one finger in his defence. He dealt with Philip Greaves, trying to exonerate him from the findings of the Hanschell Commission, and it is really shocking, but it is a measure of the way they operate within that party, that not one of them yet has sought to defend the finding with respect to Mr. Edwards by the Hanschell Commission. You talk about liking people?

Now, it was the hon. member for St. Michael South West who made the allegation that to get a house at the Housing Authority you have to know the right people; unless you know the right person, yes. Members on that side, Sir, can tell you that when I was at the Housing Authority they approached me on behalf of constituents or friends of theirs for assistance in housing and I helped them. These are things that you wouldn't like to discuss here or to go in the record necessarily, but if they start it the facts must be given in a balanced way. There are members on that side, Sir, who have got help when I was at the Housing Authority.

Now in 1962, Sir, on the 11th October, 1962, if I may use this as just one example of the problems that the Housing Corporation has had over the years in collection of rents and arrears, collections based on loans even, the 11th October, 1962 Mr. LeRoy Brathwaite, who was a former Secretary of the Democratic Labour Party, borrowed $1,000 from the Housing Corporation. Now, this was one year after they had been in power, one year after people in Barbados had been encouraged by the former Prime Minister not to pay any rent for the houses and so on, and his first payment on that loan made on the 11th October, 1962 was made on the 30th April, 1975, 13 years later, paid for the first time, by which time of course it was statute barred but at least he paid. What did he pay? $102.32 as principal and $17.68 as interest. He did not pay again for four years, the next payment on the 15th September, 1979, last year, and that payment was only made after four letters had been written to him. He paid $60 and agreed to pay $60 a month, he has not paid cent one since the 15th September, 1979. The impression that was given in here by those who spoke for the Opposition was, "don't mind the technicalities, don't mind the procedures that have to be followed, so long as housing developments go up, so long as people get loans, don't worry about the methods." That came clearly out of what was said by the two members who spoke for the Opposition.

5.35 p.m.

As a lawyer I understand how sometimes you have a bad case but you have to make some kind of defence, so I would not expect them not to make some kind of defence. Indeed there can be no doubt that the hon. member for St. Michael South West is going to be a success at the Bar. I told him that last night after he asked a number of questions in here without even looking down at his notes and today he has no case to defend but can still make some criticisms just the same.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that it is recognized on both sides that especially in an area delivering social services like housing you get approaches from members of the

public. They come to your office, they ring you at home, they meet you outside the House of Assembly, they speak to you on the streets. But the essential moral of the Hanschell Report is that even though there may be these intervening considerations you are not to allow political expediency to operate above the legal requirements. You have a Financial Audit Act which the hon. member for St. John said he himself drafted. You have the Financial Rules which he said he drafted to set down the guidelines as to how Statutory Boards and Ministries should operate in relation to the disbursement of funds. But take the case of the Hanschell Report on the award of tenders. If the Financial Rules say you must go to tender for sums in excess of $15,000, do not feel you can breach that by giving your friend the contract. There is a view held that the tenders system is a sham but I can say that it was not a sham when I was at the National Housing Corporation. And before you award a tender you must get information on the companies you are investigating because you can come across a situation where you find a letterhead coming in from So and So Company Limited – a low tender – and when you check the Registry there is no such company. Now if we had not been on our guard and had awarded that tender we would have found ourselves in the same position as Contec found itself in in 1974–75; – you would have given the contract to a company with no financial base and sooner or later we would have to take away the contract. The trouble with Philip Greaves is that he did not stop the contract at an early stage when he found things were not going right. He was advised to end the contract but he refused. The contract dragged on and when I came in in 1976 I had to finish work started by Contec. That however may be a question of judgment or trying to do your incompetent best. But in respect of the contracts, for example, two awarded in 1973, one of them for 1,000 houses $6,150 each. These are some of the criticisms about a contract dated February 26, 1973: The date for completion of the contract was the end of June 1973 – five months to complete 1,000 houses. There was no clause in the contract for any increase for possible increases in the cost of materials or labour. Exactly one month and one day after they had signed the contract to build for $6,150 per unit, when they should have known whether there was going to be a new major agreement signed with construction workers which would carry up construction costs, a month after signing the contract they came for the first increase of $645 per unit. That was granted. On the 14th May – now the contract is to finish on 30th June – a month and sixteen days before the scheduled completion they come back for another $645 per unit. Again that was approved. That is incompetence both by the Corporation and the Minister who sanctioned it. That is what the Hanschell Report said, it was incompetence.

In respect of Contec – I just saw a couple of names in this – if all was well at the Housing Authority as members of the other side would have us believe, why is it that three members of the Housing Authority – Mr. Springer, Mr. Trotman and Mr. Walker – found themselves having to disagree with decisions made by the Board? Why did they ask that their dissent be recorded in the Minutes? Yet, despite their protestations, the Minister still did as he pleased.

Sir, there are indications in here which reveal that contracts for which tenders should have been advertised were awarded without advertisement. That is a breach of the Financial Rules prepared by the hon. member for St. John, and yet people come in here and say that it is not malpractice. It is malpractice and malfeasance.

Mr. Chairman, all I can say is that I have sympathy with the Opposition's position today. but it is untenable. It was not Hanschell alone, it was Hanschell, Gibbons, McConney and Walmsley – four people.
5.45 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have been following this debate which I think the Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House started. The hon. member for Christ Church South Central got up and said he wanted to talk about Housing. He said that he did not wish to be diverted from Housing and talk about any kind of report in here today. Yet midway through his speech, he clearly got carried away. He could not resist the temptation. He quite forgot what he said and ended up talking about criminal activity.

The hon. member for St. Philip North has just got up in here and made out a case. He said it was a matter of incompetent management. He said nothing about corruption. These were the words of the hon. member for St. Philip North and what I want to make clear is this and I think the general public including the representatives of CBC inside here should take the opportunity to repeat what the hon. member, a legal luminary who has clearly read the Report very carefully, who has been Chairman of the Housing Corporation for some time, whose legal judgment I accept because I always prefer to listen to the legal opinion coming from the back bench than the front bench and give the correct interpretation of malpractice, but I also want to quote for the benefit of this Honourable House that this Report also said this.

It also said "We should perhaps add that no evidence was adjuced at our Enquiry directly connecting either Mr. D. Edwards of Mr. P. Greaves with any of the criminal prosecution aforesaid whether already brought or recommended for future investigation." Well, the Lawyers can interpret that as they like but it is quite clear to me that what they are saying is that they find no evidence of criminal activity. That is in the Report but the other side they are capable of interpreting any kind of Report.

They came in here and they laid the Duffus Report. Not laid, but they pelt it across here quiet as a mouse, nothing heard and now they recognise that with 1981 around the corner, now they realise that all these promises that they had made will not come to fruition; now they realise a kind of falling away of support from the Barbados Labour Party that obtains throughout this country, they hope that this Report will salvage them now and they are trying to make a mountain out of a mole hill.

My judgment, Mr. Chairman, is that this Report says basically what the hon. member for St. Philip North took pains to explain and I will say this. In 20 years from now when Barbados has had 50 years of management, whether it be at corporate level or at other level as times go on, you will probably find that Ministers will have less and less of what is a so called intervention in their Ministries. Less and less as time goes on.

I think that the same kind of charges that have been levelled at two Ministers of a previous Administration that there was a time when the same type of charges were levelled at Ministers of the previous Administration but there was no Commission. The fact is, Mr. Chairman, I can see a dilemma that a Minister must have when he is faced with getting a job done and when he knows that he is not getting a feed back, when he knows that is not involved in anything corrupt, when he knows that he is not actually involved and I speak specifically of Mr. Philip Greaves and he knows that he is not involved in anything corrupt and that he is not getting a kick back, I think it is grossly unfair that the word "malpractice" should be applied if it is a matter of Administration.

Mr. BRADSHAW: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. member saying that the same thing applies to Mr. Edwards.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, to continue. There must be some clear distinction in our minds between someone who may have, I do not know, been in a situation where there is some infraction of a rule in order to get something done and someone who has been an infraction of the rule to get something in order to line his pocket. Now let us be clear about that.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. member suggesting that Mr. Edwards was doing something to line his pockets?

Dr. HAYNES: No, Sir, I am not suggesting that. I am speaking of the general principle, the general principle and certainly not anything about Mr. Edwards. But, Mr. Chairman, I would have thought that of the last people in the World that I would have heard the word "cover up" coming from the other side. I would say no more on that. Nor would I have heard the sort of sophistry coming from the member for St. Philip South when there is a clear statement in this Manifesto which I shall read in a minute where this Government committed itself, told the people of Barbados, campaigned night after night and stated that not enough was being done in Housing.

It was clearly stated that "the Barbados Labour Party believes that every Barbadian has the right to decent housing at reasonable cost." I agree with that. "The Party will therefore, on being returned to power embark on a programme for the building of at least 800 houses per year." Now they could not be talking about private and public sector housing.

I would like to draw to the attention of this Honourable House that if you look at the housing boom that took place in Barbados in the late 60's that far more than 800 houses a year were built in Barbados. I have had this argument before with the hon. member for Christ Church South Central and there is no doubt and I will know because around that time a lot of people now have come into housing who did not know anything about housing in Barbados. In the late 60's I made my contribution to Government Housing Development.
5.55 p.m.

I served on the Urban Development Corporation not on the Board. I do not wish.....(Hon. B. A. MILLER: What happened?) What happened? I can tell you that more than 800 houses were built certainly between 1968 to 1970. You were talking, unless you did not read the Manifesto, about the Government building 800 houses a year and now you come to tell us, that your projections in your fourth year of office are 400 to 500. One thousand and seventy-one houses after almost four years now. Up to now, you have not said how many of those programmes were started when you came into power, if any.

There is a question which I have before this Parliament, to which I do not wish an answer. When I asked that question, someone else was Minister of Housing. The present Hon. Minister has made it clear that he is not answering it so I do not want any answer from him anyhow. Someone else is Minister because you know, you talk about malpractices but when you start talking about people threatening to starve half of this country and continue in Ministerial office, that is a serious situation. When you want to talk about people who should have resigned in certain circumstances, if you want to talk about integrity, let me get down to talk about integrity at ministerial level and ministerial behaviour, what constitutes the basis for ministerial resignation. We will have the opportunity, I hope later in these Estimates, to explain to

my very good friend, my former legal adviser, whose advice I have always taken very seriously and which has always been very beneficial and who is making a very careful note; I will have an opportunity to explain to him what constitutes the basis for ministerial resignation. Of course, I refer to the hon. member for Christ Church West.

This side has been accused of ad hocism. Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church East was one of the first or the earliest speakers in this debate and he got up and pointed out very clearly that there is no plan, that the Government still have no plan for housing and that they are continuing on the same basis of ad hocism. The hon. member for Christ Church East called for a plan from that side and I respect his position. There is no plan. I think that some other hon. member later tried to explain away the fact that there is no plan.

We heard a lot of nonsense about the question of building across drains, natural water ways. The fact is Mr. Chairman, that in all these Caribbean Islands including Barbados – yesterday, I did not speak on the question of drainage – whether it is Government developments or private developments, that developments have taken place throughout Barbados without proper regard to the historic drainage streams in Barbados and that is a contributory factor to the kind of flooding that you get nowadays. Mr. Chairman, there are one or two constructive suggestions, constructive statements – I wish the hon. member for Christ Church West would stop trying to influence the Chair in the conduct of its duties, I know that you would not be influenced by him but I overheard him trying to intervene.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member likes to suggest that I influence people, but he does not have the guts to make the suggestion in the right place so that it could be tested at the right time.

Dr. HAYNES: The question Mr. Chairman, of long term mortgages. We appreciate that this is a step in the right direction. The question of reduction in deposits, I am talking about private sector housing now, but there are two negative factors which I think the Government has to come to grips with. There seems to be a considerable amount of doubt at the moment, as to the status of the deductibility from your income tax of money spent on repairs to houses. That is a matter which needs some clarification. I think, that in the Budget last year, there was a suggestion, I do not think there was any clarification, the general public at large do not know and this is an important factor that will significantly influence the maintenance of the housing stock in this country.

The other factor that will need to be looked at of course, is the limitation of the amount of money in terms of mortgages that can be deducted. I think it is $6,000 a year. With the rapidly increasing cost of housing, I think that it is going to have a fairly negative effect on building within a particular bracket because what might have been a $30,000 house three years ago will now be a $60,000 house or $70,000 house because the cost of building has gone up probably by about 100% over the past four to five years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. HAYNES: Time this time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I would like to follow the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. I have never heard a speech in which he was more like a mouse than the speech he has just made. He is usually towering in here, roaring, laying down the law, using his hands in majestic gesticulations. No such on this and the reason is quite clear Sir. It is impossible for him to defend the indefensible.

It is nonsense talking about the Government is making a mountain out of a mole hill. We must either get very clear on the constitutional practice of this country, the conventions which govern ministerial office once and for all, or the country must accept a lower standard of accountability by Ministers in public life. This report, is in the first place, about ministerial accountability. The duty of a Minister as a servant of the Crown and responsibility in Parliament for his policy. To conduct himself in such a way that he is within the law of the land.

The report proves quite clearly that there have been serious breaches of the law of the land by Ministers. That is the first point I want to make.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. The report said that there was no criminal activity. Are you suggesting that there were breaches of the Law of a known criminal nature?

Hon. H. deb. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to deal with all of that because people do not read the Constitution of this country. They go about misrepresenting the Constitutional Provisions and Constitutional Conventions of Barbados. There is a clear Ministerial responsibility in all of the instances cited in this report for the Ministers concerned to have resigned and if they did not, there was a clear responsibility on the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John to have demanded their resignation, Get that quite clear. You did not because you did not accept the concept so you must now stand condemned. Do not get away from it. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Prosecute me.) You cannot be prosecuted, you got thrown out and you are going to keep out.
6.05 p.m.

Either you accept the constitutional practice under which this country should be governed or you don't and if I am going to be told by any hon. member on the other side that this is not going to be the constitutional practice for Barbados, okay, and if the country is prepared to accept that, let us get that as the standard of government which the country has. But there will be individual responsibility of the Ministers. They should have tendered their resignation, and there was the collective responsibility of the Cabinet presided over by the then Prime Minister. The then Prime Minister failed in his duty as a Minister of the Crown and with responsibility for this Government at the time to have discharged that duty, and it must reflect adversely on his party and on the Government of the day, and there is no where in the western system of democracy that I can hear anybody ever get up afterwards and justify that sort of conduct. That is the first point that one must get clear in the debate. We are not talking about rumours. We must begin to talk about duties. I want you to talk weight because I am not talking about rumours; I am talking about responsibility. That is point one.

Secondly, this report finds quite clearly that a Minister used his position to confer a direct financial benefit on companies with which he was associated and with families. That is what it finds. Don't get away from it. You either accept the finding or you don't. What I am saying quite clearly in here is that if you get that finding and you accept that finding, something must be wrong where there are conflicts of duty.

Now I heard a lot of debate on integrity laws, but one of the things that is quite clear and one of the arguments that is quite clear is that there must be sufficient legislation for preventing conflict from occurring in situations like these. Now I want to hear any member on the other side say to the contrary. I want to hear them say to the contrary that conflicts of interest as is shown up by this is now what the hon. member is going to call an error. The hon. member will find that I will conduct this debate according to the standards I understand and will not become personal. I am going to deal with the issues. If he wants to be personal about Hanschell or anybody, be so. I do not have to argue cases that way. There is nothing that I say on the floor of the House that I would not repeat outside about anybody in here if I had to say it. I do not argue in public life by rumours and by attacking people in that way. I am dealing with this and this is the principal concern. I am concerned about it because I want to know if we are all operating under the same system whether there are proper systems of Government, whether we want a modification of them, whether the conventions are acceptable. That is what I want to know and I am saying that if the findings of this Commission that there was misuse of office in circumstances where a company with which the Minister was closely associated was obtaining the benefit in the manner set out in here whether that was not a clear conflict of interest. I do not matter how much the hon. members may go on on serious rumours about this. I am concerned about that, and I think that we as legislators in the House have a duty to prevent this sort of conflict of interest from occurring at all in public life. That is why you see we get wrapped up with adequate salaries for Ministers; we get wrapped up with laying down rules dealing with the conduct of Cabinet.

I am aware that the Rt. Honourable member did have such rules as indeed this Cabinet has, but the rules must also go further and have the force of law, and that is why when I see a lot of criticism on the need for integrity legislation here, I am satisfied that people have not studied the position in Barbados adequately, because this book here justified quite clearly the need for preventing this sort of situation from occurring; let us put it this way. What am I going to be told? That one of the hon. members – I am taking a supposition, I am not alleging at all that this occurred, but let us assume that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central happened to be in the Ministry of Health and that he had a company, or the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, you are both medical people, and that he is dealing in drugs, am I to be told that that company will get exclusive contracts without obvious public tender and public scrutiny, and that it be considered satisfactory? I am going to ask him that. *(Asides)* You see, I am not being frivolous about this. Perhaps the only hon. member who would conduct the debate at this level is the hon. member for St. Michael South because both of us are serious students and I believe South West sometimes when he is not playing to the Gallery. We are very serious students of governmental structures and what they mean, and the statements that I make in here I would make if I was on the Opposition side likewise, and if I was in the Opposition I would likewise do it here too.

There has never been a position that I have not got up in the House at any time in Opposition or Government and said I do not agree with A, B, C because it is not according to ministerial practice. *(Asides)* Let us get a chance next year with any reports you want. I do not mind. What I am sure is that when I leave my office you can go and investigate anything you want at any time. In fact I will give you the opportunity to do it now if you want to. That is what I want to tell you. I am not talking about rumours now; I am talking about realities. I am not talking about slander on platforms by people or foolishness; I am talking about facts that can be proved. In here there are two levels of responsibility. There is a level of responsibility which has a political sanction of resignation; that is the first level. And there is the level of responsibility which has the sanction that could either be a criminal sanction for what is called a misdemeanour, misuse of public office for a direct or indirect benefit to

yourself, and that is criminal sanction. Or it could have the other level of responsibility if we had adequate legislation where a conflict of interest would have been a breach of the Parliamentary Act and I believe that if the facts of some of these cases are investigated, they actually are, or alternatively there could be a breach of legislation dealing with a conflict of interest, and the Crown would be entitled to recover every cent.

I am not concerned with Joy Edwards or Philip Greaves. I consider both of them personal friends and have nothing against either of them. I am not conducting this debate on that basis at all. *(Asides)* Well they may not consider themselves my friends. I used to consider the Rt. Hon. member for St. John my friend, but he cannot separate political rivalry or disagreement from personal friendship. I can do that. *(Asides)* I don't want anybody's friendship. I have no difficulty with that all in the Opposition being personal friends of mine. If they have difficulty, I do not have that sort of difficulty because to me, as I repeat it, political power you have it today and it is gone tomorrow, and I do not believe that political power is all that is important in a country.
6.15 p.m.

I said in this debate and I will repeat, I don't have to tear down people in order to build up myself, because it is always a dangerous precedent. I have never practised it and I don't intend to practise it, but the point remains that none of us in here should be happy of a report such as this. Despite the fact that it is a report against the Democratic Labour Party Ministers, if it was a report against the Barbados Labour Party Ministers we should all be unhappy about it, because it is not the sort of standard that we will want to import into political life. If we believe the country wants that, then let the country accept it and we will play the game according to that, but we have a duty to tell the country that it is wrong conduct and there is no way that we ought to come in here to whitewash the conduct. Now, I know that might be Sunday School politics, some people want power and you don't play politics that way. That's all right, if that's our concept of how we want Barbados to be governed, but it is not the right concept, and I am concerned and bothered about this report.

Now, I want to state one thing. I have a duty and I don't have to consult the Cabinet on this. I intend to refer the report, as I must do under the Constitution, to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, is it not true that this has been already reported to the DPP? Because it was reported so in the Press some time back.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am saying what I intend to do. There is a recommendation clearly in here for the prosecution of one person. That is one. Two, there are other areas in here in which I am advised that there may have been other breaches of the laws of Barbados, and I intend to refer it. Now let us stop and let the country get a few things straight, because they continue to misrepresent the role of an Attorney General according to the Constitution of Barbados. I have no powers of prosecution. Nothing is disclosed in here that will come under the limited powers that are reserved to an Attorney General to take action, so I am not giving the House or making any statement, as they always misquote some of my statements on this area of responsibility, that I as Attorney General intend to prosecute anybody, because I do not have those powers. I am not Keith Walcott, he used to have them. They were taken away from Attorneys General in the 1960's with the Director of Public Prosecutions Act, I think the Rt. Hon. member introduced such a Bill in the 1960's, and there were good reasons why he should, and it continued so under the Independence Constitution, and I accepted the good reasons why they have continued that way, I am not querying those reasons. I will refer the report. I would expect the Director of Public Prosecutions to exercise his independent judgement as to whether on his investigation of the facts he finds that there should be any particular action taken.

Now, Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons why I welcome a Director of Public Prosecutions having a word in matters such as this is this, no matter what people say. It is possible for political considerations to weight extremely heavy in dealing with a matter such as this. Now, the political considerations may be the uppermost considerations in the minds of the Opposition or the Government on matters such as this; quite legitimate. I am not quarrelling about that, they would want to put their particular sides to the people at large, but when it comes to dealing with breaches of the criminal law the Director of Public Prosecutions cannot take those as the uppermost considerations into his mind, and therefore I will expect him to exercise as usual his independent judgment in dealing with matters such as this.

I want to again point out, Sir. I know of no instances where I have powers either to direct the police or the Director of Public Prosecutions to deal with matters such as this, and I will do what I have to do in the correct way, despite my position is generally misrepresented in coming with this, and I want to end on this word of caution. I believe that the principles at stake must be debated as principles, not in relation to persons only, and that I believe that both political parties owe it to the country on this area of our public life to get quite clear as to what are the guidelines that we want and we believe the country ought to have to guide our conduct in ministerial office in this way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If no other hon. member is desirous to make a contribution, I shall ask the Minister to wind up.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, we have had a fairly long debate, at times heated, on this rather sensitive matter of housing. I think it demonstrated very clearly that housing is very important in the whole political system in Barbados. That is clearly demonstrated. Indeed I would go so far as to say, Mr. Chairman, that housing is fundamental in any developmental process. I think that the question of where people live, the kind of facilities which people enjoy from time to time in the kind of housing which is provided is a fact which has been recognised both by the Democratic Labour Party and by the Barbados Labour Party.

If one were to examine the quality of housing which was provided by the Democratic Labour Party during its term of office, one would see very clearly that a tremendous amount of attention was paid in providing good quality houses for people who were housed in programmes which were initiated and developed by the Democratic Labour Party, and indeed the Barbados Labour Party administration is continuing with this particular development. So that I think that both parties are at one relative to the importance of housing. We have had a lot of talk here today about the kind of methods which were adopted in trying to deliver goods, as it were, in housing. There has been some disagreement as to the methods which were used, but the fact of the matter is that there is a tremendous backlog, and for some time there has been a tremendous backlog, in the area of housing. I would dare say, Mr. Chairman, that it would be almost impossible for any Government, whether it is the Government of the Barbados Labour Party or a Government of the Democratic Labour Party, to satisfy the housing needs of this country in the foreseeable future, because the demand is so great.
6.25 p.m.

So that when one comes to talk about this particular matter one has got to be aware of the realities of the situation, and I would say that the Democratic Labour Party made a substantial contribution and indeed made a gallant effort at attempting to satisfy those needs, so that the contribution from this side, and indeed the position expounded from this side relative to the method, and if one wants to say the defence put up concerning the methods has got to be appreciated, and I believe hon. members from this side have spoken quite clearly and defended the position the Democratic Labour Party took on the question of housing. I would like to say – not getting into the rancour – I think there has been a lot of it on this matter – but I would like to ask information on two specific points and to make one observation. The observation relates to a point made by the hon. member for St. James when he was introducing this Head. He referred to the development at Sion Hill in St. James, where I think he said that 26 families were moved out from Spring Head and replaced in the development at Sion Hill. I think the point has to be made that the whole idea to develop Sion Hill was an idea which was developed by the Democratic Labour Party; indeed I have passed that road often and I knew from 1975 or 1976 that that property was acquired by the Democratic Labour Party and roads put in with the intention of doing the kind of project – not necessarily moving people from Spring Head, but the kind of project which has been pursued by the hon. member for St. James in this area, that is, site and service development along with land for people to work, so that the concept he is pursuing is nothing new. But the observation I would like to make is one which pains me to see the way in which the development has taken place, and I would like to invite hon. members to pass there and see if they would feel proud of that development, with the toilets and kitchens facing the road and the front facing the hills. I want to know if that is the kind of development one can be proud about. *(Asides)* I believe, according to the hon. member for St. Michael South, the idea is to invite the people living there to lift up their eyes unto the hills.

Mr. BRADSHAW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member should also say that Clapham Park was also designed to have the toilets facing the road.

Mr. GREAVES: When one starts to talk, one has got to be aware of the facts and I have put the facts on the table: (1) that the project was developed by the Democratic Labour Party, (2) the way the development is taking place and the way the houses are sited must be condemned and those responsible should be ashamed. I understand that there is a similar situation at Fernihurst, with the bedrooms facing the road. It is a concept in housing for which there will not be total agreement. There may be schools of thought which would suggest that this is the way houses should be built and another school of thought that houses should be built another way, but it shows the kind of difficulties one would have to reconcile in housing developments that will be satisfactory to everybody, because housing is a difficult matter, especially if you are involved in mass production of houses. But houses should have some individuality and so when you come to producing houses *en masse,* there will be difficulties.

The other question I would like to ask refers to St. Lucy. I have been described as a parish pump politician, but I have been sent here by the people of St. Lucy and I have no apology to make for getting up and seeking information and putting forward ideas for the benefit of the people of St. Lucy. About a year or so ago this House accepted a Resolution which I brought relative

to housing in St. Lucy. It was accepted without division or disagreement from the Government side, and I have listened to the hon. Minister for some development plan or some statement which would indicate whether or not there would be any effort made in developing housing in St. Lucy, but I have not heard of any. I have noticed recently that the Barbados Labour Party constituency branch in St. Lucy is at one with me on this, because they sent in a Resolution which was adopted by the constituency calling on the government to establish a housing development at Checker Hall. So I think that the question of housing in St. Lucy should be seriously considered, and I thought that the Minister would have given us some idea of what plans Government had for the establishment of some housing development in St. Lucy. But I notice that the lands at Checker Hall have been acquired for the construction of a cement plant, so government seems to be going ahead with the construction of a cement plant at a cost of US$75 million and so the future of these lands as a site for housing development would obviously be in doubt. But there are other lands in St. Lucy that could be developed for housing purposes – over at the Hope or near the district hospital. These lands could be used for housing development, whether complete units or lots with sites and services. This would redound to the benefit of the people of St. Lucy and I would sincerely hope that the Minister in his reply will give some indication of what we will be doing in this respect. I submit that it is an urgent matter and one which should be given the careful attention it deserves.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not rise to reply to the hon. member for Christ Church West; indeed I do not know if he wishes me to reply to his statements made today. But I would wish to reply to the hon. member for St. Michael North East, but I do not think he has spoken yet.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, there is nothing for me to say. I have been listening for the Opposition to come out with something constructive.
6.35 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that he is waiting for something constructive to come out because if the hon. member for St. Michael North East has any admirers out here, I am one of his admirers. I admire the hon. member for St. Michael North East. He is a friend of mine. I very well recall, I believe it was last Friday or sometime recently he attempted to raise a matter in relation to Education about some student who was expelled or suspended from the Lodge School and he was prevented on that occasion from raising the matter and he was promised that he would get an occasion during the Estimates to raise it and he has not been given that opportunity yet. He was being very constructive.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order. Is the hon. member very serious about debating the question before the House.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Very, very serious. It is a very important issue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will please begin.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am waiting for the hon. member for St. Michael North East to make his contribution. Maybe he is a bit timid on this occasion here. We are not the timid ones over here. We are speaking on this issue but after his treatment yesterday by the Minister of Communications and Works he must be afraid to speak today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is delaying. Please continue if you are interested seriously.

Are you on a point of order?

Mr. SISNETT: Yes, I think I am on a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will correct you if you are not.

Mr. SISNETT: I will like to assure the hon. member that this member is quite capable in any circumstance to represent himself when I have the occasion to and I will represent myself whether it be on Education or Housing or anything in this House.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am glad that he can stand up to the Minister of Communications and Works and reply to him. This is a most important debate, Mr. Chairman, and I must express my deep concern and I want to know why it is that with the connivance of the Government while we were listening to this debate today there were some noises coming from foreign airplanes or helicopters making it very difficult for members of Parliament and this Parliament to conduct their business today with the type of decorum that it should be conducted in. I am very concerned about that. I am very concerned that we can have foreign military aircraft in this country making low scoops and dives over this Parliament.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can assure the hon. member that the matter will be looked into.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am very glad for that assurance. I am not anti-United States, but I believe that during this week when Parliament is debating the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for this country that we could have programmes arranged with the understanding of the Government and we can hear about a

Military Band parading in Trafalgar Square and making noises that would obviously interfere with the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber.

I believe that it is a breach of privileges of this Parliament and that the Government has responsibility to the people of this country that whatever allowances and so they may develop that they must not permit that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN stands.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please. We must have order in this Honourable House. Be quiet, please. I ask for order.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I just rise to find out under which Head the hon. member is really speaking because I am not aware that we are dealing with Defence matters or anything like that. If he is worried about the matter some information can be given.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I can tell him. We are talking about the Environment. The Minister introduced his Head for the Environment.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: This Government – I do not have to beg for any headlines.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Does the hon. member wish to speak about starvation?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please be seated. We must have order and the hon. member for St. Michael South please address yourself to the subject of the debate. There is a rule against irrelevancy.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I did not quite hear you, Mr. Chairman. There is a rule against irrelevancy? Mr. Chairman, this Government has been accusing us of a cover-up. A number of speakers on the Government side has given the impression that this Government has conducted some type of cover-up as far as its progressive housing policy is concerned.

I want to make it abundantly clear to the almost 50% of the people of this country who supported the Democratic Labour Party in the last Election, I want to assure them that there has been no cover up as far as the programmes of the Democratic Labour Party are concerned and as far as the management of resources of this country are concerned.

We are fully conscious and we were fully conscious of our responsibilities to the people of this country as far as housing was concerned and indeed, Mr. Chairman, as far as our management of the other resources of this country were concerned.

When we felt after due consideration that there were some weaknesses in the agencies for the administration of housing in this country were concerned, we discussed the matter and we came to the conclusion that the strictures which we inherited as far as the management of housing were concerned, that it was inadequate and we revamped the Housing Authority and established a National Housing Corporation in order to bring greater efficiency to the management of those resources.

When the complaints were raised about certain inefficiencies of that particular Corporation, it was the Democratic Labour Party itself which established a Committee to examine the complaints which were being laid and to make recommendations. This is no cover-up. This was a Government which was recognising that when there are complaints made those complaints should be investigated by a competent Body and that recommendations were to be expected from the Body which was set up.

Let me quote for you Mr. Chairman. The terms of reference of the Committee which was set up:

> "1. To investigate and report on all aspects of the Administration and Organisation of the National Housing Corporation."

Now what type of cover-up would it be of a Government of the Democratic Labour Party or any Government which would set up a Committee to investigate matters, so the charge of cover-up we reject entirely. Let them come with other charges.
6.45 p.m.

What was the Committee to investigate? With special reference to the accounts, the work of the Welfare Section, the work of the maintenance division, the operation of the workshop and the stores section at the Pine and the Committee was also charged to make recommendations for improving controls of the more efficient execution of the work of the corporation and as if those terms were not wide enough, it was given a kind of a blanket charge generally to enquire and report on any matter relating to the work of the corporation. Mr. Chairman, I know that you are a reasonable man, I do not think that you would deny that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would you expect me not to?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Would I expect you not to deny that? When I hear speakers on that side, who have responsibility, get up and charge the Democratic Labour Party or as they call it, the previous administration for trying to conduct some type of cover up, I must reject that

particular charge outright. Any thinking member of this community must reject it because if you set up a committee with those terms of reference to enquire into all matters relating to housing, what kind of cover up would that be? Not only did we set those terms of reference because there is a way in which you can set up committees and you can choose the members of the committee, but committee is not the word it is called now, it is commission, and you can set up a committee or commission and go about hand picking those members whom you know might be most...*(Aside: Come off that Sandy.)* Come off what? I am not talking about the Pine. What Commission? Do you want me to come off something?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: The hon. member for St. Michael South East wants me to come off something. I will come off that. What I am saying is that this was not a case of hand picking anybody. We chose the Head of the Civil Service, I do not think that anybody in here will include the Head of the Civil Service, Sir Carlisle Burton of being a supporter of the Democratic Labour Party or of the Barbados Labour Party. He is the Head of the Civil Service, a man of integrity whose position is recognised throughout the world. He has just returned from Zimbabwe. You talked about Mugabe yesterday, I do not know how that related to agriculture.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, earlier today when I called a name, it was drawn to my attention that names should not be called. Here you have an hon. member calling a name and I would submit Sir, that he should not call any names in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is noted, thanks for the reminder.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, how could you take that point? I am referring to the man in his official capacity. The rule says that I can refer to anybody in their official capacity. Do not be misled by the hon. member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I want to tell the hon. member for St. Michael South, you should have given prior notice and that is my ruling.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. If you would refer to the Rules, I am very sorry that you are in danger of being misled by the hon. member for St. Michael South East. Mr. Chairman, on this question of reference to names, I am drawing to your attention that the Rule says except the man is being referred to in his public office. Now Sir, he was discussing a report, not the man and the man was the Chairman of that report, the Burton Report, it was headed by Sir Carlisle Burton.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled on that. I will entertain the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you Mr. Chairman, I abide by your rules in this matter. It was headed by Sir Carlisle Burton and the other members were, an outstanding public officer in this country who was the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. L. V. H. Lewis and then another man of integrity, Senior Crown Counsel, Mr. C. S. Payne and they also had power to co-opt such other persons as they themselves felt necessary and to present a report on the matters under the terms of reference.

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

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South who has just sat down is behaving very much out of character today.

I had a dog called Spade and whenever there were loud noises, Spade would run under the most convenient shelter. He would tremble in the most pitiful fashion and it would take a great deal of solicitation to comfort him and to assure him that the loud noises were not going to hurt him. The Rt. Hon. Member for St. John ought to ensure the hon. member for St. Michael South that the noises will not hurt him and the aeroplanes going over are just friendly aeroplanes and he need not work himself up in such an excitable state, merely on the hearing of a little noise overhead.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, since the hon. member has called my name, I do not know the identity of the aircraft. I am sure that the hon. member would be sued more by the mewing of cows rather than the noise of helicopters.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that a point of order?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, a point of explanation.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Member did not make a point of order and I am sure that you are aware of that. I would like, in as much as he has refused to comfort his colleague, I would like to tell him that the noises will not hurt him.

In looking at this Head and listening to the tone of the debate that has gone before, I would like to feel that the Opposition certainly does not want us to draw the conclusion that it does not recognise that some very

serious breaches of public conduct occurred during their administration. I think that if we are going to be chastened by this document at all, we had better read it carefully and heed its implicit meaning to all of us who have been fortunately, or unfortunately chosen as the case may be, by the people of our various constituencies to come into this Hon. House of Assembly and conduct their public business because Sir, if the lesson is lost on us, it simply means that the path is open for further breaches of the public trust. I am certain Sir, that it is serving no useful purpose to come in and cast aspersions on the conduct, the character or integrity of persons who served on this commission and who served the public as well as they did on this occasion but it perhaps would be infinitely more useful for us to go home and ponder the document to make certain that what has gone before will serve as a lesson to those of us who now serve, for others before, and perhaps others who will serve in the future, that there is a standard or public conduct expected of all public servants.

6.55 p.m.

It is a breach of faith and a gross betrayal of the trust which those thousands of people put in us when we behave as this document seems to suggest certain members behave, and I, Sir, would not like to think that this kind of thing can happen in Barbadian politics again. I believe that that is enough on that topic.

To turn to the question of public housing, I tend to believe that the need for public housing is one of the most urgent social problems facing this community today. It is an urgent social problem because the process of industrialisation and urbanisation in our country has become quite accelerated and a good many persons who were at one time perfectly able to provide shelter for themselves are now looking to the Government to provide that shelter, and that will continue so to be. When we are unable to provide this housing, a number of ancillary social problems associated with this lack follow in its wake. When people are unable to house themselves, a situation develops where the family which would ordinarily be held together in a type of ecological nucleus are pushed astray and as a consequence one part of the family goes one way and another family goes another way. *(Asides.)* We are not discussing medicine so the hon. member may be in some difficulty. And that situation leads to a break down in the communication channels and all sorts of things happen, so that we have situations like the Government Industrial School being overcrowded with people who would ordinarily have been perfectly safe and perfectly in keeping with the expectations of our society had they been properly housed and were close to the family. In St. Michael in particular those of us who represent this area, particularly recognise this need for housing and we need only pass through places like the inner City, the City of Bridgetown, Eckstein Village in St. Michael West, Brandons Beach and some other areas to see precisely what I am referring to, where people are asked to live in circumstances that are not at all conducive to good living. It is disruptive. Houses leak, the circumstances are bad.

The Barbados Labour Party has been particularly orienting itself towards the solution of this difficulty, and I must commend the industry of the present Minister responsible for housing, because like a little dynamo he has gone about the task of providing shelter in the urban areas, and Fernihurst in my own constituency comes to mind. The inner City will soon be served, and one of the problems which has been developing and accumulating under the previous administration is now being urgently attended to. I, Sir, feel that it is this kind of initiative, this kind of direction that is required, and I believe that the Barbados Labour Party Government will continue to look to the solution of the problem of housing.

I do not believe it is necessarily possible for the Government itself to provide all the complex answers in this area, and so we will have to look to other private sectors perhaps for the provision of additional accommodation for the residents of our country. Now, Sir, I heard the hon. member for St. Lucy refer to the housing development at Sion Hill and I without necessarily agreeing with the tone in which he expressed his feelings, would tend to feel that we have to look at the possibility of providing a more aesthetically pleasant situation in some of these areas, and I have heard that for the same expense or even very marginally more expense it might be possible to provide a quality of housing that would be nice to look at and still provide the shelter which is the basic service that we are trying to provide. I believe, Sir, that Santo Domingo is an example of what low income housing developments should look like. They have excellent examples of high-rise dwellings that are at one aesthetically delightful but still sufficiently basic as not to cost more money than the public treasury is able to provide for it, and I would like to see the time come soon when we begin to look to see whether it is not possible in some of the developments that are going around to do that. Now I believe that the hon. member for St. James shares my view on this because in the St. Cecilia project that is currently on the drawing board and soon to be started, I believe that he has gone to great pains to try to sell this very concept and to provide more than the very basic amenities in these housing areas.

I would like to see, for example, Sir, that our housing areas provide community services on a greater scale than are currently available. If you were to examine the Farm Housing area as one example of what the Democratic Labour Party provided for us, we have an

idea of some of the problems we are talking about, because the Farm Housing area was conceived without any of these attendant facilities that I am trying to describe. The only thing that one might regard as an extension of the basic dwelling concept is the Day Care Centre, but I believe, Sir, that in these areas we have to provide miniature parks for the children to have a safe place to play. In the Farm Housing area I stand there on Sunday evenings and watch 1000 cc motor cycles barking across from Brighton Terrace and flying right through that development posing great hazard to the residents of that community. The children do not have all the resources that they would need or the services that would provide for them to be out of the road, and as a consequence there is a very present danger to health in some of these areas. So I would like to suggest that when we are looking for land to develop for housing, we should be able to provide some of the other services, inner city pockets, parks that will help to keep our children safe from the perils that are likely to be presented. I, as I indicated earlier, believe that our present Minister of Housing has that very concept in mind and I would like to congratulate him for the speed with which he has gone about the task of providing dwellings for particularly the urban dwellers and the fact that he has gone beyond the basic concept of the elemental provision of shelter.
7.05 p.m.

I, Sir, would like in closing to again recommend to my fellow colleagues in this Chamber to take the Commission of Enquiry into the Barbados National Housing Corporation as a serious document about which we all can ponder and see if it cannot provide a level of instruction which sometimes tends to evade us in public office. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central may have to see three or four such reports before he is sufficiently instructed, but I would suggest nevertheless that he start off by reading this one, it may serve to soften his recalcitrance and may direct him into paying greater attention to the niceties of public service.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I did indicate...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has not caught my eye.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I haven't caught your eye yet, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. There are other hon. members who have not made a contribution and I will wish to hear from them.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order at this stage; please take your seat.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. I want to make this explanation. Members can speak for more than once and 15 minutes at a time. This, however, does not mean that a member must rise to the disadvantage of another member who has not made a contribution. I think it is only fair that every member who wishes to speak may have the opportunity, so before my eye should catch the hon. member for St. Michael South, the hon. member for St. Michael.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman. I wish to establish that I am not questioning your ruling, but Sir, as you will recall, May's Parliamentary Procedure agrees with Your Honour, and I am submitting for Your Honour's consideration that it is in the interest of an hon. member who has not yet spoken to see that he catches the Chairman's eye and not the Chairman's responsibility to go fishing for it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must say I object to those remarks. Will you please withdraw?

Mr. TAITT: I withdraw it, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me remind hon. members there is still a lot of work to be done on these Estimates, and the time is getting shorter and shorter and it does look as if the guillotine – that's what they call it – will have to be used.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, without repeating myself I did make the point that in recognising certain deficiencies that the previous administration set up the Burton Committee to enquire into all matters relating to the Housing Corporation. But not only did we set up the Committee, but we also took some action on the recommendations of that Committee.

Now, I am dealing with the question of this cover-up. I am told we put it in some drawer, or tore it up and put it in a waste paper basket. I am certain if those who made those charges would take the trouble to research the matter they would discover, and I am certain the member for St. Michael North West who is very studied in his approach, would discover that actions were taken on the Burton Report.

Now, that particular report highlighted a number of deficiencies. I heard the Minister in his introduction today – and I must say he must have been under heavy matters from his colleagues in the Cabinet today, he was

very restrained in introducing this matter today – I heard him say that one of the decisions taken by the present administration was to appoint a Financial Controller. I do not doubt that some of the officers who had the privilege of being trained with me in the Ministry of Education, very good officers, I must say, some of them may have had positions in the National Housing Corporation, I have no quarrel with them at all, but I want to point out that having received the report of the Burton Commission that the Democratic Labour Party Government and the Cabinet took note of that report and took a decision, I believe the date must have been on the 29th September, 1975, to approve the creation of the post of Financial Controller on the staff of the National Housing Corporation, so I don't want to hear any charges from over there that we were not taking an interest in the affairs of the National Housing Corporation, or that we were engaged in any cover-up. We recognised problems and we took decisions to investigate those problems, and when the report came in we started to act on some of those recommendations. (ASIDE) The salary was set out. I would like to assure the Minister of Housing and the Chairman of the National Housing Corporation, past and present, I didn't ask this information from any public officer, we know how to get information over here, so they need not worry about that particular aspect of it. $16,440 per annum, to demonstrate that I am not inventing any response to the charges made over there, these are facts for anyone who wishes to research the situation, they can find out for themselves, and I hope the Minister is briefed on this particular point. That was the salary going at the time for Financial Controllers in the Public Service.

Not only that, but an organisation chart setting out how that Accounts Section should be organised was considered, and that is the present chart that the Minister and the Chairman are currently working on, so we want to reject all of these charges. If you appointed a Financial Controller, we saw the need for the Financial Controller and took the decision that the post should be created.
7.15 p.m.

We set out a rationalized way in which the accounting section of the National Housing Corporation should be reorganized.

Now I want to get on to the question of this report. A lot of talk has been made about this report and I want to start probably about the middle of the report and there is a quotation there which starts on page 57 and it goes like this:

> "God give us men; the time like this demands
> Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
> Men whom the lust of office does not kill,
> Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
> Men who possess opinion and a will,
> Men who have honour, men who will not lie."

And the bottom the authorship is attributed to one "Anon".

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to make this particular point. First of all, as it is printed in this report, it is written in iambic pentameter, and the way this stanza is printed makes a nonsense of the poetry because it is not even printed as it was in the original. The second point is that it is attributed to "Anon" and even a freshman researcher would have been able to trace the author of the particular poem. It is rather sad for this to be attributed to "Anon" when it is well known that it is from a poem entitled "wanted" by the well known American author Josia Gilbert who lived in the period 1819–81; and for these commissioners to come up in this report with a pertinent quotation and attribute it to one "Anon" in these circumstances makes me hope, Mr. Chairman, that this is not the level of scholarship in the other areas of the report, because just as the research is shoddy as far as the quotation is concerned we would have to question whether sufficient research has gone into the other points made in the report.

But Mr. Chairman, let us get on to the question of malpractice. The definition chosen for malpractice in this report is taken from one of the shortest versions of the Oxford English Dictionary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is just making unnecessary repetition.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have not said this in here before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are repeating the arguments made by other hon. members.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am giving the definition of malpractice in professional circles and I will quote, when you permit me to from a number of definitions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time is up; will you please take your seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I think I would make a start with the last speaker. At 6.55 p.m. you had part three of the play; the deputy Clerk was as work. At 6.55 the Leader of the Opposition rose on a point of order and dealt with cows; therefore there is no reply necessary to be made to the Leader of the Opposition. Then we had the hon. member for St. Lucy.
7.25 p.m.

He was concerned about a house at Sion Hill with the toilets facing the roads. Now you see what he is looking at? The toilets facing the road. Then he made reference to bedrooms facing the road.

Well I know there are a number of old Plantation Houses built many years. I know –

(The Hon. Leader of the Opposition Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Messrs SANDIFORD, HAYNES and GREAVES left the Chamber).

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Lead them out, Sanford. Go ahead Sanford. Sanford and the dummies.

You have Mr. Chairman, the member for St. Lucy making reference to the houses at Fernihurst with bedrooms facing the road. Pay attention. There are so many houses in Barbados built because of the size of the lot, the way the lot is situated and you like to use the maximum space as much as you can and I would rather go with Richard Gill, a competent planner, than to be advised on toilets by the hon. member for St. Lucy. There is nothing really to add to what the hon. member has said, Sir.

Then there was the member for St. Michael South Central. On that occasion I slept. There was nothing to listen to.

Now we had the hon. member for St. Michael South West. His only criticism was that his constituents could not get a house. This Ministry and the National Housing Corporation do not look around to see which constituency you are from to give you a house. Houses are given out, as I understand it, according to need and the time of the application. For example, if you have a fire victim then you have to look after the fire victim immediately.

What they are used to is the presentation of a passport in the past to get a house so they still have the idea in the back of their minds that to get a house you have to be in a particular constituency. I know of three young ladies from the parish of St. John, as I was told, when they were investigated they were living in the most deplorable conditions you can think about where the brother was the owner of a one bedroom house, the grandmother and the father and grandfather and these three sisters occupied the house along with the brother and every Friday night the brother would have a dice dealing in the shedroof, a one bedroom house, and all of his friends will be there playing dice and the young ladies had no privacy. Do you think that is a deserted case, whether it is from St. Michael South West, St. James or St. John?

I am told that they are housed up in Fernihurst and I am sure they will be the patients eventually of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central so there is nothing much to say about the member's speech but what we did hear this evening was about the Housing Report. Now I have no plan of dealing with any Housing Report in here unlike my colleagues.

I am not debating the Housing Report in here. They can talk about the Housing Report in here. I am going to talk about it out there. It will be a different ball game where I can call them thieves and vagabonds and rascals and rats out there, in the rough and tumble. In here your language will have to be a little more sophisticated but out there, it is out there then we will know who is who.

We heard so much reference to the Burton Report and how they investigated and set up a three man Commission to investigate into the National Housing Corporation. We agree with them on that but it was on the 6th June, 1975 that the Committee submitted its first Report of an Interim Report and they recommended these three cases which were in relation to expenditure in respect of one that there was a non-existent house for a non-existent person. As I understand it, a dead man had a house and the house could not be found but yet money was used to build a house.

The second one was that materials did not arrive at the intended address and labour nor materials to repair the house of a dead man. This is the same Burton Report and it went on "The Committee presented a second Interim Report advising the Minister that he should go to the Director of Public Prosecution or to the Commissioner of Police on another case demanding further investigation as to whether an Officer of the Corporation had used Corporation Funds for personal interest."

Now this is the Sir Carlisle Burton that we hear so much about in his office and as Chairman and Mr. L. B. H. Lewis the President of the Barbados National Bank and Mr. Carlisle Payne, the Crown Law Officer, the three of them. The Report was submitted but the Minister could not attempt to bring this out and I cannot understand what Prime Minister you had on that occasion that knew of a Report which obviously had to be handed in to the Governor General and the Governor General would send on a copy to the Prime Minister and the Minister and the Prime Minister did not see this at all, did not see in this Report that the Burton Commission had recommended that it be shown to the Director of Public Prosecution or to the Commissioner of Police but we found it and we brought it to light.

Tell me if you would not agree with me that that is nothing else than a political cover-up protecting your Minister, but then I will have to resign from here. I would resign from in here if John Public would disagree with me that if a Commission was set up to investigate matters

which they were concerned about into the National Housing Corporation and the Report was given to a Minister and the Minister never submitted the Report to the Director of Public Prosecution or to the Commissioner of Police for a possible prosecution. It never saw the light of day.

Then we had a Commission set up examining the problems of the National Housing Corporation and we did not only receive it, but it was laid here on the Floor of Parliament last Monday. That is the difference between that Party and this Party. As far as the Hanschell Report is concerned, Sir, I will have my say when the occasion arises and I know who I have to deal with. I am going to deal with the Leader of the Opposition just as I dealt with him in 1976 as a person who knew that the Burton Report was submitted to the Minister but never asked about it and it is nothing less than scandalous and those who associate themselves with it also are scandalous.
7.35 p.m.

You all should have called on him to resign. I would like to answer the only question which I thought may have been posed to me as Minister, Sir, over the past couple of hours.

Sir, life plays some funny tricks. Out on the public platforms, we can hear why you should not have 30 seats. The Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition is the chief pilot in the force campaigning against 30 seats. I think that my friend and my one time doctor – you are my G.P. – Dr. Haynes is my specialist – I think he might agree with me that he has heard it on more than one occasion and I believe that you have supported it.

In the Advocate Paper which I am going to make a Document of this House, of today's date, Thursday, 20th March, 1980, "Looking Back" – that is a song you know, he cannot look over his shoulder now, he is a little tired – with Tony Hinds, gives you a run down of important events up to as much as the past 50 years, but 25 years ago, on this very day a man by the name of Mr. E. W. BARROW brought a Resolution into Parliament, into this august assembly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am coming up to the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition now Sir. A man by the name of E. W. Barrow, hon. member for St. George at that time and now Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, former Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning in charge of electoral matters. Listen for the Resolution he brought:

> "Mr. E. W. BARROW member for St. George in the House of Assembly gave notice of an address in the House urging a reallocation of seats for the General Assembly on a population basis. The address read as follows, 'The House of Assembly considers that in order to give fuller and more equitable representation in the General Assembly of this island, legislation should be introduced at an early date to provide for a re-allocation of seats on a population basis of one seat for a unit of 3,000 voters.' "

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this on housing?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We are dealing with housing. We can bring in that 25 years ago, this is to show you the inconsistencies of the former administration. Here it is today that you can have the gall, the audacity to get up and defend something like the Hanschell Report. It shows you how aggressive you are, you believe that you own Barbados, that you can do all of these wrong things with the people's money and still claim that you are right. I believe, that if you were in Surinam they would cane you, hold you and beat you publicly, they may have charged you. The Democratic Labour Party of which you are a very proud member, – the speech I see here that you made in St. Thomas was a beauty.

We are still talking about your black and white work. When they could have the audacity to come on the floor of the Hon. House and say that there is nothing wrong with the Hanschell Report and how it sets out a financial controller. You did not want any financial controller, you used to have things your own way, you say they set out about a financial controller. A house built for a dead man, that is the sort of thing you had. A non-existent house for a non existent man. They found a name and when they checked for the man, he was dead. Sorry Sir, I just moved away to the Hanschell Report myself. Just let me answer my colleague here who is sitting on a seat which I believe he has his eyes on.

He talked about overloading of certain parishes. I think he made reference to St. James and St. Michael but I would think, if you were to look around, Gall Hill, Silver Hill, Wotton, Sayers Court, they are overloaded. He spoke about the policy on housing. Earlier in the day, I said that within the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, there is a planning unit of which a Mr. Allan Jones is appointed as the Chief Housing Planner, he is from St. George, another gem and he has taken all possible surveys, all the methods, all the information. He has been working on it for almost a year now Sir. You just do not look at housing policy overnight, this is something you had to go through, there were places like Greenfields and Brittons Hill. When you go asking people certain questions, they may become a bit angry, they are not too willing to come out. We had to use the news media to ask the people to assist us with the questionnaire which went out. You had to get information from the landlord, all of the statistical data before you could

come up with a housing policy, but let me assure the hon. member that what we are really concerned with is house ownership. We are trying wherever possible for the head of a family to have as they say, his own keys, so I do not want my colleague to feel a bit too concerned about hearing of something and then it is not coming off. A number of recommendations are in the framework, this is the kind of framework that we are dealing with.
7.45 p.m.

We have to think of the quality of the housing units. As they are right now, there are a number of old houses in Barbados for example where you cannot find the owners of them. They are run down, and we are examining the possibility of buying those houses and cutting them up into flats to put it that way. This is a costly job I would dare say when you have to do renovations and modifications because as you start to touch an old building, I am told, you get all the problems. You take Princess Royal Avenue, for example where you had four families living upstairs. You used to have a wooden floor. Kids' tea throw away and go down on the person living underneath. We have decided to make them two family units now and give them inside a bath room and toilet facilities which they did not have in the past, and we are doing this right through Princess Royal. This was a promise to the people in that area; that is what we are concerned with. The important thing to us is the quality of life where housing is concerned. It may not be necessary to build houses, houses, houses; there may be the possibility where you can get some houses and renovate them; it depends on the cost. All these things must be worked out.

I would like to say something, Sir, on the maintenance programme here for my colleague. Mr. Chairman, the National Housing Corporation spent almost $1.9 million as against something like $1.8 million they are getting on maintenance alone. The cost of building has risen over the years and I am going to say here that one would have to examine very carefully the whole rental structure in Barbados, maybe along the lines, for example, of family needs. Let us assume, for example, that a family is working for $80 a week. I think it is done in China if I am not mistaken. My Chinese traveller has abandoned ship. I am not going to put in a word for him next time to go out east. I had a word to say for him last time going out east. I will not do it on this occasion; he has abandoned ship. We are examining the areas where you pay according to your ability to pay. You may find a person earning $100 a week, may have five or six children and they may not find it possible to pay a rental value of $25 at Fernihurst for a three bedroom house. You may find a young couple whose income may be $900 a month and you may ask that couple to pay, let us say, an economic rent. For that matter it is the haves must help the have-nots. That is what it boils down to.

My colleague spoke about planning. Now I think the Ministry is planning its work well. For example, at Bonnetts, Sir, our construction should start on 1st April. I hope the Chairman hears this. On 29th March I want to see the bulldozers and sheds there so that on 1st April you are pushing off, and the concept we are using there is to build houses and also resite some of the people there, shift the houses around and assist them in a better quality of housing, maybe with water toilets and bathrooms, but beyond that we are hoping to put in small shops where the beautician can have a shop, the tailor can have a little shop, the tonsorial artist, maybe the shoemaker and all these people. This is what we are hoping to do, to plan a little village around the people. I am not fond of having any supermarkets in these areas because there is always a battle for who is to get the supermarket, and I am not in that. I think what we try to look at is to see how close you are to the services. I would never think of putting shops in at Fernihurst because at Fernihurst you have a whole shopping plaza around there. That is what we try to look at.

I would like to assure the hon. member also that our plans are as you can see for our rural development scheme of which Sion Hill is an example. I am sorry I have to belabour Sion Hill, but Sion Hill is a typical resettlement, a typical rural development which we are hoping to bring about in the very near future. At Sion Hill apart from having the services to lands, we are providing them with a community centre, a pavilion and hard courts. That is what we are doing for the areas whenever we are going to upgrade them. That is what we are planning. That is the policy which the Government is working towards.

As far as the maintenance programme which my colleague asked about also is concerned, I can assure him that in the Estimates there is money for a maintenance programme, and we have in here that Sayes Court is among the areas which we are going to work on. We are going to do 698 units this year. This is maintenance in Pinelands, Deacons Farm, Sayes Court, Gall Hill, St. John – we are not dealing with any constituency – Bayville and Wildey.

In our programme for the roads, we did roads in Sayes Court, Bayville, Pinelands and Pleasant Hall, the constituency of the hon. member for St. Michael South; we are not looking around to choose a constituency to do work in because you are not a sitting member of the Government. There is no discrimination here, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we have an agreed time and I think we have reached this. We will have obviously to continue with this debate tomorrow; it is now concluded.

I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In view of our experience I beg to move that for the remainder of this Session the hon. member for St. Philip North be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees in the event that the need arises during the course of this Session. The hon. member for St. Philip North is to act for the remainder of this Session as Chairman of Committees when the present Chairman is not available.

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

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Notice has been given of a Resolution to change an amount because of a faulty addition in a Supplementary Estimates and when we resume Committee I will be asking the House just to formally pass the Resolution to square up the addition. It is to change an amount because an amount was added up wrong. It is not a change of an Appropriation Head by name. It is just to change a total. It is to correct an error, Sir. The money has been appropriated under the Heads but we have not appropriated enough money to cover the Head therefore you would have spent it and exceeded your appropriation without consent. It is an addition of about $6,200.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider this Resolution and to resume consideration of the Annual Estimates.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts. While the House is in Committee, I think I have already given instructions, Mr. Prime Minister, respecting the change which you have already said the Committee will deal with the matter.

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 18

A Resolution to approve the amendment to Resolution No. 18 of 1980 by the substitution of the words "$1,151,984" for the words "$1,145,784" was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This has been a mistake in addition, Sir, and I beg to move 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.

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In the sum of $6,881,380 – Debate resumed.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I, for some reason, did not want to get into debate on Housing but like most other members I was brought into it because of certain allegations from the Opposition. When I was perhaps looking forward to the Opposition saying something constructive about the various allegations in the recent Housing Report, they have sat idly by for many hours wasting the taxpayers' time without trying to put up any defence for their former Ministers of the Department of Housing.

If there is one person perhaps who can speak with a little authority on the problems of Housing in Barbados, it is perhaps this hon. member and I am speaking with authority when I speak about certain infelicities within the Ministry of Housing during the period up to 1976. Most Barbadians today for one reason or another look for the Government to assist them with acquiring a house whether it is to purchase a house or whether it is to lease a house. Barbadians look to the National Housing Corporation to render them some kind of assistance.

I was one such Barbadian who in 1973 was glad that the former Administration was about to do something good for the people of this country in housing. I was in search of a house and I read that the National Housing Corporation was about to construct some 122 units of a special type of house at Oxnards at St. James. Like most other Barbadians I welcomed that view and I applied for consideration for one of those apartment-type houses.

Some months thereafter, early in 1973, the former Minister responsible for Housing in the Democratic Labour Party was photographed in the *Advocate News* making an inspection of the pilot six houses that were completed at Oxnards of which he said he was very impressed. Like most Barbadians, we were delighted to see that the then Government was making an effort to solve some measure of the housing problem.

Referring just in passing, Sir, to the Commission of Enquiry into Housing I would like at this point to mention Chapter 4. The period 1971 – 1976, Minister of Housing, Philip Greaves, and the findings of the Commission of Enquiry on certain infelicities under Mr. Greaves' charge of office as Minister and the Commission has named four specific areas of malpractice under that Chapter:

(1) Award of contracts, 1973 – 1976.

(2) Selection of Tenants for rental houses 1973 – 1975.

(3) Operation of special repair programmes for old aged pensioners and other welfare cases, July and August, 1976.

The one which I want to speak about is sale of NHC Houses at Oxnards, 1974. The Contract was awarded in February, 1974, to Construction Technology Limited for the construction of 122 houses at Oxnards, $902,000 for 44 and the remainder at a cost not exceeding $22,500 per unit. The Report says:–

> "A review of the evidence shows that Construction Technology Limited was content to build 6 model houses at Oxnards early 1973. These houses were inspected by the Minister of Housing at that time, Philip Greaves in February, 1973 who in testimony stated that he was very impressed with the houses which he saw".

10.10 a.m.

Now Mr. Chairman, here you have a situation where a contract was awarded for the construction of 122 houses and the model six were completed five or six months thereafter and the Minister responsible for housing inspected the houses. I doubt very much that the Commission which looked into housing, under this administration, would have known that the model six houses which the Minister was very impressed with, were hand picked by the Minister for members of his party who had not even applied for consideration of one of those six houses. I doubt very much that the Commission knows that the first six houses, like the first 89 that were completed, went to people who never made application to the National Housing Corporation for consideration of a house. That is a fact.

My understanding is that the files reveal that for the 122 houses that would have been built the National Housing Corporation received a total of 1,400 applications. I would not say anything about the former Minister of Housing but it is an established fact that those 89 houses went to members of the Democratic Labour Party who did not even apply and half of whom I am told, up to now have not even paid a cent but that is not the important thing Mr. Chairman. Subsequent to the investigation, it was revealed that of the 89 who were awarded houses, by the Minister of Housing, Mr. Greaves during his term of office, 90% did not qualify for mortgage finance consideration by the Mortgage Finance Corporation. I believe Sir, that that is a despicable shame on the part of the Minister. I did not want to get into this debate because like most Barbadians, I happen to live in a Government house.

I was one of those people who applied in 1973 when I saw that the then Government was trying to do something for housing. I applied as soon as I saw that the National Housing Corporation was doing something for housing in 1973 but had it not been for a change of Government in 1976, do you know that I would not have been granted a house? It was not because of any partisan favour, I made that quite clear to the officer in charge of the National Housing Corporation in 1976, Mr. Denis Clarke. I asked him what were the conditions under which one would qualify for a house and he told me that under the new policy, those longest on file would be given first preference. I told that officer that I had applied since 1973 and I had received information from the National Housing Corporation that the houses were under consideration but that a price was not arrived at and when the price was arrived at, they would get around to allocating the houses but subsequently, people had moved in over the period of 1974, 1975 and 1976. As a matter of fact, I was about one of the first persons to put my name on the exact lot that I wanted. When I saw the people moving into the houses, I was glad for the change of Government because I could not understand what was happening. You know, a poor boy looking for a house and a housing area going up like this, he would express an interest. Had it

not been for a new policy at the National Housing Corporation, I would not have been awarded a house. It was purely on the basis of the fact that I had applied in 1973 that the policy of the National Housing Corporation favoured my application of long standing. A new Government, new policies, nothing was hand picked.

The hon. member for St. Lucy got in here yesterday and mentioned something about kitchens and toilets facing the road. I do not know what kind of madness you are hearing from a representative of such a large constituency to take care of. He is talking about the new policy where perhaps, there are a few houses down at Ferniehurst with the backs to the road or something like this which I really do not understand but he forgets that it was his Government who erected the first set of houses at Eden Lodge and you could pass by Bim Beverages and see whatever was happening in the people's residences over there. Nobody over here tried to bring down the Government on that. We believe that land space is valuable and that you have to scotch a house here and a house there. I do not know why the hon. member would talk in here about kitchens and toilets facing the road, there is nothing at all in that.

In my view Sir, the present administration has done exceedingly well over the four years in its effort to try to house the people in this country. I have figures which show that a total of 1,091 houses were built during the period..... (Mr. GREAVES: You said 1,071 yesterday.) 1976--1980. It might be 1,071, the hon. member beside me said that I do not hear well. The number of houses built by the Democratic Labour Party I am told, since 1961–1976 is 2,538. Anyone with the modicum, of commonsense can easily see the effort of this Government in understanding the problem which the people face in trying to acquire a house. (Mr. GREAVES: That is not 800 a year, divide it by three.) I do not know what is 800 a year or 2,000 a year, I know that a substantial effort has been made by this Government in coming to grips with the housing problem that the country is faced with. We understand the problems better and what we have to do and we are making an effort. This is a significant contribution in an effort to help the people of Barbados get a house or a home.

There are some things which I am not exactly happy about in this Housing Corporation, especially at Country Road. I am not trying to bring down the staff there but I would like to say this. There are people who come to me quite frequently just to be told what the policy or the truth is. They say they have been to the National Housing Corporation and they were told that they are going to get a house the next week, that someone is going to come around and see them shortly and that they should not worry because everything is going to be alright. They come away with the impression that quite shortly they would receive some tangible assistance from Government and then they are disappointed after a couple of months have gone by and they cannot get a house. I would like the officers in the Ministry of Housing to be more realistic. Once people have been told the truth, they come to understand the problem. It is extremely misleading and disappointing to people to be misled into believing that the National Housing Corporation can house Barbados in a couple of weeks or a couple of months.
10.20 a.m.

The Barbados Labour Party has been able to construct 1,091 houses in less than four years. The problem here, Sir, is that people are willing to cooperate with and tolerate the inability of the Corporation to house all of them as long as they can be told the truth. As long as they can be made to understand that houses cannot be constructed overnight. they are willing to see what the Government is trying to put forward, but if they are misled into thinking that they are going to receive benefit from the National Housing Corporation in as short a time as the officers make them believe, then it is really frustrating to those people who are desperately in need of a house.

Mr. Chairman, if I have time to speak again, I will want to go on a few points, but I really want to congratulate the Ministry of Housing for the substantial contribution it has made during 1976 to 1980 in understanding the housing needs of this country and in coming forward with a positive policy to house the people of Barbados.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, even the most biassed person if they really took a good look at housing in Barbados, would have to say that this Government has made tremendous strides in this direction. It is true for the first two years after the Barbados Labour Party won the election we went easy or rather we went very slowly in the construction of houses for obvious reasons. The Minister of Finance had put certain restraints on all departments and Housing was one of those Ministries in which restraints were applied, but after the Minister of Finance was satisfied that he had the economic position of Barbados on a sound footing both in balance of payments and dollar reserves, there was a relaxation in the way of financial spending and fortunately for the present Minister of Housing he came into the Ministry at a time when those restraints had been lifted and his most ardent enemy would have to admit that he has made tremendous strides in housing in this country not only in the construction of houses, but in the administration of those houses which were already built and on let when people were owing $2,000 and $3,000 in rent, the Minister took the unpopular decision to take the bull by the horns. He did not shrink away from it. Every Minister does not like to have to go out and enforce the laws and regulations to make

people pay their rents; but we had a number of people going in and paying $10,000 and $15,000 a week in arrears in rents in this country and we have to give the Minister credit for this. He was bold. To many people it was an unpopular thing to do because politicians do not like to have to go out and force people to do what they should so. They rather give it to someone else and this Minister did with great success.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, I believe the hon. member when he was campaigning told people in his constituency they would not have to pay any more rents.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order.....

Mr. WARD: You cannot have a point of order on a point of order. Let me deal with it. Sit down. *(Laughter)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I have only been in politics for about eight to ten years and I have had everything possible in the book said about me. I have had lies told, but never have I heard any human being in my absence or in my presence tell such a vicious, wicked lie as has been said here today.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, that statement clearly reflects on the character of an hon. member and should be withdrawn. I will ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, you do not have to tell me; I am going to withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The language is rather unparliamentary.

Mr. WARD: You do not have to tell me to withdraw it. I am going to withdraw it, but you got the message. *(Laughter)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. WARD: I am not a real real politician, Mr. Chairman, because things like that I can't do, honest to my God. I like the competitive spirit, I like democracy and I like anything relating to anything with competition. I enjoy having an opponent, but not at that level, and I am going to say something now to that hon. member through you. You have an image in this country in medicine second to none, but I am advising you as one man to another, forget politics, try to make your political image equal, but you are carrying it to such a low level that you will ruin your person, your medical profession and everything else if you continue in that vein.

Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, our present Minister of Housing really indeed caught the crest of a good wave in that the Minister of Finance had relaxed the restraints and as a result a number of houses have gone up in a hurry. Now let me say, Mr. Chairman, that in spite of the fact that the restraint was on the former Minister Mr. Ronald Mapp, I was still lucky enough to go to him and request that in Silver Hill where through no fault of the former Government, but the fault obviously of the architects when they built the Silver Hill estate they put concrete blocks as the outside wall upstairs, but they used wooden panels downstairs, and as a result of the weather, the shrinkage, the contraction and the expansion, these became a problem in that when the rain fell and ran down from upstairs, it would go in and flood downstairs, and in spite of the restraint on Mr. Mapp I can say I drew it to his attention as soon as we won the election, and I am happy to say he went from house to house and replaced each of these faulty panels in concrete blocks and has eliminated the problem.

Come the present Minister, he did not know what I had got from the former Minister, so I am going back to beg again. I went back and I told him that Silver Hill needed to be painted inside and outside. He gave me a long speech, told me that he did not have that kind of money and went around the mulberry bush, and eventually he told me he would do it and he painted Silver Hill inside and outside, but, Mr. Chairman, as soon as he was coming to the end of that, after all we were school mates together and there was no reason why I should not tap an old friendship, I went back to him again and told him that the backyards of all these houses had wooden fences when they were originally built and the termites had destroyed them. Well then I got a big speech again lasting for another two to three hours, but eventually the Minister went up there, he saw for himself how embarrassing it was for the people living in the houses that had no privacy, and he has put concrete blocks surrounding each and every house in Silver Hill. Well I should say that it will be completed in another couple of months. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I cannot complain from the Ministry of Housing as having served the housing estates in Christ Church North Central. Between the former Minister and this Minister they treated me really well and I have no complaint, and I and the people appreciate it, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you put in a word for St. George North?
10.30 a.m.

Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, on another subject now it is quite obvious that the Minister of Housing will have to, as I have said already during these debates, concentrate on building any new housing schemes outside of St. Michael. Not only is it upsetting the electoral system in that constituencies in St. Michael are becoming ungainly, but

the fact that it is really being very hard on all the other supporting industries such as health and education, that St. Michael is becoming really over-populated, and I would certainly recommend to the Minister the outer parishes, St. Philip and St. George and St. Thomas and thereabouts. Of course, this creates another problem in that it creates a transport problem.

Now, Mr. Chairman, during the course of the debate on Housing something has struck me very forcibly which has distressed me. The hon. member for St. Michael South West when speaking on Housing said that he was not going to condemn the former two Ministers whom they recently had the enquiry on.

Mr. TAITT: No, don't go any further. On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, that is not what I said. Mr. Chairman, I would ask the hon. member if he is going to quote what I said to quote it correctly. I did not say that.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to quote the member accurately. Would he tell me exactly what he said? If he can't correct me, he stands condemned, so let me hear what you said. Okay.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on with your speech.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, what amazes me, it is wrong to be wrong and strong. If you are wrong, your colleague is wrong, you are new in politics, like myself and a few others, come out clean. If your colleagues have gone wrong, condemn them.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. The hon. member wishes to hear the gravamen of my statement. The first point I made was that the Commission itself had indicated there was no taint of criminal activity on the part of anybody. I was specific to identify malpractice in the context of Philip Greaves. I was very specific on that. I was specific in pointing out that the Commission itself had decided what it would use as malpractice and that it had equated malpractice with wrong doing, and it was after laying that foundation that I went on to make the point that Philip Greaves did not stand condemned for any criminal activity. That is what I said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All right, please take your seat.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I am not suggesting that the hon. member said anything about criminal activity, what I am saying is that he was full of excuses rather than condemnation. And I am waiting on the hon. member for St. John to speak, because I have the privilege of being on the Public Accounts Committee with the hon. member for St. John, and in spite of the fact that he was Prime Minister for a number of years in Barbados, he has been very severe at that Committee on other members who were former Ministers in his Government in relation to certain matters, namely, the hospital, for instance. He was very severe on the Ministers who were in that office. I want to hear today what he is going to say about these other matters that came up in Housing. He was also very severe on the scheme for bringing cows in here from Canada. He was very severe on people who infringed on that. I am waiting to hear from the hon. member today, because I know he will cut in a straight line. We are all waiting to hear from him, the whole island is waiting to hear from him on this matter, and I know he will punch where punching is to be had and to be delivered.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to end by congratulating the Minister for the work he is doing, I would like to congratulate him on the unpopular decisions he has had to make, and I would like the Minister to continue in the vein in which he is going. The number of houses having been built in Barbados under his administration is enough for us all to be proud of, and I am very pleased to have my school colleague as Minister of Housing, and I wish him all success in the future.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I rise first of all to answer a question as posed by the member for St. Michael South Central. The question was put to my colleague, the hon. member who has just sat down, and I would like to give him the answer and let him understand that it was not the Barbados Labour Party, this Government, now or ever before, that told the people who lived in the housing estates not to pay rent.

(At this stage Mr. CHAIRMAN directed that certain remarks should be struck from the record.)

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, what I wanted to establish was that it was not the ruling party, or this Government, that told the people anything at all about not paying rent. Far from that, Mr. Chairman, we have been appealing – successive Ministers, the Hon. Minister, Mr. Mapp, and the now Hon. Minister of Lands and the Environment – have been appealing to people living in the housing estates to pay their rents, and he has gone further than that, he has been at pains to point out the reasons why he was appealing to them to pay the rents, and I explained yesterday those very reasons. Because we understand that we should not go out there because we want to be engaged in vote catching tactics to tell the people not to pay rent, when we know that it is not the correct policy.

All I am trying to say to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is that he should first of all consult his colleagues and ask them who was the initiator or the instigator of such a policy, and surely it is not the present Government.

Now, I would like to point out for the benefit of my colleague, the hon. member for St. Michael North

East, that there is a policy, a clearly defined policy in allocating houses to would-be tenants, and I would like to point that out not only for the benefit of the hon. member but for those persons who have been applying for houses to the National Housing Corporation.
10.40 a.m.

I am fully aware and it has been drawn to my attention on various occasions that people have approached the National Housing Corporation and had been told by persons – I am not in a position to say whether officers or not – that they will get a house, come back next week, check back later. What I have been at pains to point out to these persons is that having put in an application they need not check back with the Housing Corporation. There is a particular system – you make an application, then the Chief Housing Officer instructs an officer to go out and investigate the applicant and take certain information relative to the person's present condition, work and family. After that information has been obtained it is then taken back in a report to the National Housing Corporation. A file is compiled with the information relevant to the applicant and then a Tenants Committee of the Corporation sits down and based on the information before it decides whether or not the case should be approved. It is at this point that if the application is approved – or rejected for some reason or other the information is fed back to the Senior Housing Officer and the Senior Housing Officer is then instructed to send a letter to the applicant informing him whether his application has been approved or not. Having reached that particular stage, if the application is approved, then the person has to wait for an allocation. The allocation would be a house vacated by someone or a new unit. So it will take some time. Now the whole question of the amount of time for waiting depends on whether people have been moving out at a fast rate or whether there are enough houses completed for the number of applicants. I know that there are some cases 500 applications have been approved, but due to the slow pace of completion of units people have been unable to get houses. So you will find cases where applications have been approved but the people have to wait.

Another problem at the National Housing Corporation – some people because they have had their application approved and they see other people going into a unit assume that the people came after them. Let me say this: I will not say that there is no preferential treatment, for there is preferential treatment in some cases. Such cases are, for instance fire victims and persons faced with health hazards. There must be some exceptions to any rule and this is where the exceptions are. But in the natural course of things persons must wait their turn, and our policy has been and will continue to be, first come first served; but we must provide for the exceptional cases, and I am sure that if the people of Barbados understand the policy of the National Housing Corporation in this respect they will have a better understanding and will not be complaining. I have been aware of these complaints but when the people get this explanation from me they are satisfied.

People must not seek to say that all was well with the former government policy towards the building of single units. It is a fact that no one can challenge me on this, that there were houses allocated to people who did not make one single down payment and the house had cost in the vicinity of $10,000; and I can cite cases where Eden Lodge and Friendship houses were allocated to people and those persons occupied the houses under the then Minister Philip Greaves; they went into the houses – and Friendship is in the constituency which Mr. Greaves contested in 1976 – without making a down payment, nor did they meet future commitments.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. Normally I do not pay too much attention to the hon. member but when he attacks someone in here who cannot defend himself in here .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I happen to know that in connection with this particular occasion the people in those houses he is referring to, the problem was.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are hon. members in this Chamber who are in the habit of continuing to speak when the Chairman is speaking and I will not tolerate this any longer. The hon. member for St. John will have his chance.....

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Am I not entitled to rise on a point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have to draw to attention the conduct of the hon. member for St. John.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I rise on a point of order; am I not entitled as a member of this House to rise on a point of order? I can rise at any time on a point of order, and I assure you, Sir, as the senior member of this Chamber, I can rise on a point of order at any time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member take his seat.
10.50 a.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Am I entitled to rise on a point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please sit.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You want me to sit?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please sit. All hon. members of this Chamber have the right to stand and speak on all points of order but when an hon. member rises on a point of order -- I will not be interrupted. I must have silence.

When an hon. member rises on a point of order gives some dissertation and then explains that he is not on a point of order really but he means a point of elucidation or explanation, the hon. member has been in here longer, I believe, than anybody else. Now I will listen to your point of order and it must be a point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am glad, Sir, that you recognise that we have rights in here and you have always recognised that because if members of the House do not have rights then the people outside do not have any rights.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that a point of order?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The point of order that I am making is a very simple one. The Standing Orders of this House very clearly state that if a member of the House intends to call the name of any person that he must give notice in writing and you cannot get up and criticise a person who has been in discharge of a public office unless you give notice in writing and you get permission from His Honour, the Speaker. I am not aware that the hon. member has done any such thing.

If we allow breaches of these rules it places the electorate, the Barbadian citizens, the public officers and other persons in very invidious positions because anybody can come in here and make the most slanderous allegations against anybody. That is my point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is well taken and I must add to it that both sides of the House have been in breach of this particular Standing Order. Both sides have been in breach of this Standing Order. Please continue.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I can concede a request. I will not call the person's name that I mentioned but what I am going to say is this that I want my point of view to be well put over and to be understood clearly. It is this that people were allocated houses, or let me put it in simple language. People were allowed to go in an occupy and live in houses that were built, the specific purpose was to build and sell. People occupied those houses before 1976 and they paid not one red cent for them but they were living in the houses.

Mr. Chairman, this is very serious because there was a procedure that was not followed. Mr. Chairman, I was interrupted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will make some allowance for the number of interruptions we have been having.

Mr. BRADSHAW: There was a procedure that was not strictly adhered to and the procedure is this. Before people were allotted a house, before they were allowed to live in a house they had to go through preliminaries to see if their financial position could afford it. They must have full criteria. The reason for this was that when persons were allocated a house by the National Housing Corporation that they would then go on to the Mortgage Finance Company which in turn would approve the applicant and give the green light to the National Housing Corporation so that that person could occupy the house but then none of this was followed.

I am going to accuse the former administration lead by the hon. member of a gross cover-up. That is what I am going to say today, that they knew that as a Minister responsible in their administration they should have known and if Cabinet's responsibility is that a member of the Government or Cabinet if he is guilty then the whole Cabinet is guilty and I am going to say that that Cabinet knew and they covered it up and never scolded the man publicly. That is what I am going to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Philip South. He has given away?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not want him to get cold, Sir. The hon. member should be the last person. Maybe he is getting a lot of courage now that certain foreign gentlemen have been chased out of the Island to get up here and is accusing persons of the former administration of gross cover-up. He is getting a lot of nerve all of a sudden now that certain elegant gentlemen have been chased out of the Island.

I want to say this that I know the facts of the particular matter to which he is supposed to be referring and which he unfortunately is conducting his own Commission of Enquiry into something that the Commission of Enquiry did not report on, about allocation of houses to persons, houses which were supposed to be for sale. The fact is that I knew very little. I would want to say this that Statutory Boards are Statutory Boards. Government Departments are Government Departments.

There is a lot of nonsense written about Crichel Down. I am an authority on Crichel Down. I have slept at Crichel Down. The owner of Crichel Down is a personal

friend of mine. I took a special interest in that case to help the owner take an interest and to have enough stamina to recover property from the War Office in the Ministry of Agriculture in England when Sir Frank Saulstice, I think that was the gentleman's name, the hon. member could help me. Sir Frank Saulstice was the one who made the famous speech in the House of Commons as Solicitor General and he said that the county made Dunday resign but I am an authority on Crichel Down like the hon. member said once when we were discussing the Registration Act.

I am an authority because like Edward VII, I slept at Crichel Down so I know Crichel Down. I am stating historical facts and I was quite interested in the case and on more that one occasion so Crichel Down has nothing to do with Statutory Authorities. Dunday was made to resign and I think there were stretching the thing of Ministerial responsibility much too far. The facts of Crichel Down in a nutshell in recapitulation are very very simple because the War Office took over Crichel Down which was a vast Estate with seven villages, the largest one being the village of Winbourne. One of the most lovely Cathedrals in England is situated on that property. It has about seven farms and about 2,000 cows.

The War Office took it over during the War. They practically mutilated the building and then after the War they turned it over to the Ministry of Agriculture and then the Ministry of Agriculture instead of doing what the Land Acquisition Act had said in referring it back to the previous owners when they had no uses for it, they tried to alienate it, that is, to dispose of the land, I do not know if by auction but by some peculiar way which was not in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act.

Now what Sir Frank Saulstice, the Solicitor General, said was that the normal principle is that if a public officer in carrying out the directives of a Minister is guilty of any misfeasance or he does it badly, then his Ministerial responsibility obviously applies. I am trying to paraphrase because he is carrying out the work of a Minister and he is responsible but he was also able to say this that if a public officer acts contrary to the directives of a Minister or if a public officer does or is guilty of an act of malfeasance itself this is wrong. Now malfeasance is wrong doing.

If a public officer steals money, unless you are satisfied that the Minister directed him to steal money, but if he steals money by the mere fact that he was in a position to steal money there is no way that a Minister is responsible for that. The Biblical principle, "am I my brother's keeper" does not mean that I am my civil servant's detective because that is nonsense and what Sir Frank Saulstice said, and it is here in this Chamber and I will get it and read it out. I have read it in this Chamber on a previous occasion on the question of Ministerial responsibility what Sir Frank Saulstice said on the Floor of the House of Commons. If a public officer acts contrary to the directives of the Ministry or if he acts on his own initiative and he is guilty of malfeasance, then the Minister is in no way responsible.

11.00 a.m.

I have a limited time on this occasion on my feet as you would no doubt remind me in about 15 minutes' time. It is only the introduction, therefore, I would not come to answer the hon. member before I read out something here. In the occasion of Eden Lodge houses which were built for sale, when the Housing Authority came to allot the houses, to his horror, the Minister discovered that persons had moved in to the houses who were not people who were in a position to qualify for the purchase of those houses. I do not know if they did so with the connivance of persons in the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority was given legal advice that if they collected rents from those persons, they would be tenants to the Housing Authority and they spent a lot of time trying to devise ways and means to get these people out of the houses so that these houses could be turned over to the correct purchasers. This was something which was presented to the Crown Law Offices by the Minister himself.

Let me deal with the other statement made by the hon. member. I am conscious of the time factor. I do not know if he were here in 1961. I do not know if he were paying his headmasters $150 a month at that time. I doubt at that time that he was in Barbados and even then, it would not have been an adequate salary. I doubt, with the possible exception of the Hon. Minister of Housing now and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that anyone of them was in Barbados. Let me go straight to the point here because this has got to be squashed once and for all. I am reading from the report a copy of which I will hand to you Sir – if you would hand His Honour this. It is dated 6th June, 1967. This has been discussed in here and made clear to the general public. This is now 13 years later and we still hear the same vicious canard and propaganda being disseminated by people who were not even in the island, God knows what they were doing, not picking fares but collecting fares on London Transport. This is reprinted from the Advocate of 6th June, 1967.

"ADVOCATE POLITICAL REPORTER SPEAKS OUT: RENTS ISSUE IS CAUSING SHARP POLITICAL DIVISION

The sharp divisions that are part of party politics often cause a degree of confusion and misunderstanding.

The electorate finds it difficult to assess the situation under these conditions."

If I read a bit quickly, it is because of the time constraint.

"In the sharp divisions of politics, disagreements are inevitable. If it were not so, we would not be democratic.

The recent issue of rents in the Government housing areas, has led to a classic example.

The Housing Authority quite rightly has cracked down on 22 defaulting tenants who owe house and land rents amounting to more than $65,000.

There is no need for me to point out that people who rent houses are expected to pay for the shelter which these houses afford whether they be in the Government Housing Estates or elsewhere.

Failure to pay both house and land rents has held up the Authority's programme, while the demand for houses rises every day.

The issue here is primarily one of rents.

Through political mouthings it is claimed that the Prime Minister and the ruling Democratic Labour Party, have told the people not to pay rents.

Opposing forces are now using this in support of their argument as to why the tenants have not paid rents.
Headline:

"A SCANDAL

Speaking at a recent meeting of the Barbados Labour Party at Sargeants Village, Christ Church, Sir Grantley Adams, veteran politician and Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly is reported to have said: 'What is going on now at the housing estates is a scandal.'

I am quoting direct, Sir, word for word, you can follow me.

"Nothing, was worse, he said, than that the Dems had publicly told the people not to pay rent and were now levying on the people's furniture to collect rents that were long overdue.

'I challenge the Dems to deny that they told the people not to pay rent,' declared Sir Grantley.

Defending his party against this 'serious charge' the Prime Minister, Mr. Errol Barrow, after outlining in brief the circumstances which led to the charge, recalled that it was during 1958 to 1959 that the Bridgetown City Council was sending out demand notes to tenants following valuation of properties.

He said: 'We held meetings in the housing areas advising the people that since occupancy tax had been abolished by legislation introduced by the late A.E.S. (TT) Lewis some years before it was illegal to demand payment of property rates from tenants and occupiers of Housing Authority houses or any other tenants.'

'The property rate was in respect of ownership only,' the Prime Minister pointed out.

He continued: 'The Bridgetown City Council appeared to be using this as a devise to force the BLP Government to pay rates in respect of property owned by Government.

'Alternately, the Bridgetown City Council would have liked a subvention in respect of revenue which they claimed they were losing from the development of housing estates.'

Mr. Barrow said: 'After the Democratic Labour Party had pointed out that it was not legal for the Bridgetown City Council to demand payment of rates in respect of houses which tenants did not own, the legal adviser to the City Council, Mr. J. S. B. Dear, had advised the Council that their demand notices for the payment of rates should be withdrawn.'

PROPERTY RATES

'No attempt was made since then by any of the three local government councils to collect rates in respect of property owned by the Housing Authority either from the Housing Authority or from any of the tenants', the Prime Minister added.

Concluded Mr. Barrow: 'Both Sir Grantley and his son, neither of whom was living in Barbados during the period, should take enough trouble to check the source of misinformation or to find out whether statements of the time can be refuted or not.'

Investigation has revealed some interesting facts on the issue.

The Advocate Newspaper for October and November, 1959 had given prominence to what was then commonly referred to as the 'Local Government Taxation issue.'

Controversy developed when the City Council was sending out tax bills and demand notices for taxes due to them on property. The City Council's rate which stood at 17.8 had not been increased, but the amount of tax which

individuals had to pay had been increased due to the fact that valuation placed on property by valuation officers had been much increased.

Controversy developed when the ruling Labour Party headed by Dr. Hugh Gordon Cummins began a campaign for reduction of the City Council rate.

Another headline:

RISE IN COSTS

Mayor Ernest Mottley stood his grounds on the claim that the then rate of 17.8 was the same as the year before, and lower than that of either of the Northern and Southern District Councils, and on the premise that administrative costs and other commitments of the Council had risen.

The issue was the subject of heated debate in the House of Assembly.. On the political platform it was obviously one of passing the buck between the BLP and the City Council in respect of increased taxation.

The Democratic Labour Party came on the scene in a series of mass meetings 'explaining the taxation issue to the people.'

A meeting held in the Lower Green, on Friday, November 27, and reported in condensed form on page one of the Advocate of Saturday, November 28, 1959, read thus:

'Lower Green Nov. 27: The Democrat Leader Lawyer Errol Barrow told Bridgetown rate payers here tonight to send in their tax relief claims by the thousands to the Bridgetown City Council for it was their right to do this under section 136 of the Local Government Act.

'That was one of the suggestions he made to the ratepayers who were complaining about the high rates they were called upon to pay."
11.10 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you finish in another minute?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: When I finish I will sit down, in another three minutes. I think the record should be complete. You can take it off my next intervention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have a discretion.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Take it off the next one. What you lose on the swings you make on the roundabouts.

"Another suggestion from Mr. Barrow to the people who live in Government Housing Areas who received tax bills 'do not pay the tax because it is illegal.' "

"Concluding his speech in which he hit from left to right Mr. Barrow declared 'I want to say this to Mr. Mottley: The tax was too much too soon. Make sure the relief is not too little too late.' "

$1m Spent

Another report on Mr. Barrow's speech reported at length in the Advocate on Sunday, November 29, 1959 read in part:

"Approximately one million dollars was being spent to relieve poverty and unemployment in the island and the Bridgetown ratepayers were called upon to shoulder this burden.

"If there was any subvention to be given to any council by Government it should be given to the Bridgetown City Council because of that burden. Responsibility for this national assistance should be undertaken by the Central Government.

"He said that the funeral of the present Government was in 1961 and he advised the persons living in the Government housing area who had received tax bills not to pay the tax because it was illegal.

"He advised rate-payers to send in their claims for relief on the grounds of poverty. If about 17,000 ratepayers sent in their claims he wanted to see what reasons would be advanced by the Council."

3 Categories

In his opinion to the City Council, who had asked him to advise whether property owned by the Housing Authority was rateable by the Council of the City of Bridgetown, Mr. J. S. B. Dear in his capacity as the Council's legal adviser, after quoting section 55(2) of the Housing Act 1955 and Section 172 of the Local Government Act, 1959, said: "The property of the Housing Authority may be divided into three categories.

"(1) Land owned by the Housing Authority and rented to a person, such person erecting on such land a chattel dwelling house.

"In such a case the land is not rateable but the owner of the chattel dwelling house would be liable to pay rates on the chattel house.

"(2) A house and land owned by the Housing Authority and leased by the authority to a person.

"In such case neither the Authority nor the tenant is liable to be rated and I am of this opinion despite the fact that I am informed that the lease contains a provision that the tenant shall pay the rates and taxes.

I consider that that provision merely indemnifies the Housing Authority in the event of the Authority being liable to pay rates. Since the Authority is not liable neither is the tenant.

"(3) Chattel houses owned by the Authority and occupied by a person under the terms of a hire purchase agreement.

'Not Rateable'

"Until the final payment is made and the property and the dwelling house transferred it remains vested in the Authority and is not rateable."

Finally it must be realised that the law relating to the payment of rents does not lapse only because a defaulter claims that he was told not to pay.

The whole argument about present members of Government making statements about non-payment of rents when they were in opposition would not hold water in any court of law, and members of the Opposition should know this."

Thank you for your indulgence.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, when I reach a certain point of the debate I do not wish to be interrupted on the grounds that I had not complied with Standing Order No. 28(10) because I have given notice to the Speaker that I intend to name Mr. Philip Greaves, Mr. Arlington DaCosta Edwards and Mr. Deighton Griffith and to discuss the allegations made against them on the findings in the Hanschell Commission Report which was laid in the House on March 17. But I want, Sir, to start if I may, with the speech of the hon. member who has just sat down. I well remember that meeting at Sargeants Village in 1967 and I well remember there had been debates in the House around the same time about this business of not paying rents..... It is not an issue that I believe is particularly alive today. What the Democratic Labour Party did between 1958 and 1961 is past history, they earned their reward in fifteen years of Government and in due course they received their come-uppance in 1976. But on this matter of setting the records straight, sometimes one person tries to set it straight, and you discover that it is only set very firmly down a crooked path.

Now I remember that justification and that publication in the Advocate, and I well recall that the universal opinion in the House of Assembly of which I was a member at the time – I do not know why the Rt. Honourable member for St. John should feel I was not in the Island I was a member of the House at that time; but I well recall the opinion was that faced with an impossible case to defend the Rt. Honourable gentleman, he was not Right Honourable then, had skillfully seized on a different issue where he was in the right and persuaded his ten ally in the Advocate to (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Who is the ally?) The hon. member knows I have not given Mr. Ian Gale.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, I have never had any allies in the Advocate. They refused to publish anything I said in the House or even in the law courts for years because I said there were only two races in Barbados, the Advocate and mankind.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member is enjoying himself with his past witticisms which however freshly they fall upon young ears, but unfortunately the hon. member should be reminded that we heard them three or four times a year and have had to listen to them for three or four times a year for the last fifteen years; but the hon. member will recall that Mr. Ian Gale was Editor of the Advoate in 1967, and if he is denying his friendship with Mr. Gale, Mr. Gale's support for the DLP, his appointment of Mr. Gale after he was dismissed from the Advocate as General Manager of Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, then I think he is denying a range of affairs that will not enhance his reputation for truthfulness either on this side or on his own. But the burden of the speech which was made at Sargeants Village at the end of the crop season in 1967 related not to the long drawn out tedious stuff that was in the extract from the Advocate which the hon. member has just read out; it related to meetings held at Green Hill, in the Pine, at Empire pasture in 1961.

Now I will freely say that I was not present at any of those meetings, but I will equally say that I have received such full accounts from persons whom I know to be trustworthy of the meeting, for example, at Empire pasture which was chaired by Mr. Cameron Tudor at which Mr. John Carter from Guyana was the guest speaker and at which the hon. member for St. John made a reference to the houses which were built by the Housing Authority being occupied by workers who were entitled to the fruits of their labour, and he then went on to make a speech that the rents which had been paid would be credited towards further purchase of the houses and they would not have to pay any more. Now the hon. member.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, that was in our manifesto, that we would credit the workers with the rents so that the future rents that they paid would go towards the purchase.

11.20 a.m.

There is a slight little distortion there, there was no statement that people who lived in Housing Authority houses would not have to pay rents any more, the rents would have been towards the purchase of the houses. I listened to the hon. member very very carefully. I made that statement and it was in our election Manifesto, and I complained here this week that up to now a lot of people have not got their title deeds.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I much appreciate the hon. member's intervention. As he says, there was a slight little distortion, because it was in the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party that the rents would be credited, but on the platforms that statement was distorted by the platform speakers to give the impression to the tenants that they would not have to pay rents in future. That is the distortion, and it was not from this side, it was from hon. members, one of whom is now in the House, and his companions, Mr. Cameron Tudor and others on the platforms of the Democratic Labour Party.

Now, why 1967 was important was that in 1962 a number of tenants stopped paying rent, and by 1967 tenants had rent five years in arrears and the Housing Authority therefore started to carry out the drive to collect the rents before they became six years in arrears – because the law, Mr. Chairman, is that six years, as I understand it, bar the collection of rent – but that was the impression that was given at the time. Now, in the debate in the House of Assembly on the same matter, I drew the attention of the hon. member for St. John to the fact that in a case in court one of the tenants who had been sued had given evidence on oath that he had heard the Prime Minister say on a platform that you didn't have to pay rent any more and that that was why he stopped paying rent, and that was when this elaborate cover-up, that can be found in the debates,. . . . . .

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to ask the hon. member if he could give me the name of the gentleman who gave evidence on oath that he had heard me say so, and the reference in the debates where the hon. member said that he had heard somebody say that in a law court. I would like the reference.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member describes himself occasionally as having great powers of recall and an encyclopaedic memory. I don't need to give him the name of the person, he knows who it is. I have no intention of giving it here now, the hon. member knows who the person is. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I don't know). Go and read your debates, you find your own references.

Mr. Chairman, with a beginning like that where there was a widespread belief in the Housing Areas that the Democratic Labour Party had somehow promised them the houses in return for the past rent, you can understand that the Housing Authority had difficulty from 1961 to 1976 ever putting itself on a firm footing. First of all, in the first few years the housing programme was run down. Under Ronald Mapp never less than 250 houses a year were built from 1956 to 1961, but in 1964 the number of houses being built had run down to 84 houses. That was all that was built in that year. The Reports of the Housing Authority are before the House, and hon. members can look into them.

Now, when Mr. Edwards became Minister of Housing, I will give him this, he did approach his task as though a real ball of fire was going to roll through house construction, but Mr. Edwards, as the Hanschell Report has shown, undoubtedly began to cut his corners. The Hanschell Report, in my view, only scratched at the surface of some of the things that went on. Various people who gave evidence perhaps did not wish to involve themselves in offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. There are hon. members here who can testify of their own knowledge of one contractor who was awarded a contract, it was found that that was one of the malpractices of Mr. Edwards, saying that the ink was not dry on the contract before the Minister and a member of the Housing Authority were up on the site holding out their hands for a cheque. There are hon. members who of their own knowledge can speak of that same contractor saying that the Minister wanted so much from him that that is why he had to go back to the Housing Authority to get the extra – I can't remember how many hundred dollars per house it was – and when the expression "cover up" is used, I have never since I have been in public life know any performance which more totally merited that description than the speech of the hon. member for St. John in the debate on the Resolution on housing which was moved by Mr. Elliot Mottley and seconded by me in here in 1970, when he said it was the wrong Resolution in the wrong place at the wrong time. He likes these three-pronged things, too late, too little, whatever it is he just read out, and you would have seen the relish with which he read it out. I must say I like a man to have confidence in himself and to enjoy his own statements even when they are 20 years old. I will not criticise him too seriously for that, but this appreciation of a nice culminating remark should not hide from us the cover up involved in that debate.

The hon. member stood up over there with a sheet of paper in his hand dealing with the charge which we made in here of Mr. Edwards taking the Housing Authority's building equipment and said that he had there a letter from one of Mr. Edwards' employees saying that he took the equipment without Mr. Edwards' knowledge or consent, but that letter has entirely vanished. That letter was held up in the House by the hon. member.

(Aside). Why was it not produced to the Hanschell Commission? The hon. member is saying it was a document of the House, but that would have made it easier to be produced to the Commission. It was not produced to the Hanschell Commission because it was a spurious letter, if not an entire forgery, because it would have defended Mr. Edwards on one charge and would have been a total answer to that charge.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Just a minute, Sir, I wonder if the hon. member is accusing me of forging a letter. He had better get up and make that clear, because you would have to ask him to withdraw it. Any document I would have read in here would have become a document of the House. I was not Mr. Edwards' defending counsel, I was never consulted on Mr. Edwards' defence. I will say this, and it will surprise the hon. member, they would have to consult me on his prosecution, not his defence, and the hon. members know that, Sir. I mean at this stage. I know the hon. member, so you will ask him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will see that he gets that clear.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: No, Sir, I want it from him. He said that I read out a letter which is spurious and which he would go so far as to say is a forgery, and he said that it is remarkable that it was not produced, but I am not responsible for that, it is a document of this House. I am not concerned about you, Sir, because you have a mind above a certain level, you are not one of these lawyers like us who have to work in James Street. I know who I am dealing with, Sir, one of the members of my profession and therefore I want it from him that he is not saying that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I very sincerely hope that the hon. member doesn't think that I would suggest he would conspire with Mr. Edwards to forge a letter to be read out in the House of Assembly, because if such a thing were true the hon. member could hardly think that he would continue his membership in here. The fact that he may have had a forged letter is not intended by me to convey that he forged it. What my belief is that whoever furnished the hon. member with the letter at the time, a letter which is now presumably spurious, has shown to be spurious, the hon. member accepted it without enquiring and made it a part of the cover up of offences that are now found to have been committed. He accepted it without asking who signed this, who dealt with this.
11.30 a.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member knows that I read out the letter without knowing who signed it, I have no recollection of the debate though I know it took place. But I would not have read out the letter without knowing who signed it, so he should not make the statement that I did not try to find out who signed it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member says he has no memory of the debate that took place in 1970. *(Asides)* But the hon. member says he would prosecute Mr. Edwards at this stage.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr Chairman. I did not say I would prosecute Mr. Edwards. I said that nobody during the Hanschell Enquiry consulted me about Mr. Edwards defence and I said they would have had to consult me.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am glad the hon. member understands exactly what he means by the prosecution of Mr. Edwards. I understand he has shifted from defence counsel to prosecuting counsel. At what stage did he shift? Because all of the charges against Mr. Edwards were brought up in this House previously.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I do not want the hon. member to ... *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member was heard in silence. Because he does not now like what he said a moment ago, he must not now try to change it. But I ask again: At what stage did the hon. member's opinion in this matter shift? In the debate in 1970 we said that Mr. Edwards had sold some lorries belonging to the Housing Authority to his father, and that is a charge the Hanschell Commission agrees with. All the other charges – giving his father a contract for a million dollars illicitly, the award of a contract for houses at Silver Hill – all of the charges were brought in here and defended by the hon. member for St. John.

On the question of Mr. Greaves, I believe the Public Accounts Committee has already reported on much that it felt about the matter of the Housing Authority. But if you are talking about cover-ups, do you recall Mr. Chairman, that the Public Accounts Committee was slowly and methodically extracting the evidence in this whole Housing Authority scandal, and when we were beginning to get close Mr. Eyre Hoppin resigned from the Public Accounts Committee. And whom did the Democratic Labour Party put on the Public Accounts Committee to investigate Mr. Edward's actions? They put on Mr. Edwards himself – the most disgusting, blatant piece of cover-up I have ever known. And Mr. Edwards came into the Public Accounts Committee and attempted to intimidate the Auditor General and officials of the Housing Authority and the witnesses who were called to investigate his own stealing at the National Housing Corporation. And I had to sit down as Chairman and

see Mr. Edwards threatening the accountant of the Auditor General's department who had made a review of the Housing Authority's books and was trying to say what he had found, how for example Mr. Edwards has made various loans to Mr. Watson and others and that gentleman over there, the Rt. Hon. member for St. John, made Mr. Edwards a part of the jury in his own trial.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation Mr. Chairman. The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee at the time was the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas. When Mr. Edwards was appointed to the Committee he was replacing the Deputy Speaker. At no time did the hon. member draw to my attention that he was at that time investigating the Housing Authority and that it was undesirable to have Mr. Edwards on the Committee. All he had to do was tell me he did not want Mr. Edwards on the Public Accounts Committee and immediately he would have been withdrawn. But my recollection is that the hon. member for St. Thomas was having difficulty in getting meetings of the Public Accounts Committee, so I do not know if this is hindsight now. So to suggest that I appointed Mr. Edwards to investigate his own offences is throwing a wrong light on the matter.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There is often great danger when the leaders of two parties agree on anything, but as far as my memory serves me neither the hon. member nor myself was in the Island when the appointment was announced, as far as I can recall. I remember that Mr. Edwards appointment came to me as a *fait accompli.* This is the first time that it has ever crossed my mind that the hon. member was unaware of what the Public Accounts Committee was discussing when Mr. Edwards was appointed, but I cannot contradict him. I don't think Mr. Edwards was appointed by his colleagues in ignorance of the situation. I certainly felt that Mr. Edwards felt that his party had done him a favour by appointing him to the Committee so that he could defend himself. And I would mention that Mr. Frank Walcott said that he was so disgusted at hearing what had been done with the workers' money that he would resign. And he did resign. However, I would say this for Mr. Edwards: He did not in any way obstruct the production of a letter written by his successor directing the Housing Authority to award a million dollar contract to another person. The whole question of Mr. Greaves' involvement arose from things discovered at the Housing Authority, things that perhaps would never have been investigated if certain correspondence had not got into the hands of certain people. And after I became Prime Minister a call was made on me by counsel for the Hanschell Commission asking me to release the evidence and certain letters and details and to advise how far evidence given to the Public Accounts Committee could be made available to the Commission, because some of the books were in my custody and were then handed over to the custody of Mr. Smith.

11.40 a.m.

It was a battle and a cover-up for six years. How much money in all has been found? Two and a half million, perhaps, has been found to be improperly dealt with, perhaps $3 million, three million dollars was improperly dealt with by successive Ministers and the Chairman of the Housing Authority and it was only after a change of Government that it could be exposed.

Now you can understand why Mr. Cameron Tudor says that there should be no Commissions of Enquiry because Commissions of Enquiry can bring out into the open that which was formerly in the dark. I did not want to deal at such length with the Hanschell Commission. I do not know if we are going to debate the Hanschell Commission at all, if the papers are going to the Director of Public Prosecution. The hon. member has said that the offences are statute barred *(Asides).*

It is in the Commission Report that the recovery of the money from Mr. Edwards is now statute barred. In 1970 you could have got it back if at that time the Commission was set up. You could have got it back but it is ten years after and it is too late to get it back.

I believe, however, that the question of the Common Law Misdemeanour of Misuse of public office which I am told was restated comparatively recently, certainly within the last 20 years, by Lord Goddard, I am told that certain things within the Report may appear to fall within this as an indictable misdemeanour. It is going to the Director of Public Prosecution. I do not know what he is going to advise. He keeps himself at a great distance from the political directorate and we keep a great distance from him as it should be but I think that hon. members will agree that in all the circumstances that the Report is such that it should not be the subject of debate which would lead to prosecution. It is being talked about now but as such perhaps it might not be appropriate. That is all I have to say about that.

On the Crichel Down matter, the hon. member I am sure is very familiar with it. I think the civil servant's name was Mr. Eastmond and I thought it was ironic that Sir Thomas Dunday burst into a flood of tears in the House of Commons when Sir Frank Saulstice spoke and got up and said that he was resigning as Minister of Agriculture and all that happened was that the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Eastmond, was transferred and found other work to do. I do not believe that he was ever dismissed, the Permanent Secretary who had obstructed Commander (The owner's name) from recovering his property but there was no corruption at Crichel Down.

There was no corruption at Crichel Down. At Crichel Down it was not alleged that there was a massive corruption which the Minister had condoned or covered up. At Crichel Down there was an interference with a man's right to recover his property from the Government

and there was some evidence of conspiracy among civil servants to hide the facts from the Press and indeed to hide the facts from the Minister and all that the Minister could be convicted of was insufficient diligence in allowing the owner to recover Crichel Down.

There was no suggestion of stealing by anybody in that case so I think it is most unfair when Crichel Down is cited as an example in this matter as if the two were on all fours because, honestly, if a Minister could resign for Crichel Down then a Minister should be sent to Mars for what was done by Mr. Edwards in the Housing Authority. My impression of the Report citing Crichel Down is that the Report is saying that if for Crichel Down you resign so much more you have to resign when it is shown you have given your father a Contract for $1.2 million to repair houses that were never even repaired.

Mr. Griffith, I would not even bother to mention anything about Mr. Griffith. I have known him all my life, for many years I have known him and really he has always given the appearance as a most decent gentleman. I believe that my father knew Mr. Griffith as a political activist back in 1937 – 1938 and I was very disappointed to see Mr. Griffith finding himself associated with the malpractices but it shows that one rotten apple in a barrel rots out all the others. Once Mr. Griffith got into the barrel, he was tainted by Greaves. Perhaps he was tainted by Edwards, Modest and all the other vagabonds at the Housing Authority.

When one really thinks about it, Mr. Chairman, it was $650,000 for houses that nobody ever knew existed and I was a real sufferer from it, Mr. Chairman, because all over St. Thomas, all you could see were the canvassers for Mr. Happy Bryan masquerading as carpenters for the Housing Authority. Everywhere you went.

For many years I was trying to get a house repaired for a woman. I think it was in the Housing Report how Happy Bryan went into the woman's house and gave her $1,200 and then when she got to the Housing Authority she had to sign a paper to pay Happy Bryan $1,500 and so on and so forth. All of those things went on, Sir, and I was the worst sufferer of all politically from that $650,000. That was Mr. Happy Bryan's campaign fund for fighting the Election in St. Thomas.

Anyway, Sir, my time has expired? I am sorry to detain hon. members because really I wanted to address the House on matters of housing needs and so on but perhaps a little later on. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, if I may. I think the hon. member for St. Philip South wanted to speak. Carry on.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, we are still discussing this Head which is Housing and the Environment and I believe that this House has become saturated now with the discussion of the Hanschell Report. I was amazed to hear the Prime Minister describing his very personal dear friend as a vagabond but I would not prolong that nor would I get into details of discussion of with whom he sits down to do what and where. *(Asides).* If the Prime Minister says that he has given up his vagabond friend I will take his word for it.

Mr. Chairman, there are a few other matters relating to this Head which I should like to raise and this Minister is responsible for the Environment and in his opening statement I understand that he made some reference to the situation on the West Coast but I should like to draw to his attention and to the Government's attention if this has not been averted to, that there is a very serious problem existing in Barbados where persons coming here as investors and who as investors are using extensively our coastline seem to misunderstand a very fundamental concept with regard to ownership of property in Barbados, and how all Barbadians on both sides of the political spectrum regard the area of the beach or indeed the beaches in Barbados.

I do not know, Sir, if you have taken a walk along the West Coast of Barbados on the beach recently and I invite the Prime Minister whom I believe is interested with the Minister of Health and some other members on that side in the preservation of the environment in Barbados, I invite him to take a walk further up the West Coast from that which he always does, so that he can see exactly what is happening with the beach and indeed the Coast line along a certain stretch of Barbados on the West Coast.

I think that the Government must make it very clear to all and sundry who will come here as investors and indeed to Barbadians that the coastline is a common heritage for all Barbadians and that it is primarily for Barbadians and that while we in Barbados recognise our potentials and use that potential for the development of our country through Tourism, that we do not intend to cede that heritage to anyone from outside of Barbados nor do we intend to see it ravished by anyone inside Barbados.

11.50 a.m.

It is very wrong that persons should have to do as we used to do many years ago. If you were walking on the coast of Barbados you had to deviate and go landwards and go for two miles and ten come back down to the sea. That is a matter which I believe transcends political differences and has to do with Barbados as a country. Mr. Chairman, some of the defences that have been put up by these people are unworthy even in their own land from which they come. I see no reason why

anybody should come to Barbados and trample on the rights of Barbadian citizens by building groynes in the sea or by taking any other action which will permit us to lose a substantial part of our beach.

Mr. Chairman, it will take a very long time, you and I might probably not be around before that beach is restored to the beauty and glory which we all, as human beings in Barbados used to enjoy.

I wish to raise another question relating to housing. I shall deal with other aspects of the environment as we come to discuss the capital part of this Head. We have had a number of so-called model houses from time to time and we have seen a number of statements from time to time about new and different housing coming into Barbados. Houses built with indigenous material, houses built with new techniques, houses built at lower cost and being mass produced. Persons were given to believe that we were on the threshold of a break through in the mass production of houses. In essence, when one looks at these Estimates and listens to statements that have come from the other side, now that we are at the point where details of this new programme ought to be given, we have not heard a single word in relation to these programmes. I should like to know, Mr. Chairman, if we are going to be continuing the model houses of say, hard board made of sugar cane. I have seen or heard nothing about it. I should like to know if we are going to have modular houses which I believe was displayed nearly two years ago with a promise from the then Chairman of the National Housing Corporation that they would become one of the bulwark in the housing development programme. I recall that there was another unit which suggested that the cost of housing would be reduced significantly and I recall that the previous Hon. Minister of Housing had suggested that we had perfected the building of houses using raw materials from the North Eastern part of Barbados. Mr. Chairman, I should like the Hon. Minister to give me some indication as to what has become of this.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, we have heard a lot about welfare housing. We have heard that the Hon. Minister is going to build a model housing project in Passage Road. I should like the Hon. Minister to indicate what his Government's intention is with regard to the land which is on the other side of St. Cecilia. I believe it is some seven or eight acres of land which had been leased at a peppercorn from the owners, whom I believe are Plantations Limited. I would say land that was leased, to provide the only area within a three square mile block, it is the only area of open space that could be found in any direction starting from the top of Eagle Hall and going in any direction in a three mile radius, certainly, that is the only spot of open land that anyone can find.

I think that the Government itself would agree that whatever we do by way of the development of the environment in Barbados, we must leave areas for recreational purposes for those persons who will be occupying the houses because we are not only creating shelter, I would like to feel that both sides would be seeking to create integrated communities. I notice that in the Deacons Road area for example, a North American concept has been introduced where they have a fenced-in concrete area for some recreational activity. I applaud the attempt in that direction. It is not a substitute for providing open greenery in these pockets which we are creating, or attempting to create as communities.

I believe there was a discussion, I know, since I have participated in the discussion of exchange between the owners of that property at the bottom of Barbarees Hill and the Government. The owners were saying that they wish to use the property for construction of warehousing. The Government having at that time in its perspective, the construction of the Deep Water Harbour and the environment around the Deep Water Harbour and I know that there was discussion with a view for exchanging the warehousing by giving the owners property at, or near the Harbour area which would permit them to construct the warehousing in a more appropriate area and at the same time would have released this parcel of land for recreational purposes.

I know that at one time there was a statement made by one of the Ministers about putting high rised housing in that particular spot but I believe that it has now been abandoned. I hoped that it has been abandoned and that this land at the bottom of Passage Road and Barbarees Hill will be acquired by the Government in some form, so that we can have some recreation provided for the people living in the City, St. Michael South West and St. Michael North Central.

Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of other questions which we would like to raise but they cannot be properly raised under this Head so I would wait.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. members raised two very interesting points in relation to the environment and in particular, in relation to access to the sea. I believe that all hon. members of this Hon. House, are very concerned about the preservation of access to the sea and I want to inform the hon. member that his concern is no greater than the concern of this side.

In the Ministry of Tourism, we have identified the need and the necessity for, the rigorous pursuit of the agreed policy for all sides for the creation of additional acreage of beach in Barbados for access to all. As a matter of fact, in pursuance of this policy, the Ministry of Tourism, in conjunction with the Organisation of American States obtained the services of a beach consultant to carry out a study from St. Lawrence Church

right down to the Baggage Warehouse. The reason why this area was earmarked was because of the fact that this administration insisted, as part of the terms of reference of the Oistin study that a complete detailed coastal study had to be undertaken from Kendal Point to St. Lawrence Church.
12 p.m.

Having regard to the experience when the Coast Guard was being built, we recognised that it was impossible to erect a single structure in the sea in an area without reference to its impact on all surrounding areas. The consultant readily identified the tidal area as Kendal Point in Christ Church right down to St. Lawrence Church. In pursuance of that report a series of groynes have been introduced and hon.members would be pleased to note that the effect of these groynes has been to create an even development all along the south coast in that area. One only has to go and look at the development to the beach by the Dover Convention Centre and which only three years ago was threatened with erosion to the extent that emergency boulders have to be put to protect the roadway at the back of the Dover Convention Centre.

In the Dover beach area, St. Lawrence area a series of groynes has been erected there. At Welches and Maxwell in Christ Church, Welches in particular, sea erosion had reached the stage where the sea was coming over into the road and the haunches of the road in Welches were exposed. All of that work has been done as part of the Oistins and surrounding areas development. The Seigel Report which picks up from St. Lawrence Church right down to the baggage warehouse is now in the possession of the Parks and Beaches and elaborate suggestions have been made with a view to protecting that area. I also want to point out that as a matter of policy and decision this Government has decided that the old site of the Natural Gas Corporation which consists of over two acres of land will be handed over to Parks & Beaches for the development of a full scale beach facility to which all people in Barbados will have access. Now that is an exceedingly valuable site, two acres of land at Bay Street; there, it is valued something in the vicinity of $800,000. This Government will have to compensate the Natural Gas Corporation for that. It is their property. The hon. member for St. Michael North West I am sure will be delighted to know that his constituents in company with everybody in Barbados will be able to use that area to the fullest extent. *(Asides)* It is in your constituency, St. Michael South, and St. Michael South West too. *(Asides)* They have to travel! I do not know of any country in the world in which one could have the ideal that everybody has a beach next to their house. You have to travel; even I have to travel. I have to walk across the road to get to the beach.

We have also come to the conclusion that we will do everything in our power to persuade the owners of Bico who had planning permission nearly ten years now to build an eight storey hotel at the old Bico site that they should exchange that land with another piece of land that Government had where BOAC was to build a hotel which is immediately above the Hilton Hotel, so that we will then have the position of the whole of that strip starting from below I think it is Dr. Trieloff carrying you right down to Barbados Taxicabs Company. We are willing upon reasonable terms to come to this House to approve an exchange. I think it would be bad in Barbados for us to have an eight storey hotel which they had planning permission for, but of course under the constitution of Barbados having got planning permission for it, you just can't say they can't build on it now without compensation.

The Needham's Point details study which picks up from the Hilton Hotel right down to the baggage warehouse, in fact past the baggage warehouse, it goes to the Deep Water Harbour, indicates quite clearly that a great national asset can be created for as much window area as possible with good facilities there for all and sundry who come to Barbados. It would be a great contribution to future generations, and we are willing to implement that.

The law relating to the erection of groynes in Barbados is quite clear. You have to get Parks & Beaches permission and you have to get Town & Country Planning permission, and it is interesting to know that no permissions are granted except with the condition that in the event of any structure being erected, in future that structure can be removed. It is a term of the licence that you are given to erect a groyne that in the event of the groyne causing damage it can be removed. That is the position with respect to Golden Palm. The law says that. The reason is that engineering despite the claims of many people that it is a precise and accurate profession, there is no engineer so far as I know who has been able to do a study of a coastal area to make a recommendation and can be 100 percent accurate that the results are what he envisaged. That is so, so you have to cover yourself by saying that you can get permission to erect the groyne, your engineers say it will create beach, but at the same time the Government says that if your engineers are wrong you will have to remove the groyne and carry out remedial action. That is the position and that has been so until the Parks & Beaches law was amended I believe in 1969 or something like that, and in the law you have to cover yourself not only with Parks & Beaches permission but also with town planning permission.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has given way. Could he inform us whether (a) the people who have built this groyne which is creating so much damage had permission, if he is aware of it, and (b) if it is the Government's intention that persons who construct groynes without permission would in fact be constructing

the groynes in territorial waters as it were, because once it is below high water mark it is land owned by the country, I wonder if the Minister, I see the Minister is here and he might have more information on this, but if the hon. member who is speaking could develop and let us know if it is intended to remove the groynes and prosecute because apparently great damage has already been done.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I can give the precise and accurate legal position, because I had in the course of the time when I practised in Barbados done an elaborate study of this law. The question of territorial waters is regulated by the laws of Barbados. You have the Parks and Beaches Act, you have the Town Planning Act, you have the Marine Boundaries Act and you have to get permission. Having got permission the law specifically says that the permission can be granted subject to conditions, and I am positive that there are conditions attached to the groyne at Golden Palms. I know the Minister of Housing has already said that the Government is on top of that situation, and he will reply in detail because I know that he has taken steps to have a proper study done of the impact of that groyne and the circumstances in which it was built, and I know that he will be in possession to tell the House as to what remedial action can be taken.
12.10 p.m.

There was a famous case called Tepper and the Crown in relation to the Hotel Tropicana during the course of the time when I believe Mr. Greaves was Minister of Housing and Lands. He had erected a groyne, the engineers that he had said the groynes would reclaim the beach, there was a dispute between the engineers as to whether it would or not, and the other side allowed the groyne to remain there for a period of time to see which engineering opinion was right, and the groyne in fact created more beach. As a matter of fact, so much more beach was created that the Church below was saved and the Ministry of Communications subsequently went and reinforced the groyne by using the groyne as the foundation and a banking to build a drain for the water to come down from the hills in Weston, in St. James. As a matter of fact they had a lot of problems with his emigration, so hot was the pressure that they had taken away his immigration permission at one stage, but anyway that was restored, Sir. So this question of groynes tends not to be a very simple one.

My understanding of the situation is that it is now clear here in Barbados that a groyne should not be built in isolation from its potential impact in surrounding areas, and when I say surrounding areas I don't mean the areas immediately next to it. You have to have an elaborate study of the tidal conditions in the area, and my understanding of the position is that the Town Planner as a prerequisite for accepting an application is now demanding such a study. We started it in Oistins after the experience with the Coast Guard. We have done the study of that part of the south coast, but as the Minister has said, a study was done on the Crane and Folkestone, two areas that had problems, and we have been requesting international help to do a study of all the balance of Barbados. But so serious do we regard this matter that we have put in estimates to start this study. We believe that we are trustees of the coastline of Barbados, so we have put money in our Estimates to be able to allow us to study it, so it is not a question of neglect, it is not a question of indifference, this Government will create more beach areas. What is more, from my Ministry I am willing to make a recommendation – as a matter of fact, it will soon come to Cabinet, the others don't know about it – prohibiting private servient tenants and dominant tenants from ever selling any rights of way relating to the sea. In short, once there was a right of way to the sea, I am willing to say that the people who have the benefit of the right of way and the people who have the burden can never make a private arrangement in the future to close off the right of way. I am willing to recommend that, we are going to make that recommendation, because I was the one who brought a case against Coral Reef Club and opened back up a right of way right through Coral Reef Club. I brought that case as a private practitioner for an old man down in St. James, all you have to do is to buy up the land belonging to everybody who is a beneficiary, but the Minister will tell you that he has his eye on some very expensive land in St. James for the creation of a public facility. Of course, when one hears the price per square foot, there is a little difficulty in getting past the Ministry of Finance to spend the money in that direction, because it is very, very expensive.

But I hope when the Ministry of Finance agrees on an area and we come down here we don't hear the talk that it costs too much just to buy it, because that is the position. So that I want to assure everybody that far from condoning, or far from agreeing with any suggestion that there should be a restriction on the rights in relation to the sea, this Government is taking positive steps to improve the accesses that we have, to create more beach and to ensure that Barbadians for ever will have access to beach facilities in Barbados.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I will be very short in this presentation here. I want to allude to the discussion which has taken place here today, particularly on the area relating to parks and beaches in this country.

I think one must first make the point that Barbados is a small country with very limited land space, and therefore the number of opportunities available to the people for recreation would be somewhat limited. I think that

any Government which is concerned with the leisure activities of people must constantly bear in mind that there must be an on-going effort to create as many opportunities and areas for people to relax and to re-create as possible. In this particular regard one has got to look at the possibilities existing in Barbados for the further development and extension of the activities on the whole relating to this whole question of parks and beaches.

I would like, Mr. Chairman, to raise three specific areas, which I would hope one could get some response from the Minister on. Quite recently there was a statement made in the Press by a person who was employed at Cherry Tree Hill for a number of years about the lack of amenities which exists in this picturesque area of Barbados, and he indicated that he had been carrying on for some time in the battle to impress upon the powers that be about the necessity for providing amenities in an area like Cherry Tree Hill. I think Barbadians who have gone to Cherry Tree Hill would recognise that there is an atmosphere there which Barbadians should indeed be encouraged to go there, but one of the problems which have been identified is that there are no facilities in that area, and I would hope that the Minister would look into this particular area and provide fairly soon facilities which would add to the enjoyment of the leisure time activities of people who use that particular area.

The other point I would want to raise relates to River Bay in St. Lucy. This is the beach to which excursionists from various parts of Barbados go, people in St. Lucy use it as one of the popular bathing spots, but it is without facilities, and I would like to impress upon the Minister that he should give some consideration to the establishment of changing room facilities, the normal facility that you would find at a beach, let us say, like Bath or Folkestone or any of the beaches around Barbados. I hope that he will be able to accede to this suggestion.

Thirdly, some time ago I raised the question of the establishment of a national park at Archers Bay, this was the subject of a Resolution which I brought in here about two years ago, and to counter the Resolution the Prime Minister brought in a ministerial statement relating to the development of the coastline, or facilities from Archers Bay in the north to Ragged Point in St. Philip, the whole area, the whole sweep, so that I want to find out what is the position with the acquisition of land for the development of the national park at Archers Bay in St. Lucy.
12.20 p.m.

Fourthly, Mr. Chairman, I want to make one observation. The Minister yesterday in his presentation touched on almost all of the Heads under his Ministry, but it is significant that there was one Head which was not touched on and so far I don't think anybody has touched on, and that is the Caves Authority. I wonder what has happened to that imaginative development which began in 1975 or 1976. I would like to find out what is going on there, what time we can expect the work on this project to be completed and when it will be open to visits by the public of Barbados. I think this is an important matter on which the Minister should be in a position to give some progress report and I am disappointed that in his wide-ranging speech yesterday he did not touch on this.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have only a few brief comments to make to clarify certain situations which have arisen in this debate. Now this Hanschell Report was most specific in saying that no evidence was adduced at that enquiry directly connecting either Mr. Edwards or Mr. Greaves with any of the criminal prosecutions brought or recommended for future investigation, and I was the most shocked person to hear the kind of remarks coming from the other side. The hon. member for Christ Church West in order to hit the headlines said that he was referring the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions, which was quite proper. Having said that yesterday, I presume the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was not aware that the matter was being referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions and he started his prosecution in here of members who were investigated by that Commission. I would very much question the propriety of his speech because one would have expected that in his capacity as Prime Minister, dealing with the subject of Housing and the Environment he would have come in here and deal with the perspectives of the matter and particularly the question relating to the financing of housing, how you might influence the cost of housing and matters relating to facts about the private sector which were contained in his last Budget Speech and adjourned until yesterday. One would have thought that he would have taken the opportunity to deal with that, but he spent half an hour dealing with all sorts of matters that should be the business of the Director of Public Prosecutions at this stage.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the hon. member going to deal with now?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, is this the same hon. member whom I have heard at length on public platforms dealing with Pele, now saying that it is improper to deal with the matter the Director of Public Prosecutions is going to deal with?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, yesterday I wanted to make certain political points when certain members made the suggestion that there were breaches of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. I am not a lawyer, but from the checks I have made and looking at the Act myself it would seem to me that the provisions of the

Administration and Audit Act did not apply to the National Housing Corporation, nor is there anything in the Housing Act which would make that particular Act applicable, nor indeed would the Financial Rules which I understand would be subsidiary legislation under the Finance and Audit Act. So other criteria in respect of any malpractices defined in the Hanschell Report would have to be applied.

One further point of clarification: The Hon. member for Christ Church North Central got upset when I suggested that certain persons were told in this country in 1971 and 1976 by the Barbados Labour Party not to pay any rents to the Housing Corporation. I spent a lot of time in the Silver Hill/Gall Hill area in 1977 and 1978 doing a bit of canvassing and the fact is that many people told me that they were told not to pay any rent; they told me they were promised that the National Housing Corporation would be directed to write off arrears of rent on the housing estate of persons genuinely unable to pay. But the definition of genuinely unable to pay at election time referred to almost everybody on the estates, and they were told in addition that they would not have to pay any rent in future. The hon. member for St. John have dealt with the allegations made by the Barbados Labour Party in respect of statements made by the Democratic Labour Party about non-payment of rents. When you said that, many people in Silver Hill and Gall Hill believed you, and you will pay the penalty in 1980 or 1981 when the time comes.

In respect of housing, Mr. Chairman, there are two suggestions I would like to make, First, the cost of housing is escalating tremendously. Yesterday I raised a question of the doubt people have in their minds in respect of how much they can deduct on their income tax returns for repairs to their houses and I hope that an opportunity will arise later today to deal with that more fully. But what seems to me to be happening is that we are not making use of much of the infra-structural development that already exists in Barbados in terms of housing development. We go and buy land and then find that we have to run in water and put in infra-structural services which are becoming increasingly expensive.
12.30 p.m.

Barbados is very fortunate in having a wide and pretty network of roads which unfortunately have been allowed to fall into a tremendous state of disrepair but I am sure that the next Democratic Labour Party Government would at least restore them back to what they were when they left as soon as possible.

I believe that it may be a useful concept in order to increase the number of houses which you can build in a given year bearing in mind the restraint, the restraint as in any other service and build your housing estates around existing services. It would mean, of course a significant extent of re-organization of your building programme but there is nothing wrong with that. It may even mean that the Town Planning Department may have to abandon certain concepts of your development. I forget what they call it now when you have development on both sides of the road. Anyway, the word is not coming to mind now.

I believe that you will probably be able to get at least a 30% increase in the number of houses that you can make available to the people of Barbados if you get into the area of building where there is already substantial infrastructure because much of your infrastructural cost of housing goes into the infrastructural development.

The second point is that linking of such a programme similar to the one which the Democratic Labour Party conceived in Sion Hill and which is being carried out today that you can probably link the Housing Development Programme where people would not only have a house but have a sufficiency of land to contribute to the production of food for the family unit and certainly maybe sufficient in excess to generate some income for that particular household in order to help them even to pay for their houses and contribute to their general capital development of the individual.

Another very important point, Mr. Chairman. There are many people living in the Bridgetown area; they are many people living in my constituency on land for which they cannot get the title. Many members have raised this matter in the House of Assembly again and again and it means that these people who would have had money put aside maybe 10 to 15 years ago, money rotting away in the Banks at 8% with inflation running at 20%, by the time they get their Title Deeds they would not be able to build a house with the money they had 18 years ago.

Now this is a matter that needs urgent attention. We have heard of the constraints on surveying. We have heard of all the legal constraints but it is time that something should be done in this direction throughout the World, not only in Barbados. The only thing that the vast majority of people end up owning when they have completed their days on earth is a house and anything that can be done to help them at least to have that amount of capital available to them would be a desirable contribution.

It is not only in the houses that you build but it is in the taxes that you put on building materials when they come through the Port. It is whether or not you can find other means of even bulk purchasing materials to get things like siding, the kind of basic materials that poor people use in their homes to repair their homes to see if you can get them delivered cheaper.

Government can only do so much and you have to pay attention as to what contribution Government can make by Legislation and by facilitating in the kind of areas I have mentioned that will help to accelerate the Housing Programme in this country.

Mr. Chairman, finally, I can only emphasise that the linkages between Housing Development and Agriculture might well be one of the best areas for Government to get involved in bearing in mind what has been said in this Honourable House only a few days ago. I believe everybody is agreed that there is need for Agricultural Development. We have all agreed on the need for ownership incentives and I think that the whole concept of the householder being involved in the Agricultural situation is most important.

One final point and this is definitely final, absolutely final. I have heard one hon. member speak on the question about building houses around Industrial Estates. I must only warn him that you have to be extremely careful of the Estates around which you build houses because you may find yourself with serious health hazard problems which you may not envisage at this point in time.

I will give you an example, Mr. Chairman. People living at Heathrow Airport, it was not until the jet-age came along that the people realised that they could do serious damage to the Ophthalmologic Nervous System of people and virtually created a new disease.

Now we well know that there are serious problems relating to plastics and various other matters and I think that you should be highly selective in the type of Industrial Parks around which you build your Housing Programmes bearing in mind that you will be exposing not only the adults but children as well.

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken for only 14½ minutes but as you have directed, I will sit down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member knows better than this. If no other hon. member wishes to speak, Mr. Minister, please wind up.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is amazing how the Opposition is seeking information today when yesterday they did not find it convenient to be in the House. It is my responsibility however, Sir, to the country to give the necessary information which they have questioned.

I will deal with the member for St. Michael West. He queried the land at Passage Road and I must confess that he has an idea of what is going on there because he surely did mention a number of things which transpired during some Meetings which were held by the Ministry of Housing.

Government is in the process and is at a very advanced stage of using the land at St. Cecelia's at Passage Road which the hon. member has referred to and which is owned by Plantations Limited for the purpose of additional housing in Bridgetown. It is 5½ acres and we are examining the possibilities of using 2 to 3 acres. This is determined by the planners for Housing and the remainder of the land we are hoping to use for recreational facilities which would help tie in with the St. Cecelia Project.

I would be hopeful myself if it would be possible to start it during the coming Financial Year but I am not quite sure that we will be able to have this done. 12.40 p.m.

I can give the assurance that he said he could not get a house in his own constituency for any of the people whom he represents, the Government would not give him a house for his constituents and he is planning to build houses in his own constituency for them. This is the difference between this Government and that former Government.

The other point he raised Sir, was access to the sea. This has caused both my Ministry and the officials very great concern, as much concern, as that of the public. As I understand it, many years ago when there was any development which one might have had, there should always have been public access to the beaches but over the years, I think because of a lack of monitoring properly, a number of these access passes to the beach have either been encroached upon by builders, or by some other form. Many of them have been closed out and at this point in time the Ministry had delegated the duties of the Parks and Beaches.....

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. In accordance to Standing Order No. 9 I am drawing it to your attention that there is not a quorum in this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the bell be rung.

The bell was rung.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I see a quorum, please continue.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Head 43 stand part.

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

The question that Head 43 – Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment in the sum of $6,881,380 – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 82 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Head 82 – Capital – Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment in the sum of $16,614,000 – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 82 stand part.

Hon. members on the other side had asked for information and if they can treat the Government benches with that contempt then Sir, I have no more information for them. I beg to move that Head 82 stand part.

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

The question that Head 82 – Capital – Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment in the sum of $16,614,000 – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it would not be convenient to start Ministry of Health right now and I beg to move that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The question that the Chairman report progress and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2 p.m. today.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

12.50

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION No. 18/1980

Resolution to approve an amendment to Resolution No. 18/1980 of 11th March, 1980, by the substitution of the words "One Million, one hundred and fifty-one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-four dollars" for the words "One Million, one hundred and forty-five thousand, seven hundred and eighty-four dollars."

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution be read a first time.

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG seconded by Hon. L. B BRATHWAITE, the Resolution was read a second time and agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Ministry of Health and National Insurance as amended in the sum of $31,356,749 was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this is the fourth occasion, the fourth year on which I have come into the Estimates debate in this Honourable House as Minister of Health and National Insurance. It is also the fourth year where I find that health discovers itself relegated to the last day of the Estimates only hours before the guillotine is ready to come on. *(Asides)* I do not consider it fortunate for me, Mr. Chairman. I want health to be debated. I do not know what it is. Are people afraid of health, do they take it for granted, is it that they do not care about it, is it that it is not really a source of any complaint? I do not know. We come in here and we talk about a motor car, a cow, a toilet; these are the things the Opposition brings to the debate in the Estimates, Sir. It is one of the Ministries, Mr. Chairman, which enjoys the largest share of the national budget; a great deal of the taxpayers' money is spent in the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health is a Ministry in these years where huge policy decisions are being taken, where new departures are occurring and yet still people come in here and want to debate a toilet and a car and a cow. It is really more than distressing. A lot of shenanigans going on over the five days. The Opposition has not brought anything to the Estimates debate; it is the dullest debates I have seen in here. We cannot get a full gallery in here and the Malone Commission could get a full gallery for 29 days

in one case. Is it that the Opposition cannot attack the Government's record? Is that what it is, Mr. Chairman? I do not know what it is; but I am tired of it, and I do not want to hear when the debate on health is midway any nonsense about sit down, other things are to come on, the guillotine is coming down. I do not want to hear it. Health deserves a whole full day of debate in here. There are serious issues which ought to be brought before public attention, but what do we see; a lot of mock strategies in here, a bunch of blind mice marching in behind Mighty Mouse, Most Mouse, Maximum Mouse leading in a bunch of blind mice in here in and out, in and out, creeping, crawling during the House debate; all that foolishness. We have to sit down in here and provoke and push and accuse before they will rise to any debate. Nothing has happened in here for the five days and I don't think anything is going to happen before tonight. It is a sad commentary on the Opposition. *(Asides)* The gallery does not come to hear the Government; the gallery put in the Government already. The gallery comes in to hear what the Opposition can say to provoke the Government. *(Asides)* I don't want to hear anything from you, man; you had five days to talk that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross talk.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, there are serious points to be made and the first thing I wish to say is that the Ministry of Health surely is not unhappy with the new format of the Estimates. During the last financial year the Ministry of Health was used to some extent as the guinea pig for this new format, and it is possible that perhaps we are a little more familiar with the way in which it is intended to work, but I am not unhappy with it. For instance, Sir, under the sub-head dealing with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sub-head 7 in this new format, the Ministry of Health will now be in a position to avoid something which occurred during the past few days. The junior doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital went on a work to rule because the Government was in arrears of certain rental payments made on behalf of these doctors. I sympathise greatly with the junior doctors. I believe that they behaved in the end in a very responsible fashion even though they had used the medium of a work to rule to make their point felt.

Under the old format the situation was that although we had monies with some of these monies lapsing under certain items within a sub-head, that could not be transferred within the sub-head to pay or make good certain arrears of rent. I had to come back here last month for monies by way of a supplementary to satisfy arrears of rent. In the new format, as we understand it, that sort of thing will not occur again and I am not saying this only by way of trying to put any apprehensions that the doctors may have at rest, but like I indicated earlier by way of showing my approval for this new format of Estimates. So under sub-head 7 now, Sir, where we run short under one item, it will be possible to make up or to make good with funds which may be lapsing in another item within the sub-head.

2.10 p.m.

Now, very early on in the week near the beginning of this debate, Mr. Chairman, there was some talk about levels of expenditure on our social services. I wish to say that this Government has never had, does not now have, and does not anticipate that it will ever make any apology for the level of expenditure on social services, and in particular, naturally, on health which is the major social service in my view. What we do have a quarrel with, Mr. Chairman, is the quality of these services, we have a quarrel with the value which we do not get in return for the money spent. There is great wastage not only in social services and in health, there is great wastage throughout the Public Service. In Health I know that there is great wastage and we have been making a serious effort during the past three and a half years to bring this wastage under control and to bring a greater degree of efficiency to the management of the Ministry of Health and National Insurance.

A cursory look through the Estimates of the Ministry of Health will show, for instance, that in some areas we are beginning to convert in our institutions to solar heating. We are taking a serious look at ways of containing the energy requirements and the energy costs within the institutions of the Ministry of Health, and that is only one example.

Particularly, Mr. Chairman, in the area of tertiary care I believe that costs will have to be contained even more stringently than they already are being in the Ministry of Health. We have in our programme in tertiary care an expansion coming, for instance, in the post graduate medical education sphere. There is a continual cry for expansion of specialities at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and bearing all these things in mind it is all the more important that we are prudent and careful in the management of our tertiary health care service. We need to streamline the style of management in the Ministry of Health, and this whole business of streamlining of management is very carefully articulated and is a very sizeable component in the report of the consultants on the National Health Service.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the report on the National Health Service is out, it is before the various interest groups and the professions whose comments we have invited. Members of Cabinet have copies of it. The

shadow Minister of Health, I believe, over on the other side has requested a copy of the report and I will oblige him with a copy. I wish people to look at it and to tell us how they feel about it. It is a public document. *(Asides).* What is the matter over there? Don't they know who is the shadow Minister of Health? (Mr. TAITT: He knows who he is). They will have to work that out between them, Mr. Chairman. He says he knows who he is. But the fact is, Mr. Chairman, that this is a very important document. It has been three years in the planning, three years in the designing, three years in the making. A great deal of the infrastructure of the National Health Service is already underway, but it is very important that the professions in particular and the interest groups who have indicated that they wish their opinion and their comment to be heard, should read it, analyse it and let us have their comments as soon as possible, because within a matter of weeks I wish to be able to take this report before the Cabinet for final decisions to be made about which recommendations we will accept, which recommendations we will not accept, how we will amend the recommendations to suit Barbados.

There is a very mistaken view about in the public domain, Mr. Chairman, that when a Commission or consultants or a group is set up to enquire into a matter or to make recommendations that the body or the person setting it up is under the obligation to accept every single thing that it recommends. That is not so. Within the National Health Service, and I have had cause to say this already in this Hon. House, and I don't intend to spend a great deal of time going over ground which we have gone over before on more than one occasion, but I think that by now everybody must know that the drug plan is going to be the first phase of the National Health Service, and that this aspect of it has already been approved by the Cabinet and monies are being voted in these Estimates for the implementation of that plan to begin as early in April after the first day as possible.

The essence of the drug plan is, Mr. Chairman – and I have said this already but I will reiterate – that we hope by doing generic as far as is humanly possible, by bulk purchases, by the establishment of a national formulary and other measures that we will contain the cost of drugs. Barbados is a country which grows very little by way of raw material for the drug industry. All of our drugs we import, and in a Third World developing country like this I believe that it will never be possible for everyone to have drugs free of cost right across the board, but there are certain groups of people to whom we give the highest priority. These people must have free drugs at all times from day one when the health service goes into action. All of those who are over 65, I don't care whether they are old age pensioners or not, there cannot be any partisan politics in health, just as there cannot be in education, and I do not expect anybody on that side or this side to put it to me. I don't care whose old lady or whose old man you are, or what your politics are, as long as you are over 65 and you are in need of drugs you must have them free of cost. You could be Bowring's wife, you could be Lady Adams, you could be Ding-Ding, you could be Gearbox, I don't care who you are.

2.20 p.m.

We have to assume in Health that everyone, whether they have made a tangible contribution that we can see or not, is entitled to this basic human need and so all those persons over sixty five years of age, irrespective of whether they are old age pensioners or not, irrespective of their political affiliation or anything else, will be entitled to drugs free of cost when they need them. I am not saying that I am going to encourage a situation where people when in need of drugs take them home and lock them up. I have a plastic bag now in my Ministry with over $200 worth of drugs that one person accumulated and never used. That kind of thing has got to stop, and this is one of the reasons why I keep appealing to people to go and get themselves registered in the current registration exercise, because it is not everybody who comes and hold out his hand that will get the drugs, and this business of people coming back two and three times for the same drugs, all of that is going to have to stop. This is criminal wastage which the present system has encouraged.

One group that will get drugs free of cost is children under the age of six years; they are our investment for the future. Then there will be a third group which we cannot ignore. In our community we have a very high incidence of diabetes and hypertension among other chronic illnesses, and having considered all things I find it very difficult to introduce a drug service which in the end will not make drugs available to some of these people who need them more than any others but do not fall into categories A or B. In fact, a great number of those people who suffer these illnesses are not in the children group or the over sixty-five age group, but they are a group of people, a part of our population, who will bring great pressure to bear on our institutions if we do not deal with them at the earliest possible time. That is why people suffering from these diseases will fall into the category of people receiving drugs free of cost or heavily subsidized.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Polyclinics are on the way; they are part of the infra-structure of the National Health Service. Some of the doctors in the National Health Service will work out of the polyclinics and some out of their own offices. Some of the doctors in the National Health Service will be rather young people who do not yet have their own private offices, and the Polyclinics have been designed to carry small group practice or individual practitioners working out of the Polyclinic if that is what they prefer. I am in position to report today that the tenders for the rebuilding of the Polyclinic at

Warrens and the new Polyclinic at Wildey are now before the Tenders Committee, and we expect that one of the tenders has been decided and accepted and the matter agreed upon by the Inter-American Development Bank which is the source of funding, and we shall start building at Warrens and Wildey simultaneously on 1st June. The Polyclinic at Oistin is to be built at something like four or five times the size of the present Health Centre, to take care of that area. We expect that to go to tender next week and construction at Oistin should start a couple of months after the construction at Warren and Wildey.

Moving on to another area of interest: The Dog Control Programme has been going for almost one year now. The licencing drive started in November 1978 but the actual programme of picking up stray dogs started in March 1979. It is now March 1980 and in exactly one year working with only two vehicles and two teams of dog catchers, that unit has picked up something like 3,000 dogs, and the revenues earned by way of licences is something like $106,000. Now the fact is that two teams are grossly insufficient to do this work. We have touched no more than four parishes. We are getting two more teams very shortly through a grant made available from the Pan American World Health Organization and so we will be able to double the effort we are now making in that programme. We know that we cannot let our efforts flag in this programme. It is believed that something in the region of $200,000 a year in livestock is destroyed by savage dogs, and I can only at this stage promise this Honourable House that once we get two more teams on the ground although we will have double strength we would hope to triple the effort which we are making in the dog control programme.

In the area of sewerage I think that it is general public knowledge that the Sewerage Project is really three subcontracts rolled into one. The treatment plant is well under way and the laying of sewers has very recently started. It is estimated that the programme should be completed in mid 1981, so somewhere around the middle of next year we hope that the sewers will all be laid and the project near readiness to go into operation. The statute which has to be prepared as part of this whole project for the establishment of a Water Authority has been done and recommendations made to the Cabinet. It is agreed that the Water Authority will fall under the Portfolio of the Ministry of Communications and Works and the sewerage system will be administered by that Ministry. Indeed these Estimates will show to those interested that certain monies have been voted under the Ministry of Communications and Works in respect of the sewerage project.

2.30 p.m.

The Sanitation Service Authority, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is making some very bold steps in the direction of modernisation of the whole concept of the management of Sanitation in this country.

The Pulverisation Plant at Workmans in St. George is virtually completed. At the moment certain trials are being carried out, I believe, on the equipment and machinery there and we expect that the Plant will become operational by the middle of next month. The Plant is going to be run and managed by the Sanitation Service Authority.

In these Estimates, too Mr. Chairman, Sir, for those who have eyes to see, it can be observed that monies have been sought for a new modern public convenience somewhere in the middle of Bridgetown. A modern, well tiled, well serviced convenience which will service not only the residents and shoppers of Barbados, but the large influx of Tourists who throng the streets of Bridgetown generally during the Tourist Season. In fact, Mr. Chairman, both in and out of the Season, because I think we have approached the point in Barbados where there is no discernible season anymore since the Tourist Industry is a year round Industry now.

This new convenience is expected to be located on Liverpool Street, just behind Collins Limited which is an equalled distance from the Wharf side and Broad Street. We hope that in due course all of the new City Centres and particularly the new City Centres which are coming will have public conveniences, modern and clean.

The old conveniences are not nice, Mr. Chairman. There is no other language I can use. It does not matter how many times we repaint them, how many times we retile them, take bricks out of the toilet cisterns – I do not know why people will do things like that – but through years of misuse there is a stench connected with public conveniences which no paint, and I do not think even plaster now or concrete can hide.

The new town at Oistins, the revitalised new town at Speightstown, a new town in St. George, Mr. Chairman, coming in the area of the Glebe, all of these towns must have new modern conveniences. It is true that most of the shops and business houses in Bridgetown are required under the Health Services Regulations to have conveniences which are accessible to the public but let us face facts. You know how it is. It is up on the top floor parked away at the back and there are no signs and you have to ask and beg and insist to be shown where these conveniences are but we have made a start. We have made a start and I hope that the new convenience just off Broad Street will be one of the others to come down and around Bridgetown. I hope that in due course we can demolish and do away with the old, ugly and Victorian

design of public conveniences which we have had to put up with for as long as I could remember.

Sanitation Service Authority itself now, we have increased the fleet. I think that most hon. members would have seen over the past few months a new collector which I believe is popularly known as the "Ant" in and around St. Michael in particular. It is a little vehicle that is designed to negotiate the small street, the narrow gaps and alleys which cannot accommodate the large compactor or other vehicular trucks. It is hoped that there will be a serious upgrading of the Authority's fleet in these Estimates. There is a lot of equipment which is proposed to be purchased during this coming Financial Year.

The Sanitation Service Headquarters too, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is going to be relocated at Wildey. Not only because the Sanitation Service Authority for years has deserved and needed new Headquarters, because it finds itself scattered in three separate locations across the City of Bridgetown, my view is that there is absolutely no need for the Headquarters of the Sanitation Service Authority to be located in the middle of the City.

There are some people who believe and still hold on to this antiquated idea that there is no need to relocate but we are moving it out to Wildey which we consider to be a location which can service not only the central area but also the South because we want to move any new sub-office of Sanitation out of the new Oistin town.

City Centres are not the places where we want to see a lot of prime land sitting down under garbage trucks. There is no argument to justify that, Mr. Chairman, and so we are moving the trucks out of Bridgetown. We are moving the trucks out of Oistins and they are not going into Speightstown.

One of the reasons too why Headquarters for the Sanitation Authority at Wildey has taken the kind of priority this year and, of course, it suited me particularly, was because the prime locations which we now sit on in Bridgetown are desperately needed for vital development in the City. For instance, the Service Yard at Church Village is required by the Central Bank because it is part of the real estate needed for the new Central Bank. Nobody is happier than the Sanitation Health Authority Staff to get out of Church Village.

It is cramped. It is not designed in the first place for the function which it must carry out and it is unsuitable in many other respects as a Service Yard for the Authority's vehicles. The Central Bank cannot wait to get us out because they want to start their building and we cannot wait to get out because we want decent, purpose-built accommodation at Wildey.

2.40 p.m.

Fire is also up under our bottoms Mr. Chairman, Sir, in respect of allocation at St. Cecilia at Passage Road. This is of particular importance to me. The Ministry started digging foundations for the new housing project for the people of Bridgetown, the City of Bridgetown, at St. Cecilia. That side of Passage Road is the City. I cannot mind St. Michael South West now, I have to break for myself. This is 1980, since 1976, I was waiting for this. Do not believe that I am not going to hustle the sanitation trucks out of that location to let the Ministry of Housing get there in April, 1980, next month. I am going to be there when the first pickaxe goes down, back hoe, if it is a teaspoon they use to start to dig the foundation I am going to be there. The sanitation trucks are not going to be around there. They are going to have to find temporary accommodation elsewhere until we get our headquarters constructed at Wildey. You see Mr. Chairman, Sir, those are just very briefly some of the plans for modernising the Sanitation Authority in this Financial Year.

If I could skip now Sir, to another matter which is of particular interest to me, again the matter of family planning. You will see Sir, that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities has granted, not loaned, to us a sum of almost $300,000 (US) so that we may decentralise our family planning clinics into the polyclinics over a period of three years. This is very important, Sir. For many years, the Family Planning Association for which association it is difficult for me to find words of praise, has done a service to this country and are still doing service to this country for which successive governments have been grateful, but the fact is we have designed a comprehensive health service and also the fact is that the clinical services which the Family Planning Association offers to the public has now outgrown the facility.

The Family Planning Association is housed in a Government building compound in the Ministry of Health. It is more than a lip service that the Government has paid over many years to the Association. I have decided that the time has come, as it was always envisaged that it would come, for the Government to absolve and integrate into its National Health Service, the Family Planning Clinical Service. It is hoped that with this substantial grant from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, an organisation which has been exceptionally kind to Barbados and to the Caribbean in many other respects. It is hoped, that with this very generous grant we would be able to put Family Planning nurses and educators into each of the polyclinics.

The Family Planning Association, I hope, will now be in a position to give greater thrusts in the area of family planning education. I cannot over-state that fact. There is great and urgent need not only for family

planning education Sir, but for family life education on the whole in this country. It says something terrible in a community as well educated as ours that 12 and 13 year old girls still find themselves pregnant and do not know or understand how they became pregnant. We are worried about the escalating teenage pregnancies. It is something which is not peculiar to Barbados, almost everywhere in the world, both in developed and developing countries, teenage pregnancy rates are rising. We have always taken this business of family planning very seriously. We are a tiny island with limited resources. We are one of the most densely populated areas of the world and the rising teenage pregnancy rate is a source of concern to the Ministry of Health and to the Family Planning Association.

The other thing that I would like to say, but not in this connection, but I say it right under this Head and right after family planning to make the point that it is not a form of family planning, it is not an extension of family planning. I speak about the matter of abortion. A Draft Abortion Bill is on its way to the Cabinet. The Bill has been circulated to all of the churches, even those who did not want to read it were still presented with it. It has been circulated to many interest groups, it has been circulated to all those groups which were represented on the Committee appointed by the last administration to look into this whole matter and make recommendations on it. The comments and the opinions from the profession and these interest groups have been received by the Ministry and we are in the process of analysing this and compiling it into a Cabinet paper, so that a final decision on this question can be arrived at and I hope that this will happen next month. I am not proposing, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to go into any more detail, on matters falling within the portfolio of the Ministry of Health. If hon. members wish to raise specific questions, I will deal with them in my reply.

In the area of National Insurance, which is my second portfolio, there is very little that I need to report to this Hon. House or to draw to the attention of hon. members.
2.50 p.m.

The National Insurance Scheme continues to work well, continues to govern its affairs with a very high degree of efficiency. It is hoped of course that the National Health Service will in due course become a health benefit under the national insurance scheme. In that scheme for some time now, Mr. Chairman, we have had several health benefits. We had a maternity benefit, a sickness benefit, employment injury, even a death benefit, but there is no health benefit, and one way of looking at the national health service is to see it as the soaking in of the health benefit under the national insurance scheme. That is the only way. The way in which the health benefit will differ from other benefits in the national insurance scheme is that all the benefits which we get up to date are cash benefits. When you draw the sickness benefit you draw cash money; when you draw the maternity benefit you draw cash money, when you draw employment injury you draw money, but the difference with the health benefit is that you will not draw money. We are giving you a service, and that is why I insist that the national health service be properly described as a national health service; it is not a national health scheme; it is a national health service offered through the vehicle of the national health scheme. What we offer the public is a service; it will not be a case of putting money in people's hands and saying go and pay a doctor. A lot of people will go to another kind of doctor; a lot of people will drink another kind of medicine. This is not the case. There are certain areas where it is felt that people have to be protected from themselves, and in our country we do not take the risk of hoping that people will do what is best in the interest of their health. We are trying to design a service which will put people in a position that they cannot do other than what is good for their health. They would not have any choice when we have slotted the health benefits into the National Insurance Scheme.

I have already given an undertaking in this Honourable House that the National Insurance Board will begin and has already been instructed to begin to look at the question of unemployment benefit for contributors only. I do not want the press to get this incorrectly. This Government is not about to create a nation of Andy Capps; we are not about to create a situation where people will be lining up outside the employment exchange waiting every Friday to collect money for which they have not worked and to which they have not contributed. We do not want to see a class of young people in this country who will leave school and go directly to the employment exchange. In order to get unemployment benefits you will have to have been employed in the first place. You will have to have been employed for a certain number of weeks or months before you can draw it, and you will draw only as much on a pro rata basis as your employment ensures. People must not forget that the national insurance scheme is an insurance scheme where earnings are insured and it is not a free for all soup kitchen giving away system.

Mr. Chairman, I recognise that I am at the limit of my time. This is the next thing that we want to look at in the national insurance scheme, unemployment benefits for contributors to the scheme at some time. In fact this Government has already shown that it has a different plan and a different idea for the tackling of the unemployment question. The way to cure unemployment we feel is not to put money in people's hand so that they do not have the incentive, the wish or the need to work. Our attitude is that what we do is to provide employment and encourage people to go into it. It is not even a case of

saying that the employment is there where some people are not skilled and ready for the employment. You see under the Ministry of Labour that the skills training programme is seeking to cure that fault.

I have run out of my time limit, and I thank you for your obliging me.

I beg to move that Head 42 stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I too would like to thank you for allowing the Hon. Minister to go beyond the allotted time. I am sorry that the Hon. Minister has followed the rather bad precedent that has been set in putting her Head in its totality. I wish to state that insofar as the conduct of these Estimates this year is concerned, I hope that next year whomever is responsible for the Estimates, if it is in this form, that they will seek to break the heads into sectors so that a Minister can properly be questioned on the sectors bearing in mind the fifteen minute rule and the subsequent difficulties of speaking more than once.

Mr. Chairman, when the Prime Minister introduced the Estimates as a whole and when each time the Hon. Minister of Health had spoken in this Honourable House, he said on this occasion that the national health scheme was going to be the plank of his development programme. She said that it is a national health service. I do not attempt to split hairs because we have got so much accustomed to calling it scheme that we will have to re-adjust to calling it service. I was discussing the Prime Minister who called it a scheme. The point is, Mr. Chairman, that in spite of the fact that the Minister was somewhat chauvinist in her approach as she ended, we all had gathered the impression that the national health service will be the major thrust of the Government.

Now, Sir, the Honourable lady said that I had requested a copy of the report and it is unfortunate that I had not got such a copy prior to my discussion of it in the Estimates.
3.00 p.m.

But I have, fortunately because of my contacts outside of Barbados, been able to get a cursory look at some of the recommendations,and there is one point that has been made in the Executive Summary of the Report to the Minister of Health and National Insurance of the Government of Barbados, a point that has to be kept in the forefront of the minds of every single person who will be the provider or acceptor of this service which the Hon. Minister has promised us. It has to be borne in mind, and it appears on page 23 of the Executive Summary, and no doubt it appears in the Report proper. It sets out that it will be a payroll tax, it establishes that it will be a payroll tax, and it sets out to say where the employee's and the employer's portion of the payroll tax will fall, and it summarises its finding using one individual, and then it says, Mr. Chairman, a cautionary note. "The above indicated that the net impact on the employee is slight, $4.40 per employee per year. However, in actuality in the long run employees, that is, the workers, will shoulder most of the tax burden, employers – that is, the ones who do the employing – will probably raise prices to cover part or all of their tax burden and the Ministry's portion must come from increased taxes."

Now, Mr. Chairman, from the very day that the concept of a national health scheme *cum* service has been promulgated in this country we have taken the position that you cannot bribe people with their own money.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I made it abundantly clear when I spoke, this report is only a report from consultants, it is not inscribed on tablets of stone, it has not been accepted by the Government yet, and in the interest of us all I would like to caution the hon. member for St. Michael South West not to try to give people the slightest wit of an impression to the public that what he is stating is already a fact, because it is not so. I do not think that this forum is the place to have a debate on this report. It is when the Government accepts recommendations and rejects and amends others to suit itself and we come here with the final thing that he would be in a position to get up and make the kind of speech that he is making now, but I warn him that it is in the interest of us all not to mislead the public on this. I expect us all to be responsible, even the Press has been responsible in its attack so far.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will not allow that kind of rhetoric to deter me from doing my duty. I do not believe what I just heard from the Hon. Minister. Here is a report, a final report of a group of consultants whom they consider to be the type .....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is entirely out of order, he is quoting from a report which has not been laid in this House and which he does not have the power and authority to lay.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I now make it a document of this House. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You can't). She can't tell me I can't and she can't tell me where I can quote it, and she spoke and discussed the said report. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I did not). You didn't talk about the Keizer Report? (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: In general terms). Well, I am talking about it in general terms, very general terms. I am talking about the cost of this national health scheme or service. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You do not know what it is going to cost). And neither do you, and that is the whole point. That

is the point, because the impression being given to the people in this country .....

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

Mr. TAITT: I do not understand this thing, Mr. Chairman, I am trying to make a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to ask the hon. member for St. Michael South West if he is quoting from a document which the Minister lent him. (Mr. JOHNSON: A piece of paper).

Mr. TAITT: Look, this is the one she sent me there. I said I got mine from sources overseas. And as for him talking about a piece of paper, I am going to later on in this Session demonstrate that this House was subject to the worst kind of misrepresentation yesterday when they came in here and told the House that they had an audited report, and I checked it myself and the report is not audited, Mr. Chairman, all the information given to me says that the report is not audited. Do not talk to me about a piece of paper, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I do not like the manner of the hon. member. An hon. member may speak with all the force at his command, and this applies to all hon. members, but the Chair will not tolerate shouting.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member for St. Michael South West has just told this House that I mislead this Chamber yesterday by saying that a document that was here was not an audited document. I did not speak yesterday, and therefore he is not giving this House accurate information.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just want to say that if at all an hon. member would be using a document lent to him by the Minister it would be a great discourtesy, but the member has pointed out that he is not using that document. Is it a similar document?

Mr. TAITT: In the first place, Mr. Chairman, I will not stand or sit in this House if I come to feel that my own privileges are being treated in any way differently from any other member. Now, Sir, Your Honour must have heard the hon. member say she is going to give me the document. Now, Sir, in your ruling you are suggesting that I would have been so dishonourable as to take a document lent and quote from it. I accept your point that if I so did it would be discourteous, I give you the assurance that it is not so, and I do resent anyone suggesting that I am behaving in a manner that is different from how we should behave in this Hon. House. I wish to be heard in here like anybody else.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Give it back to her, I do not want it. Every time one gets up to speak, new rules seem to emanate from the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw the remark.

Mr. TAITT: I withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must also understand that he cannot interrupt when the Chair is speaking.

Mr. TAITT: I can assure you, Sir, I am very pained, I have to be. However, I am going to support this document because it is imperative..... *(Asides)* If the hon. Leader of the Opposition wishes me to sit down, I will sit down.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am reminding the hon. member that he has only two more minutes and that I want to get on to Defence and Security. *(Uproar)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. There are too many interruptions. I must also advise the hon. Leader of the House about the time factor because we will have to be using the guillotine. The hon. member may continue to speak.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, the Chair is standing. Does the hon. member for St. Michael South West wish to continue?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I know that any attempt to expose the fallacy of the hon. member's statement....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. You are presiding over the debate in here. The very thing I said when I got up has come to pass. I don't know how it is that at 3.15 I am hearing about the guillotine. But I intend to talk about Health and other members intend to talk about health. If the hon. member for St. John wishes to talk about Defence and Security he will have to wait.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of personal explanation, Mr. Chairman. I was given an undertaking yesterday that the House would discuss Defence and Security this morning. If we do not get to the rest of the Estimates – which I am anxious to discuss, including Health – the hon. Minister cannot blame this side. I would have like to discuss Health on Tuesday, for perhaps a day and a half.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Leader of the Opposition failed to debate Health for three years when he used to call the Heads. Now it is different. But this is the name of the game.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are debating Health, and I am waiting to hear the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, this is in response to what the Leader of the Opposition said. He said he was given an undertaking about debating an item this morning – Defence and Security. I understand he was given that undertaking by the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister does not dictate the business of the House; that undertaking would have to be given by the Leader of the House. Secondly, we could not finish Housing last night because you led your colleagues out of the House and then they came in when it suited them and talked a bundle of nonsense.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member has said that hon. members came in and talked a bundle of nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Hon. L S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member said....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am on a point of order; the hon. member cannot get up and talk about Defence and Security.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are still on Health; does any other member want to make a contribution?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman I do not think that I have to make this disreputable document a document of the House; I am referring to the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party from the General Elections of 1976, in which among the mass of promises made to the people of Barbados was the promise that the Barbados Labour Party Government would establish a free national health service for all Barbadians. Now, Mr. Chairman, I often refer to the Manifesto provisions of a political party because I believe that if democracy in this country is to survive and if there is going to be any integrity in public life, then Government must honour their Manifesto promises, particularly when you are dealing with an area of social services where such matters as costing etc., could readily have been determined and reasonable projections made in respect of the escalation of costs. Therefore there is no excuse for the hon. Minister within a few months of assuming office to say to us that nothing is free, far less a National Health Service. But what was the nature of the fraud perpetrated on the public of Barbados?
3.20 p.m.

Let us examine and see what was the state of the Health Service in respect of what was paid for from the public purse and what was paid for by private individuals in 1976, the entire Public Health in the technical sense, that is the support you give to your Waterworks Department and all sorts of areas. You can also include, the Sewerage Department or anything at all and all of this is paid for directly from the Treasury.

Let us look next at your Hospital Services. Of the total amount of Hospital beds in this country in 1976, I believe that there were probably 10 or so Private beds at the Diagnostic Clinic which have now been closed down. I believe there are approximately 10 at Woodside. There would be approximately 40 of some 600 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and there are less than 100 beds at the St. Joseph Hospital.

If you look at the number of operations performed in this country, if you look at the number of consultations taking place in the public and private sector, you will recognise that about 80% to 90% of the total Health Service in this country has already been nationalised and paid for by the public out of the Public Treasury. What was not paid for was for those persons attending General Practitioners and those patients attending Specialists in private practice and those patients buying drugs prescribed from that source and even many patients purchasing drugs and receiving from that source under special arrangements over the years from the Local Government or Central Government, I refer to persons like the parish Doctors and so on who were able to get drugs at various outlets in this country free.

It was the small sector of the Health Delivery System in Barbados that was even subjected to any form of nationalisation. That is the first thing that you have to face and that is a fact and if you were to analyse the Chief Medical Officer's Report which is laid in this House from year to year and you look at any criteria you will see the extent to which the public services in Barbados had been nationalised prior to 1976.

They have promised a free National Health Service. Mr. Chairman, it is now 3½ years later. In respect of Secondary Care in Institutions we saw an increase in prices of the bed rates and so on to persons in Barbados. I have no quarrel with that but far from seeing any improvement, I will take the Hospital System first.

When the Democratic Labour Party took over the Queen Elizabeth Hospital it was a major capital investment made by the previous Barbados Labour Party Government and a good investment by the previous

Barbados Labour Party Government. It was nothing but a Village Hospital, beds, hardly any infra-structure of any kind and I can speak of developments that took place there during the period that I was there, less than 10 years.

Mr. Chairman, we saw the development of one of the best Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departments anywhere in a developing country that I have seen. We saw the development of the speciality of Pediatrics and Natal Care during this period. We saw the development of Internal Medicine as an important speciality within the Hospital context and also sub-divisions within that speciality including Cardiology, and including Intensive Care. I did not want to refer to that, of course.

We saw the development of a Radio Theraphy Unit that is still the best in the Caribbean although lots of problems exist in terms of maintenance and so on. We saw the development at one stage of significant Chest Surgery where even Close Heart Surgery was done here at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We have seen Vascular Surgery developed.

We have seen this Hospital developed to a point where at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital more persons in 1976 were trained for Post-Graduate Degrees in 10 years, and I refer to the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, which I have now abandoned, having been exalted to the Fellowship. More has been done in 10 years than what was actually produced by the University of the West Indies.

We saw, Mr. Chairman, this Hospital become a Teaching Department of the University of the West Indies with International Accreditation. We saw an expansion of the infra-structural services, the Radiological Services, using all sorts of fancy equipment which has been subsequently expanded since we left. I want to be fair, but the basic infra-structural equipment was there in order to permit further attachments to the equipment that was there.

We saw a Laboratory Service which is the best in the Caribbean established and during that period we saw a constant and total rundown of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because it failed to some extent in meeting the Primary Health Care demands of this community. It failed then and it is worst now. It was bad then and it is worst now.

I want to stick to the Secondary Care because I am going to speak for as many 15 minutes as time permits today. Now one of the things, Mr. Chairman, that has always been a feature of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under the Democratic Labour Party was good medical In-patient Care and dependent on that is an adequate supply of drugs.

We have seen all sorts of shortages at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital over the years. Operations have been postponed either because there is no linen for the patients or no garments for the Doctors to wear, or no gowns for the Doctors to wear or the staff or other people at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I would not tell any lies on an Institution that I have spent so much time and so much effort involved in over the years. That is a fact.

We have seen shortages of drugs. Let me give you some examples and I give these examples because they have serious implications for patient care. Antibiotics, a drug called Setrin, I will pick that one. Drugs in the treatment of Thyroid Diseases for which there might not be any alternative in given cases, a drug called Prednisolone, that is a life saving drug and worst than that, Mr. Chairman, there was an occasion when the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was out of Hydrocortisone. Hydrocortisone is a sea anchor, a life saver for every emergency that comes into the Hospital whether it be Asthma whether it be a collapse of circulatory system one of the first things if you cannot make a diagnosis you put some Hydrocortisone into the patient and in that way you stand a pretty good chance of resuscitating him and saving his life. These are within the last three or four months. The Hydrocortisone was before.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to pick some other drugs. One of the major causes of death in this country is Cancer. There are certain very basic drugs used in the management of Cancer in Barbados. I will pick the drug called Cyclophamsphimide. I will pick a drug called Vincristine. I will pick those two. There have been others but let me explain to you. The danger here is this. When a patient is established on these drugs and the Cancer is controlled and then that patient returns for treatment and the drug is not available, a new line of Cancer cells emerge and that is the end of the patient.

3.30 p.m.

I do not want to be dramatic, I want to be honest and I want to be fair because it is a matter which the Hon. Minister must face up to. It is a matter that has been of grave concern to me and I sought to bring a question to this Hon. House almost a year ago on this matter of drugs in the matter of asthma, Ventolin, Becotide, I have to be specific, and even Isoprenaline. An asthmatic patient whom you give Ventolin to, you cannot necessarily give Isoprenaline. One may have heart complications and both drugs have to be available. In other words, I have tried to focus a bit and I have only picked out the serious ones. For example, you can take intravenous infusions. The doctors have to be fishing around, trying to

make up their own infusions in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Twelve years ago, one of the reasons that motivated me to get involved in Intensive Care Medicines was the fact, that during the crop season and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture might be interested in this, around that time, you would probably see 20 or 30 people die from Leptospirosis and you would get another crop of this during the wet season. Dr. Harry Bailey, God rest him in his grave, did a very interesting thesis on that which was seriously contested here in Barbados. Unfortunately, it was not followed up for many years. It was a coincidence that when that drain was built just below the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that there was an epidemic of Leptospirosis involving about six people working on that drain and four of them died. Do you know, and this is one of the problems – I am not saying that the crops should not be reaped green – but during the period when the canes were burnt Leptospirosis virtually disappeared. Recently, a number of cases were admitted to hospital and the doctors had to go back to making up the same infusions that we had to make to do Peritoneal Dialysis 12 years ago with all the attendant risks of infection and why Mr. Chairman? It was because there was no Dianeal Fluid in the Hospital for Peritoneal Dialysis. It is not right. There is something wrong. There is no point getting up and saying that it is not true because these are facts.

When it comes to intravenous infusions, there are cases, take for example a Diabetic goes into a Coma and you need 15% Dextrose in order to resuscitate that man before his brain is completely destroyed by the Coma. You have to be fiddling around probably three or four litres of 5% Dextrose and sometimes there is no 5% Dextroses. Recently, there was no normal Saline in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. These are life savers. There is one particular patient, and I will tell the Hon. Minister, I would not say it on the floor of the Hon. House, but I am telling you that there are instances that I can quote that must be of grave concern where there were very serious consequences because of the absence of various infusion fluids in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time, 15 minutes. Does any other hon. member wish to speak?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak as a member of this Committee because the kind of charges levelled by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central are very serious charges but I find it passing strange that of the 150 or 170 how many doctors it is at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, it is not one or two you know, there is a Medical Staff Committee. There is a Drug Adviser in all kinds of Committees operating within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and there are other Committees which operate out of the Ministry of Health and are not necessarily within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – I find it passing strange that with all these doctors and nurses working at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and with all these Committees that function, and they do function because I read the Minutes, that no other doctor has drawn these serious matters to the attention of the Ministry, or the Hospital Management, or me.

I will say this Mr. Chairman, or rather, repeat what I have said, we are not satisfied with the manner in which the Pharmaceutical Industry is run in this country. We would not have spent years designing a new drug service, if we were satisfied with it. It is grossly unsatisfactory. We are ripped off as Barbadians because we are ill people. It is notorious that Third World countries are ripped off by developed countries in the area of drugs. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is public knowledge that after advertising, the Pharmaceutical Industry, is the biggest money spender in developed countries. The hon. member knows that. We are not satisfied with it and this is why we have gone to so much trouble and done so much research and we have not done it in isolation either. The Drug Plan was designed with the consultation and co-operation of doctors in this community, some employed in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and some not so employed. The Drug Plan was designed in close co-operation with the Pharmaceutical Community in this country and the hon. member knows that. I do not know what the problem is with the hon. member. It is his great aim in life to pull down the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Even when his party was in power, he was trying to pull down the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order Mr. Chairman. The remark by the Hon. Minister is certainly unparliamentary. I have been most patient, I have said nothing on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and even when I could have said something that is far more damaging to you, I offered to give it to you in writing rather than bring it out in public. It is not fair, you must not say things like that.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I must not say things like that, as though it was not public knowledge some years ago, that the then Hon. Minister of Health in the Democratic Labour Party Administration was castigated by the then Prime Minister and complained that he was interferred with by somebody who was described as the second most important man in this country. Do not come to me with that. There was talk about an inquiry in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that at that time it did not merit an inquiry. The only trouble is that the then Ministers of Health at the time did not have the backbone to get up and deal with him.

3.40 p.m.

He should have resigned in protest if he felt so strongly about it; so I am not going to hear you and any-

body in Barbados is going to hear you with any nonsense now about you never tried to pull down the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I am not replying, man. You are going to tell me what I am to say now?

I want to deal with this point about free. What is good for the goose is good for the gander; what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. These are the days of equal rights, Mr. Chairman. We heard in 1961 about a free school meals. The school meals had attached to it a fee. Since 1976 we abolished the fee and they abused us for abolishing the fee. They say we should not make the school meals free at the point of delivery, that that is to make people disrespect the school meals, and he is going to get up in here with a lot of puerile nonsense about a free health service. The health service is going to be free at the point of delivery. I have said that already and I will have cause I have no doubt, to say it many times again.

One of the reasons why we have the clog that we have almost every day at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and have had for years from the time it went into operation at the Casualty is because the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which is an acute general hospital has been asked over many years to play a function it was not designed to play, that is, primary care, and you know that. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is not meant to deliver primary care and in all the years that the Democratic Labour Party administered health in this country and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital they tried to force it to deliver primary health care. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central dreamed up a grand and fantastic plant for the delivery of primary care from the precincts of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which would have meant building on extra buildings and a fancy clinic within the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. You sent it to me and I have it in my possession. That was your grand idea of what a national health service is. We heard a lot of rubbish in here about what percentage of health service in this country was nationalised before 1976. What the people of this country know, Mr. Chairman, is that before 1976 and up until the time we implement the national health service that they are paying more for health in this country than they pay for any other service. We spend more of the national budget on education than we spend on anything else, but let me point this out to you and to hon. members in here. When you spend maybe $70 million a year or whatever it will be this year on education, there is very little more than you have to go back to your pocket for. They are not going for the ten cents for the school meals now; they are not paying for school books; very soon they would not be paying for school uniforms; so there is very little that you go back to your pocket for after you have paid your taxes and money is voted in here to pay for the educational system in this country, but it is different with health. You spent over $50 million on health in the last financial year as you have been all the years back; it has taken second place to education every single year for many years, but look how many times you go back to your pocket. You go back to your pocket every time you go to the doctor; you go back to your pocket every time you go to the druggist or the drugstore; you go back to your pocket every time you go to the dentist; you go back to your pocket every time you go to the dental technician to pay for false teeth; you go back to your pocket every single time you need to see the optician; you go back to your pocket every time you see the man who will make your glasses. Don't let me continue, Mr. Chairman. The fact is in this country today we have no actual idea of what is spent in the private sector on health, and when you add that or what you think it is or what you estimate it to be to what is spent in the public sector there is nothing on which we spend more money in this country than on health. It is not necessarily a bad thing that we give this kind of priority to health, but like I said in the beginning we are not getting value for money, and to a great extent that is what the national health service is about, that we should get value for money, and that we should spend our money more efficiently. It is ridiculous that we spend over $100 million on health a year in this country, and it can't be less than that. I defy anybody to prove to me that you are spending less than $100 million a year on health in this country, and you still have to go to a doctor and pull out $25 and you still have to go to the druggist and pull out $42 for one item. Something is wrong; something is desperately wrong and we acknowledge that, and that is what we are trying to correct with the national health service. You must get back value for money; so I am not going to sit down in here and listen to any rubbish coming from the other side, Sir, about the failure to provide primary care. That is the very premise on which the statement in the manifesto of 1976 is made, that the one area in which we have failed consistently in this country is the area of primary care, particularly in the area of curative services.

This Barbados Labour Party made a very important decision way back in the Fifties that we would invest in preventive first, that we would emphasise preventive. When we were leaving Government in 1961 the investment which we were about to make in curative services began when the foundations for that said hospital were dug and the building was started. The foundations were laid and they came into power for fifteen to sixteen years and what happened? Where was the emphasis? Building up tertiary care in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is true that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is an illustrious teaching hospital of the University of the West Indies. I do not deny that, but in the area of health you ignored one section; you built up one sector at the peril of another and in all those years primary care suffered. I do not quarrel with you for building up tertiary care; you didn't have any choice. We left you a big hospital in

which to put service and you were to put specialities. We did not leave you in there to have empty corridors; it was laid on a platter for you; all you had to do was to implement it, but you let primary care suffer in those years.

In 1976 I came in here in the Ministry of Health to find that primary care service which was laid down by the Barbados Labour Party in 1950 had not been tampered with, and that was a crying shame. The same health centres, the same size, the same staff nearly that we left, that we established in 1950, I came in 1976 and found that they were expected to service a much increased population. What do you think we build polyclinics for? Because we want to dot monuments about the place? Your administration and you as a doctor should know better. Your administration encouraged a serious centralisation of health services in this country. It is ridiculous that somebody from St. Lucy has to come to town to get a prescription filled; it is disgraceful. I do not care how beautiful the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is, it says something terrible about the style of management of health services that you have a big fancy hospital in Bridgetown and if somebody needs a prescription filled in St. Lucy has to go to Speightstown at least and if the one druggist in Speightstown did not have it, you would have to come to Bridgetown.
3.50 p.m.

It is like seven of you all in Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition got a majority of 3,000 votes. It does not make any difference, you are still in Opposition. You ignored one sector, and you have the gall to come in here and talk about a failure in primary care. You are the architect of the failure in primary care, you are a tertiary care man, you do not give a five cent piece about primary care. (Dr. HAYNES: You heard me mention primary care in my speech? I said secondary care). Primary care, I heard him say so. The Reporter can always say what you said, don't try any dirty tricks with me in here. So, Mr. Chairman, we are not going to hear this kind of talk in here, what he has done in the fifteen minutes he was talking apart from making some non-points, was to praise up all that he did to build the Queen Elizabeth Hospital up as a fancy hospital in 15 years. That is no claim to fame, what type of health service did you develop? One which had no interest in primary care but was so interested in tertiary care. It was almost as though you were waiting for people to get sick to come in there so that you could show them expertise in there. Nonsense, I don't want to hear any more of it.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, to continue where I left off, the hon. member elected to continue her platform for her national health service programme. I have no quarrel with that, but I dealt specifically with the question of the failure of further development of our secondary and tertiary care services during my previous 15 minutes.

The hon. member talked about a Commission of Enquiry at the hospital. I am so sorry that the Barbados Labour Party did not have one, because the hon. member knows perfectly well that as Chairman of a Medical Staff Committee you are not Chairman like on a Statutory Board and your sole duties in the hospital are to advise the Hospital Director on matters relating to doctors, and if a Commission of Enquiry can find you guilty of recommending the promotion of a doctor – because I do not even think I had any opportunity during my time as Chairman to recommend the dismissal of a doctor, it was always promotion or something like that – and I would have loved the Commission of Enquiry, because that would have been very nice indeed, but as she said, it was not necessary.

Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said that I made some fancy proposals about primary care involvement of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is important, and I believe that one of the problems is that when you move outside this area to look at all sorts of strange experts, that you do not study the social economic patterns within the society. Over a period of about 12 years people like myself, Professor Kenneth Stuart (now Sir Kenneth Stuart), Professor Waldron, Professor Eugene Ward, Dr. Ralph Richards and other people who know Barbados and the Caribbean well, have looked very carefully at the role of hospitals in these Communities, and the hon. member must be referred to a Paper which I submitted at a symposium held here at the Paradise Beach Hotel entitled "The Role of a hospital in primary care" and let me tell you this, that no matter what you do, if you look at the population structures of Barbados – and I have a document here, this was work done by myself, by the late Dr. Pearson and submitted to the Ministry of Health as far back as 1972, work which was being worked on in the Ministry under the Democratic Labour Party showing quite clearly not only the distribution of the population of Barbados, the road structure of Barbados, even setting up identification cards that patients can use, referral letters; this is all work done by me gratis, not paid for. In fact, the embryo of a scheme that would eventually flourish into a national health service.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it is all well and good to make all sorts of statements, but this was done in 1972 in return for extending the facility to the general practitioner. Each general practitioner will be asked to accept a limited number of patients, etc. Listen, Mr. Chairman, this is a 1972 minute. Such a scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Health, and the Minister has the nerve to get up and say that I have had no interest in anything other than primary care, even before you heard the word "health" in 1972 before you heard of "primary community" or any other kind of health. Listen to this: "Such a scheme contains the embryo of far reaching social changes in medicine in Barbados, as I can envisage some form of limited health insurance linked to national

insurance developing in due course out of this kind of proposal." 1972, not the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, this was signed by Dr Richie Haynes in 1972, and the hon. member has the nerve to come inside here, when in fact we have had so many conventions right through the Caribbean, including Dr. Bartholomew (now Professor Bartholomew) in Trinidad dealing with the whole problem of primary care facilities and its relation to secondary care facilities in this country.

I went on: "This type of development will also be closely linked with the new type of out-patient structure being established in recent developments in this area." That specifically related to the separation of Casualty emergencies from other types of out-patient service at that particular time. I believe that that will deal with the argument when the Minister can get up inside here and say that I had no interest in primary care. I was not paid for primary care, but I had enough interest to spend time and get involved to the extent to submit through the head of my department to the various Ministries many matters relating to primary care.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it does not matter how health is paid for. When in 1976 I challenged a silly statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister that you can have a national health service in Barbados for $3 million that it was total nonsense and that it would not be less than $100 million, that was a statement I made and repeated it. They went on public platforms all over this country and said that I was talking foolishness. Now I am gratified to hear the Minister come in here today and say that the total cost of health in Barbados is more than $100 million.
4.00 p.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow myself to be misquoted like that. He said that if government is going to pay the whole cost, that is what it is going to cost. That is deliberately trying to mislead the House that $100 million is going to be the cost. *(Disorder)*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, how is fish selling this afternoon?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: If the Government is going to give a free National Health Service and absorb the total cost of the National Health Service, then what other source can it come from? The $100 million will have to be paid. But I would like to draw to the attention of this Honourable House and make it a document of the House, what has happened in the State of Ontario in Canada. I suggest next time you go to Canada you have a look. But I want to talk about the National Health Service of Britain. I do not care what kind of National Health Service we have in Barbados so long as it is the best kind the Government can afford. *(Asides)* I practice medicine because I like medicine, not to make money. If I wanted to make money I would do something else where I can make much more money than in medicine *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: Now, Mr. Chairman, if we look at this graph of the National Health Service of Great Britain we will see that during the period when there was significant inflation the total cost of the Health Service rose from $803 million to $3,603 million with a declining population. What is interesting from this graph is that we will see that the contribution from National Insurance in a country where wages are high that between 1955 and 1974 the percentage actually fell from 12.7 to 6.3 while the direct contribution from the Exchequer rose from 70% to 79% of the total volume. What is even more important we will see that charges to patients using the service have progressively increased over the years and since Mrs. Thatcher did her thing since she came in I think you will see a significant transfer of charges. *(Asides)* What Hansard will show in twenty years is who talked sense or not.

One final point, Mr. Chairman. These remarks are addressed to the Minister directly. Have a close look at who is advising you on certain matters in relation to drugs in this country and of the attempts made by various firms to get legislative approval from the government for certain categories of drugs. Think of the size of the Barbados market and recognise how easy dislocation can result in shortages. As an example: The Government said it was introducing a National Health Service and people reduced their stocks of drugs and this has led to vital shortages in certain drugs. I am telling you that a very serious situation is developing that you may not be aware of.

Mr. SIMMONS takes the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now there will be no cross-talking while I am in the Chair.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I heard the hon. member who just sat down indicate yesterday that he had taken the Hippocratic oath three times and I suppose he was saying that to show the degree of ethical standard he has brought to the medical profession. I have no doubt he is academically qualified in his special field, but my submission is that it takes more than profession qualifications to enter into the hallowed halls of any special profession, whether medicine, dentistry architecture or whatever. It takes much more, it takes moral fibre which is an indispensable requirement for the proper performance of professional duties.

The hon. member professes to be highly indignant over the fact of drugs being in short supply at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. As a man who has taken the Hippocratic oath three times, I wonder if he as a practicing physician ever found it desirable to report that fact to the authorities of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or to wait till he could make a speech during the Estimates.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is casting aspersions on me in my professional capacity. I just said in this House that I had submitted a question on the matter to the Officers of this House and that the question was disallowed by His Honour the Speaker on technical grounds. So I did make an effort to have this matter drawn to attention.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I have not cast any aspersions but merely stated that the hon. member said that drugs at the hospital were in short supply and I am asking whether he had reported it to the authorities at the hospital. *(Pause)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I haven't stopped you yet; you haven't offended the Rules yet.

Mr. JOHNSON: I don't intend to now either. I offended the Rules once and the only offence I committed was that I could not put my hands on a receipt to indicate that he charged my father $35 and more to come to see him for over a year, nor was I able to prove to the court that when I called him he did not show up and my father had to take an ambulance from St. Lucy to travel all the way to the hospital when he was his patient for over a year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what do you rise? I may save you the opportunity of rising. I will tell the hon. member since the matter to which he is referring to is the subject of a judgment on which a judicial opinion has been expressed and the hon. member is obviously indicating that there was some evidence which may have been available but was not available then, the hon. member cannot now refer to that matter.

4.10 p.m.

Two hon. members are on their feet. I will ask both members to take their seats. You are on a point of order?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You are perfectly right, Sir, It is the 1929 Appeal Case, Kinch and Walcott, Page 400, estoppel by judgment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not quite convinced by that.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will entertain your point of order after the hon. member has resumed his speech. I cannot have a point of order on a point of order. You are entitled to interrupt the hon. member on a point of order but according to the Rules, I cannot entertain a point of order on another one. I cannot have two hon. members on their feet, anyway. Both of you will take your seats.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that when the hon. member begins to speak again the point will became *fundus officio*. I rose on a point of order based on something that has been said already. If he begins to speak now, there is nothing for me to speak on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear it.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not want to take any issue with your ruling, Sir, but it is a remarkable comment to say that in this country you cannot pass judgment on a judicial decision. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that that is not what you are saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If that is your point of order, it is not a point of order and for the sake of the record, let me make it clear and then the hon. member for St. Michael West can resume his speech.

Nobody has said, least of all this Chair who would know better, that you cannot be critical of a Judge, and for that matter, a Magistrate. All I am saying is that a judgment creates estoppel and the Hon. Minister of Education should know that as I know it as one who is trained in Law. I am saying that the hon. member for St. Michael West cannot refer to evidence which he had but did not produce in Court.

Mr. JOHNSON: I did not refer to the evidence, Sir, I am just saying that the points that I am making are true and he knows that they are true, deep in his heart. In that Chamber in there in the Dining Room he came to me last year after the judgment was awarded and offered to pay half because his conscience was bothering him. You, yes you, offered to pay half because your conscience was bothering you.

If I am a liar let him get up and say that I am a liar. If he did not come to me in the Dining Room and offered to pay me half of the money. Let him get up in here and call me a liar now. I will sit down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member will continue his speech.

Mr. JOHNSON: I was only giving him a chance to reply, Sir. This is a man who claimed that he has taken

the Hippocratic Oath three times yet he goes about as a Specialist, a man who is practising Medicine and as a high ranking official in medicine, gets up on a political platform and talks about the business of his patients. Let him deny that. He talked out the business of his patients on a political platform and he claimed that he has taken the Hippocratic Oath three times. All of that is fact, not fiction and he knows too that he is one of the most expensive physicians in Barbados. He only caters to the top bracket in medicine in this country. The poor people do not cross his doors.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. I think the hon. member is mistakingly misleading this Honourable House. As far as professional fees are concerned everybody knows that my professional fee is $20 per visit and has been so for 10 years and there is no Consultant Physician although I am the most senior that charges less than that in Barbados.

Mr. JOHNSON: I know it is more than $20.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Sit down, sit down. Will the hon. member for St. Michael West please take your seat. I am entertaining a point of order. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central was on a point of order.

Mr. JOHNSON: He was in his seat, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please restrain yourself.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know for a fact and he knows for a fact that his fees are not $20 because he did not charge my father-in-law $20 a visit and he knows it. *(Asides).* Bring them out.

Now, Sir, this hon. member gets up in this Chamber from time to time and pontificates about how upright he is. If I were allowed in this Chamber I would be able to call him a disgrace to the profession but I am not allowed to do that, but this is a man who goes around trying to fool people and he did it up in St. Michael South Central when he was running in the House to create the impression that he had some concern about the plight of the poor people in this country and I am here, Sir, as a living testimony and as a case history to say that this is nothing of his concern. He could not care less. It is only so because of the fact that Law is Law and that sometimes the truth looks like fiction.

I had to pay for the discretion but the truth lingers in my heart and in his and sooner or later the Lord will deal with him because he knows that I did not bring any falsehoods into the Court and he asked my wife, as if that was not enough, how much money the old man has left. That was the last question to my wife up at that Clinic up there in the Bay Land. He asked her how much money my old man has left.

Dr. HAYNES: This is a very serious allegation.

Mr. JOHNSON: Yes, it is serious and true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael West must be cool. You must be cool, Sir.

Mr. JOHNSON: What is there to be cool on?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Sit down. He is on a point of order. He just said on a point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the remark made by the hon. member is completely and utterly untrue. I am not quite sure of my position in relating the details of the particular case obviously that he is referring to because it conflicts with certain other professional responsibilities but the conversation between his wife and myself related to the fact that on a Sunday Morning at 11 o'clock when I was off duty, I was asked to see his father-in-law who was a patient of mine whose case I knew in its entirety and the diagnosis was such that he required immediately hospitalisation. I arranged for his hospitalisation in a Private Clinic and went and saw him on that particular day. I went and saw him the next day and the conversation that I had with that man's wife related purely and simply to the fact that I asked her whether or not she could afford for him to stay in that particular Clinic and I told her the alternatives would be a District Hospital, a Private Ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or, Mr. Chairman, listen carefully, since it was pointed out to me that he was a Seventh Day Adventist, to check whether the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital would take him. That was the only conversation.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, I never even billed that patient for his hospitalisation and I have all the records which were submitted to the Courts and I am going to bring them to this House too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have heard your point of order.

Mr. JOHNSON: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has already demonstrated how truthful he is because two days ago when somebody read a speech that was made in Redman's Village to the effect that he called the Prime Minister drunkened and slimy, he, even when he was on his feet protesting that it was not true we were able to read it out to prove to him that he was a liar.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me remind all hon. members that an hon. member on his feet has a right to be heard in silence. Silence on the Opposition bench. Order.

Mr. JOHNSON: Sir, during the course of his speech, the hon. member said that the health plan in Barbados would end up costing $1 million.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I said and I repeated what the Hon. Minister said that the total cost of health in Barbados is somewhere about $100 million and I said that if the Hon. Minister is correct, that the $100 million would have to be paid for from some source. I was reacting to a statement made by the Hon. Minister who was the first person to introduce the $100 million. The Hon. Minister indicated that that is what it would cost.

Mr. JOHNSON: In an aside, I said it would be bound to cost that as long as he was practising medicine because that is the kind of medicine which he practises. If this thing is to come in at less than that amount, the Hon. Minister must make sure that he does not get on the Board of it because it would break the Government.

We recognised that all of us are poor and the practise of medicine is not a profession in which man should go into with a view to become millionaires. It is a profession that calls for a degree of commitment, for integrity, compassion and a sensitive response to human suffering. My view Sir, is that the hon. member in question has none of those qualifications to practise medicine.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member appears to me to be reflecting on the character of another hon. member of this Hon. House. The hon. member set out three characteristics required of a person going into medicine. The hon. member then said that the hon. member in question and he had referred to the hon. member before. The hon. member in question has led me to believe that he means that he would be referring to that hon. member, in which case Mr. Chairman, he would be reflecting. I draw it to your attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have entertained the point of order and I ask the hon. member for St. Michael West to withdraw the allegations which impute unfitness to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Did you withdraw?

Mr. JOHNSON: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, you have one minute.

Mr. JOHNSON: In the one minute which I have remaining, I can commend the Hon. Minister responsible for Health on the direction which the Medical Health Service in Barbados is taking because too many people who are victims of poverty or marginal living in this country have been deprived of primary medical care because they were not in a position to pay for it. I can recall going to a pharmacy and I saw a lady take out a paper bag full of pill boxes and when she gave them to the druggist, he went through the medicine that she had and he discovered that the prescription she held in her hand was already in the box in the bag. She was constantly sharing out money for medical care and in the particular instance, whoever the doctor was, he did not bother to find out that she already had a supply of those pills in her handbag. He was just prescribing for the sake of prescribing and that is the unfortunate position for a lot of people.

The Radio-therapy Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is a therapeutic measure, usually used as a last resort. When people go to that point, they are usually past saving and we have to try to find a means of detecting cancer which has been identified as one of the primary killers in this country. We have to find a means of detecting it in its early stages, so that we do not have to pay the toll of human suffering as we have to date.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not intend to engage this Hon. House in a very long speech on this subject, I feel that it is necessary that a measure of sobriety be introduced in this debate. *(ASIDES: By you.)*

I feel Sir, that as we are discussing Health and the great plans of the Government of Barbados to deliver the best possible care at the most reasonable price, that all participants in this debate should avoid trying to introduce emotionalism into the content of this debate. I am sure that all hon. members will be willing to congratulate the Government, and the Hon. Minister in her attempt to produce a plan which would rationalise the delivery of health care in Barbados.

I am glad to hear that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is totally committed to this concept. Like all hon. members, I would like to know that the exercise which we are indulging in now is an exercise within the financial limitations of the economy of Barbados and the only reason that I am intervening in this debate, is to appeal to hon. members to let us have a rational objective debate on this matter because it is a matter of serious concern to the whole of Barbados. I know that it is a matter of serious concern to the Ministry of Finance and I do not want to hear any Estimates bandied about here about $100 million or anything of the kind. I want to have a debate conducted in such a manner that the facts hang out, that we know the implications of cost, we know the improvements which are envisaged, we know that what we attempt to deliver will be an improvement on what we deliver now because

after all, I believe that this should be a matter beyond party controversy. It is a matter which is vital to all of us and I do not feel that decisions can be arrived at in relation to this matter if it is approached in an emotional atmosphere. That is all I have to contribute to this debate.

4.30 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a short contribution to this debate particularly on an item which is of utmost importance to everybody in this country. Needless to say I have been very distressed by what can be described as the kind of despicable display by the hon. member for St. Michael West in his contribution to this debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member to withdraw the word "despicable" because it is in breach of the Standing Order which prohibits the use of insulting or offensive language about members.

Mr. GREAVES: For the kind of display, Mr. Chairman, which is unbecoming of a member of this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is making it worse.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order.....

Mr. GREAVES: I beg to withdraw both remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. member for St. Lucy was on the point of withdrawing both remarks, so there is no need for you to rise.

Mr. GREAVES: I beg to withdraw both remarks. I was very distressed, Mr. Chairman, by the unfortunate display of the hon. member for St. Michael West. I have never before sat and listened to the kind of attack levelled on another hon. member as that which was levelled by the hon. member for St. Michael West.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And of course you are not reflecting on the Chair's conduct of the proceedings.

Mr. GREAVES: Not at all, because I would say, Mr. Chairman, that you handled yourself very well and you protected considerably the hon. member for St. Michael South Central against the daggers, verbal daggers of course, which were flying about in the Chamber particularly coming in the direction of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. It certainly, Mr. Chairman, is unhealthy and we are dealing with health; and I would hope that the plea which was put out in here led by yourself earlier on in the week about raising the level of debate above the level of personalities in this Chamber would be adhered to particularly by the members of the Government and of course by members of the Opposition. It is very clear that one day an appeal is made by one side and the following day that appeal is broken. Now I think it is very unfortunate that we have reached this level of debate.

I want, Mr. Chairman, to move on after having said that because I think the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has handled himself extremely well in his reply in putting the records straight on the incident which was described by the hon. member for St. Michael West. I want to advert, Mr. Chairman, to the question of national insurance and I want to say that I am very glad to hear what the Minister has indicated the plans of the Government will be in terms of extending the benefits of national insurance. I was trying to get the Clerk to get hold of the exact text of a Resolution which I brought into this Assembly I think it was in 1977, and indeed I could vividly recall that in my contribution to the speech which was made by the Acting Governor General on the opening of Parliament here in October, I think it was 1976, that I had made it very clear that the national insurance scheme at that time had reached the point where serious consideration would have to be given to expanding the kind of benefits which were then being given to contributors to the scheme, and the text of my Resolution specifically stated that some provision should be made for the payment of unemployment benefits out of the scheme, and the Resolution was also very clear to point out that we recognised that the scheme could not accommodate everybody who would like to benefit from it, but that it would be of benefit to those who contributed, and also that there would be some limitation on the period of time that people would be able to get benefits from this scheme. I am very glad the Hon. Minister indicated that the Government has now reached the stage where they will be making the important step in that direction. I believe and I am sure that the workers of this country and the contributors to the scheme generally speaking would be very glad that at long last the call which was made by me has and indeed will see the light of day hopefully in the not too distant future. I am going to be looking forward to the implementation of this because I think it is something which is of fundamental importance.

Just looking through the Estimates here, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can shed some light on the question of..... I am sorry, that is under Capital and I would not bother to raise it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member desire to speak on this matter? The Minister may make the final speech.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Nobody else wishes to speak. I have been trying to make some notes, Mr. Chairman. I have the name of the hon. member for St.

Michael South West and nothing else to that, which means he said nothing. I have the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. He has been dealt with so successfully that I think he ran out of the Chamber. I have the name of the hon. member for St. John. He got up and said he wanted to dance with me. Well I do not wish to dance with him, Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I should just like to set the records straight. I have always danced when I dance with member of the opposite sex. That is the first point; and I never said at any time that I wished to dance with the hon. member. At one time I did get up and enquire of the Chair how fish were being sold this afternoon. That is all the intervention I made in the whole debate. The hon. member misunderstood me.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I did not misunderstand him. Getting to the fish point he got up and asked how the fish are being sold. Well I want him to know that fish are being sold at the same price as snakes, cock-rats, scorpions and possibly mules. That is the price of fish. *(Asides)* I am not feeling smart. You ask a foolish question and you get a foolish answer.
4.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central made reference to a health service known as OHIP, and he spoke also of the health service of the United Kingdom. Now, what I wish to say about OHIP, Sir, is that the hon. member has fallen into the trap that I believe other people will fall into from time to time. In the three years that we have been planning the national health service we have looked very carefully at other health systems, health systems where the doctors have been paid on a fee-for-service basis, and also health services where the doctors have been paid on a capitation basis. Now in OHIP, we are discussing a fee-for-service basis, as the hon. member well knows, so there is nothing that he can bring to this debate or nothing that he can do to persuade me of what is good or bad about OHIP, I am not interested in OHIP because we are not interested in a fee-for-service system.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister is again, and I am quite sure mistakenly, misrepresenting what I said. The point that I was trying to make was that unlike education were you know precisely what your goals must be, that in any kind of open ended health service, no matter what criteria you use, it is an open ended health service and different criteria have to be used. It is your duty to select what you want, capitation or otherwise, but I do not want to get involved in that at this point, but the point I was making is that once you have an open ended service where nobody can see what the demands would be in five years' time, what the costs are going to be, you had better take a look at the cost. That is the point I am making, Mr. Chairman, you understand the point I am making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point taken.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I take the point, Mr. Chairman, but I also take the opportunity to point out to hon. members what may not have been drawn to their attention for some little time, and that is, that the Barbados health service is proposing that it should pay its doctors on a capitation basis. How much per year will depend on the negotiations which we have with the doctors. They are forming themselves into a Trade Union and they are going to sit down across the table just like any other group will do and they will discuss with us and they will negotiate terms and conditions of service, and they will bargain and argue, and we will come to an agreement about what the capitation fee will be, whether there is going to be a basic fee or sliding, and then there are several computation. You see, every doctor who works in the national health service will not necessarily work for the same amount of money, because there are several money incentives which we are going to offer to the doctors. For instance, we think that it is not a good thing that rural Barbados – bearing in mind that rural Barbados is largely notional because of the kind of communication system that we have, a telephone system which works, electricity which comes on when you turn a switch, water which comes out of a tap when you turn the tap, that rural in Barbados is largely notional – but still we think that it is not a good thing that some parishes are not at all well served by medical professions and paraprofessionals while other parishes are, properly speaking, over served, and we will offer incentives, money incentives, to some doctors to go and work in under served parishes.

It is bad that there are three doctors in Barbados today who live in St. Lucy but who do not practise in St. Lucy. We are going to offer money incentives to doctors who will prefer to work in groups rather than as sole practitioners, because the group practise is something which we would want to encourage. We feel that it is easier to offer a 24 hour service out of a group practice than it is for a sole practitioner to do so. The fact that it would be humanly impossible, physically impossible, for him to do that, and there are several other incentives – and this is all in the report – there are several other incentives which we will offer the doctors, Mr. Chairman, and which they can take up or not take up. There will be an incentive which will be more attractive to younger doctors, there will be an incentive which will be more attractive to older doctors, and so according to how many hours he wishes to work so accordingly will he earn a salary which may differ

from another doctor who may wish to work in an entirely different style or an entirely different environment.

So it is not possible, Mr. Chairman, for me at this stage to say to you this is X figure and this is what the capitation fee will be. That is not what I want to do, we do not want to impose it on the doctors, they will have to sit down and negotiate that with us, and we will have to make it our business to make the incentive package sufficiently attractive to the doctors that they will want to take advantage of the incentives and want to work as G.P's in the national health service, or indeed as consultants.

But it is important for me to get back to this talk of $100 million. You see, a figure is dropped out of a person's mouth, another person picks it up and runs with it and it suddenly becomes a fact of life. I suggested, Mr. Chairman, that it is not possible to know what is currently being spent in the private sector on health, we can know what is being spent on it in the public sector because we vote it in here every year. I said it was my belief that when you put together the public and the private sectors we may be spending in excess of $100 million on health in this country. I also said that there was chronic and severe wastage in both the public and the private sectors in the delivery of health care, and I am saying that this is part of the plan of the national health service that we should contain wastage, eliminate it, if possible, contain costs, promote efficiency.

It is not possible that the national health service will cost anywhere in the region of $100 million. I do not believe that health will ever cost in this country – the national health service – more than education. I believe that when we take everything under our control, everything into consideration, that education will still go on to cost more than health. Already there is evidence on paper that certain economies have been achieved in this Ministry of Health without sacrificing any quality of care. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central likes to get up and wave his hands and talk about democracy being at stake, and another favourite statement of his is that he likes to state that the social services are on the decline, and he never goes any further; you can never particularize that statement, but it is a cheap and easy statement to make.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that with the National Health Service and particularly with the National Drug Plan we are going to see a significant increase in the efficiency and style of management and many economies effected. Already, as the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has indicated, there is worry in certain circles that the kind of rip-off that has been going on in the area of drugs and pharmaceuticals is going to come to a quick end. On the first occasion that I spoke in this House about our National Health Service in 1976, and since then on public platforms, I had cause to say that the professionals are interested in three things in particular: (1) money – what they are going to be paid; (2) their relationship with the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, what taxes to pay; and (3) the quality of care their patients would receive – and in that order of priority. As I remember, the first time I said that in here the hon. member for St. Michael South Central tried to castigate me for it. That statement has proven true on every single occasion that I have had cause to talk about the plan. Even today, as soon as I sat down, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was the first person to get on his feet and the first thing from him was about dollar bills. But in this National Health Service it is the patients first and money after. We are not building the service around doctors, we are designing the service around the people who must get the benefit from it. These are the priorities of the Plan. And I hope, Mr. Chairman, when the time comes for negotiations with the doctors' trade union – it is said that the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners is proposing to represent the interest of all doctors – that the hon. member for Michael South Central...

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Lest the hon. Minister might seek to misrepresent me in the future, I was not a member of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners of old, but last year I signed up for membership.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I like that. It was felt in certain quarters that we would have some problems if BAMP made itself into a trade union. I can only assume that the doctors have formed themselves into a union because they are getting ready to negotiate with us, otherwise they would not do so. But I am glad; I want them to get the best advice and learn the business of bargaining as a trade union. They tried a little thing recently and had to take a little tutoring, so perhaps the hon. member for St. Michael South Central will learn a thing or two from the hon. member for St. Lucy about the business of negotiation. But I am pleased to hear that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has joined the Association. You may remember that a few weeks ago I suggested you should join the Association because some of the points you may be making may be better suited there than in this House.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think there is anything more I can usefully add at this stage.

The question that Head 42 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 17 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY – $7,068,245

Head 17 – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Head "Defence and Security" has attracted some attention from hon. members of the opposite side, since this is the only Head on which they have put down a reduction, and I presume it is only in the realm of Defence and Security that the Opposition considers the Government has in any way been failing to govern the country efficiently or in any way be deserving of such censure as an adverse vote in the House would reflect. I regret that due to the long windedness of some hon. members such as one hon. member who spoke four times last night on housing and thus prevented Health from being called we do not have the opportunity for a lot of debate on Defence and Security as I had promised the hon. Leader of the Opposition. But I fully accept the arguments from the hon. member for St. Michael South earlier today and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who pointed out in the context of earlier resolution all of which failed for one reason or another relating to defence matters that if these matters were not debated in the House of Assembly then inevitably they would be discussed on public platform, the implication being that it would be in a manner that would be one-sided to say the least. I therefore hope that in the time available to us we will have the opportunity of speeches on this matter perhaps free from the personal references that have disfigured one or two of the contributions of earlier members.
5.00 p.m.

The Opposition found itself for the last half an hour or hour objecting to personal references.

We have sat silent when, for example, the Leader of the Opposition made reference to hon. members on this side who were not in Barbados. They were abroad. He would not say picking fares, but collecting fares. He was referring to an hon. member on this side who did in fact go to London I believe to work with the London Transport. The hon. member's capacity for sneering at people because they did not have the opportunity of instant education from the time they left Private School or the Armed Forces as he did is well known. The fact that it was not picked up on the side should not persuade the hon. member that it was not noticed and I wish to deplore it.

I would also wish to deplore the hon. member's remarks when apparently the Minister of Health made a remark about the hon. member and dancing and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition decided to say something about dancing was the memory of the opposite sex. The hon. member should perhaps recall that he has certain vulnerability in this regard and it is only out of due respect for his grey hair that we on this side do not make the sort of sly remarks that one can make on an aging man in his capacity and/or otherwise that would be equivalent to that sort of remark which is cleverly in the hands of Mr. Cameron Tudor although it is a remark that he would have avoided but not in the hands or the mouths of anybody else who has passed out of Sixth Form.

On one occasion I remember the hon. member reproving Mr. Tudor to the extent that Mr. Tudor went into the Speaker's Chambers and burst into a flood of tears when the hon. member had to point out that there are certain things we have to put aside when you leave the Sixth Form.

Well to get back to Defence and Security. First of all, Sir, I want at the outset to indicate that I am talking about the work of the Department and incidentally adding something on policy in the three areas that I am going to outline. I am not going to dwell at any length on the issue of the Troops who were sent to St. Vincent. I will mention at this stage that the facts of the matter are perfectly simple.

A request for the Troops was received, the Cabinet was summoned and indeed sat continuously while the entire operation was carried on. The Cabinet did not dissolve itself until the Union Island rebellion was put down. This fact gives a lie to the suggestion that the Troops were in St. Vincent before Cabinet knew. That is an absolutely total lie. The members of the Cabinet sat around while telephone calls were made and would have been aware of the time at which the Troops left.

It was an executive act taken on the basis of facts known to the Government and the details that the act was necessary and this is still the stance of the Government. I said in here at an earlier stage and I repeat that there are absolutely no apologies which the Government seeks to make for its action. This action was supported by the Heads of every Caricom Country including the personal support of Mr. Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada.

It was supported by Officers on the ground who thought it necessary for the purpose, giving such weight to the St. Vincent Government that its countermeasures could not be misunderstood and it was supported on the very good grounds that they had already been too much division in the Caribbean, too much rebellion, and too much breaking up. The West Indian Federation itself broke up. Smaller units of the West Indies, St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla have broken up and no one in the Caribbean, except apparently the members of the Democratic Labour Party wished to see any other State in the Caribbean broken up.

I would reiterate again, contradicting Canard, perhaps not arising from any hon. member other than the hon.

member for St. Michael South Central, who has given voice to the quite extraordinary boast that it was he who informed Mr. James Mitchell that the Barbados Defence Force had been to Union Island and had shot at people. He is the only hon. member who I think issued statements with such recklessness and falsity competing as a dominant factor.

If Mr. Mitchell believes the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, whether he spoke to him directly or through his medical colleague in St. Vincent, who lives in the southern coast and I know well – I would not call his name, Sir, as I have not given notice to the Speaker. Whether he spoke to Mr. Mitchell directly or not, but if Mr. Mitchell believes that and that was the only information on which he acted when from Bequia he said that the Barbadian Troops were in action in Union Island, 50 miles away, cut off by telephone and with no sort of information, then Mr. Mitchell would be more irresponsible than he appeared.

I believe I have made my peace with Mr. Mitchell. I have assured him and he has accepted that were he the Prime Minister of St. Vincent in a similar situation that the aid of the Barbados Government would have been and will be in the future available to him on exactly the same basis as to any other lawfully constituted Government of that country in those circumstances.

The Barbados Labour Party, the members of the Cabinet and the members of the Governing Party in the House of Assembly stand ready to defend the circumstances under which our Forces had to go abroad to assist in the Protection of the Airport and the relief of the Royal St. Vincent Police Force for certain of its actions. I must confess that I have not asked for legal opinion on the extra-ordinary claims of the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that an Order should have been presented by the Governor General before the Troops should have been sent to St. Vincent. It is like the person who wrote in the newspaper that Parliament should have been summoned and a debate held on whether the Troops should have gone to St. Vincent. Perhaps by the time Parliament was summoned.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member has called my name and I am on a point of personal explanation. The point which I made and I have always been making during the course of the debate in here is when I asked the hon. member whether a decision was made under Section 7 or Section 8, I pointed out that it was necessary for an Order to be made by the Governor-General. I never said that the Order had to be presented before the Troops were sent. Once an order has been made, of course, it is presented at some time.

I never at anytime insisted that an Order had to be Gazetted before the Troops were sent. My point was that if the hon. member was saying that a decision was made under that particular Section which says that an Order should be made by the Governor-General, the Order should be made by the Governor-General and I asked the hon. member several times whether the Governor-General made an Order and he refused to answer that question. In other words, I never said that it had to be Gazetted before the Troops were sent, that it had to be made.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I was making the point, Mr. Chairman, that whatever the hon. member's argument, that it was so extra-ordinary that I have not sought a comment, nor an opinion from the sort of Lawyer who perhaps could persuade the hon. member that he is mistaken because the hon. member quite clearly confused the two Sections of the Defence Act. I do not have it before me and the Laws of Barbados are not up-to-date in the Volumes lying here.
5.10 p.m.

He quite clearly did not grasp that there is one Act for the employment of the regular services overseas and another Act for making an order providing for training overseas in a different sense.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would hope that the Estimates would not be used for a discussion as to whether the expression "Order" means make an order, or give an order. I really would hope not. All sorts of arguments are possible at Estimates time, all kinds of petty points may be made at Estimates time, but I cannot concede that this will be an amalgame. I would give the hon. member a deep legal point to consider if he wants. If he reads Section 8 he will see, "The Defence Board may order any officer or soldier of the regular force or with its consent any officer or soldier of the reserve to proceed to a place outside Barbados for the purpose of undergoing instruction or training or to take up duty or employment".

I mentioned a member of the Defence Force who I think, comes from the constituency of the hon. member, a very capable man in the Coast Guard, a very capable sailor indeed. The Defence Force sent him on a course overseas. In other words, we ordered that he should go overseas to be trained to qualify as a warrant officer too and no doubt, in due course for commissioning. I assure the hon. member that we did not make an Order and put it in the *Official Gazette*. I can give the hon. member an absolute assurance that the sailors who are now receiving Coast Guard training in the United States of America.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I really would have suspected that the Hon. Minister would have treated us with a little more respect than to waste our time talking

about sending somebody under Section 8. He said in here that the troops were sent under Section 7. Section 7 says that the Governor General has to make an Order. Every Act by the Governor General in that respect is an official Act. It is a different thing from sending somebody in the Post Office, or a member of the Coast Guard, or any other public employee, or private citizen, on a course. The hon. member had given me an understanding that we would have started this debate at 10 o'clock this morning, first thing on Friday. At the end of the day now, he is trifling with the time of the Hon. House and trifling with my patience. I gave him an undertaking too but he is putting me under severe stress.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am trifling with his patience? The hon. member has the remedy, if he is impatient at my speech, he can go outside, he does not have to listen. They put me here to talk and to tell you to know your place. Do not tell me anything about trifling with your patience.

If the hon. member says that the point is trivial, I agree with him but I am drawing to the attention of the Hon. House that the words "May order", "May be ordered", "May at any time order" are contained throughout Part I of the Defence Force Act, that numerous acts have been carried out by the Defence Force Board and by the Governor General and at no time, has any Order been carried out by an order that has to be Gazetted. The words do not say the Governor General may at any time make an Order that. If it is trivial, I will leave it out. I am happy to leave it out, it was always trivial but it is not I who started it. If the hon. member feels that his patience is being trifled with I wonder how he thinks that we on this side feel when we have to sit down and listen to him read out three foolscap copies of an article in the Advocate Paper of 13 years ago. I have respect for age Mr. Chairman and I have a lot of respect for long service and experience, but there is a limit which that respect cannot demand. I will not be told that I am trifling with the hon. member's patience. Let him tell that to the hon. member for St. Michael South West and get back the same kind of answer which he got today. Tell it to the hon. member for St. Michael South and get back the same answer that he got on Wednesday. If he is losing his grip on his own party, do not let him think that he can get a grip on me. Leave that to Carlton Brathwaite, go and grasp him again.

The Defence and Security Division Department effectively, is divided into three Sir. The general administration, which is in Sub Head 1, the Barbados Defence Force, which is in Sub Head 2 and the Immigration Service which is in Sub Head 3. There is also a vote in the following Head, Head 72 for Capital for defence work. I propose to deal with the three sub-Heads in series. The Defence and Security Department has expanded a great deal since the change in Government in 1976. It has expanded not because of the expansion in the Defence Force itself which remains modest but because of additional responsibilities which have been assigned to this division on account of the physical security which means, airport security, security of Government buildings and the like. The Immigration Service is being turned into a civilian service and has been made a responsibility of the Defence and Security Division.

To deal first with the general administration, for which we are asking an increase in the vote, of just under $½ million, based upon last year, it does not seem to me that the arithmetic is too correct Sir but I really cannot deal with that. Hon. members perhaps can correct my arithmetic. The reason why we are asking for this is that it is necessary to have a more substantial superstructure and it would also be necessary to carry out the effective needs of the physical security of the island, and to expand the Security Guard Service. When we took office, the Security Guard Service was, in some ways, almost an adjunct of the Regiment in its old form, as a part time reserve force. It has been expanded very considerably so that there are now posts for 19 senior security guards and 165 security guards.

The security guards not only guard Government buildings, but they have been asked by the Ministry of Education to extend the services to looking after schools. They no longer guard the installation at Gun Hill but they have to extend their protective services at the new airport and expand by a substantial amount. Hon. members will no doubt be aware that they have headquarters at the old control tower at the airport and they have vehicles to carry out regular patrols. They now carry out checks on passengers leaving the island. They control the entrances to the exit desk at the airport instead of the Customs Guards and they control parking at the new airport.

5.20 p.m.

We have therefore to employ many more guards for all these purposes and we have had to have senior officers of the security guard service sent to the United States for training in airport security. We found a situation where there were virtually no permanently appointed guards, something which was offensive not only to the National Union of Public Workers which represent the guards, but also to the Minister of Defence and Security, since I considered that until a service is being secured in itself, it cannot secure other people. We therefore have gone about improving the hierarchy.

The Customs Guard service, for example, have many more senior guards than the security guard service, and we have therefore improved the number of senior posts to 19 where I think there were only six or seven

when we came into power. We have also reorganised the command structure of the guards post. There used to be a security officer I and security officer II; we have created another post of security officer II and a new grade altogether of security officer III and created three postings at that level, and the security officers correspond roughly to Customs Officers in their ranking. We have also, Sir, obtained the services as a special assignments officer of a Superintendent of Police with wide experience in personnel matters. The post of special assignments officer was originally created to accommodate the training officer for the regiment as it then was, and it is now being used as effectively to accommodated a training officer-security guards, and the officer who will deal with security methods. I would like to congratulate him that within just a couple of weeks in office he has organised a very substantial curriculum for training of the security guards at the Police Training Centre, a programme of training with lectures. No doubt hon. members will be pleased to hear that they will get a number of lectures emphasising the importance of not taking sides in politics and avoiding in the course of any of their duties political discussions, but that of course is only one of the lectures. They will be drilled and given some sense of responsibility as security persons, a sense which in the rapid expansion of the service perhaps was not sufficiently inculcated into their ranks. They will have powers of arrest; they do have powers of arrest. Not every security guard is confident of how to carry out an arrest, confident of his understanding of the law, and accordingly the whole security guard service who have not been trained in the previous programme of training carried out by the Regiment will be sent on three week training courses. We are going to accommodate them on seven three-week training courses and we will also be training a reserve of security guards.

I will also mention for the benefit of the guards, any guards who may hear this speech, that they alone among airport employees have not been getting transportation to the airport although they are shift workers. Steps are being taken, Sir, to put an end to this situation and we are making arrangements with the Transport Board to provide a regular service for airport employees of Government, that is all the employees that can be accommodated, the Customs Officers, the Immigration Officers, Security Guards and the janitorial staff, because we now have a very large janitorial staff up there keeping our great new airport – to which opening Mr. Pierre Trudeau was not invited – clean.

Just in parenthesis, I wonder which is worse, to be a person that initiated the airport and not even respond to an invitation to come to its opening, not even say "yea" or "nay" or to overlook that the Leader of the Opposition in Canada should have been invited. At least the civil servant who prepared the invitation list did his duty. If he had not I am sure it would have been picked up by the Minister responsible for inviting the Leader of the Opposition in Barbados, and the hon. member for St. John should not allow people to think that he was not invited to the opening of the new airport. He should not allow people to think that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I wonder when I told people that I was not invited to the opening of the airport. I am invited to every single Government function as far as I know from 1976, but I do not go. I have never said that I was not invited to the opening of the airport. I am invited to a lot of things like thousands of other people; but I do not go. I do not have that kind of time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member neither has patience nor time. I wonder what he has left! Neither patience, time nor, if he does not mind my saying so with great diffidence, the manners to reply to an invitation. Anyhow it did not come from me. I am not begging the hon. member for a reply.

I think, Sir, that I have said as much as hon. members can expect on the matter of the security guard service. I would only end that part of what I have to say by appealing to hon. members and to the public to help the security guards at the airport and at Government buildings and to cooperate. They do not always get the cooperation that for example members of the Royal Barbados Police Force got when they carried out similar duties of physical protection at particular locations. At the airport they are not treated in the same way as uniformed policemen used to be treated; but they are carrying out the same functions and are carrying them out in the interest of all of us just as the police used to carry out in the past. It would be a wasteful use of police manpower to have say 80 to 90 policemen doing nothing but looking after parking at the airport and directing people where to go. We are training the security guards and we are teaching them police method. They deserve the same respect as any other security personnel in the Island.

Now the second sub-head, subhead-7, is Barbados Defence Force. We are seeking a vote for the Defence Force under current of a block nature, a block vote for $4½ million. Last year's vote was just under $2.6 million, so this represents an increase. The amounts are not spelt out in the Estimates, Sir, because I am advised that it is not considered in the public interest to give such details of expenditure in different areas of the security matters as is done perhaps with other head or sub-heads of the Estimates. A full analysis I can assure hon. members has been presented to the Ministry of Finance and is available to the Committee on Public Accounts through its Chairman at any time that he wishes. If he wishes to have it for information or for investigation, a full draft can be prepared and made available to him showing a break

down of the vote. Of course the Committee on Public Accounts is entitled to call for papers, but I think all of us understand that these matters are dealt with on a confidential basis. I will say though, Sir, that of the current year's vote it does not appear as though we will spend as much as $2 million since it is governed mainly by recruitment.
5.30 p.m.

The block vote in this instance is subject to the control of the Defence Board since it is governed mainly by recruitment, and the Defence Board has not been particularly generous in matters of recruitment so far. I wish to be as open as I can, Sir, in this regard, and again I think that I will explain to hon. members as much as can be said under that.

I know, Sir, that one should not anticipate, but I do not believe that we are going to have a chance to pass this Head and then start all over again in the following Head, which is Capital, and so with the indulgence of the Committee and if hon. members don't mind, without referring to the details of the following Head, I will say something about items of expenditure outside the conventional ones of pay, ordinary uniforms and ordinary day to day expenses. The Defence Force is in the

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just let me remind hon. members that I am advised by the Clerk at the Table that at 5.45 I shall have to interrupt the proceedings and call the Heads.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I will try to finish quickly, Sir, but I don't know that the purpose of the rule on the guillotine could be served by an extension. I don't know if that is being suggested.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There can be no extension, we will follow the rules.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The physical quarters at the Garrison were laid down for British Army units, some as long ago as 1720, the most modern I believe in the 1860's and 70's, and therefore during the year we are hoping to build new living quarters for women members of the Force, a new hospital – it is called a hospital, Sir, but it is really a sick bay – a new guard room, fencing will be done, it is necessary to have security fencing around the property, a new roof has to be put on the iron barracks, and very importantly, Sir, we are entering upon work on the Coast Guard base which is going to occupy the pierhead and will be the headquarters of the vessels.

Hon. members will see that there is a vote for $300,500 for vehicles. The hon. member for St. Michael South will be greatly reassured that we are not going to buy any tanks, any 155 millimetre mobile Howitzers, out of a vote of $300,500. We are going to buy some trucks and a small armoured vehicle, not a tracked vehicle, a small wheeled vehicle, but I think that the figure of $300,00 – I know his knowledge of defence prices and procurement possibilities around the world will be such as to reassure him that we could not be overspending in that. We are in the process of buying an aeroplane, Sir, a Cessner 402, which is equipped for search and other surveillance. After many different choices were held out to us, and after soliciting the assistance of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and experts in the field, we bought this aeroplane at a price, I am informed, of approximately $600,000. We are trying to pay for it this year, it is expected to be delivered in June, we are trying to pay for it this financial year, but it should be in Barbados in a couple of months' time. It will be used for air/sea search rescue purposes, general surveillance, we will also take the opportunity of training our pilots, for so motivated are some members of the Barbados Defence Force, Mr. Chairman, that I am informed by one of the senior officers that I think it is four members of the Force who are privately taking flying lessons in order to qualify themselves as pilots, not at the expense of the Government, but privately.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has asked about the vessel and how we could be buying the vessel for the price that he has seen.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member sat down now, by the rules of the House the whole Opposition will have five minutes to discuss Defence and Security after five days. I am not asking any question, I spoke to him privately and I said in public that the hon. member is buying a ship, I believe the price is $11 million, which could buy a thousand houses at $10,000 each, or 1100 houses, but we are not supposed to discuss that today. Any conversation I had with him about a ship was in private, and therefore if the only time I am going to have to discuss it is interrupting him, I want to talk about the armoured car which he is buying which could only be used to shoot down Barbadians. The executive aircraft for $600,000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This the Chair cannot tolerate.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am going to give the hon. member a chance at being succinct when indicating what he is worrying about. If the hon. member knows a way to build houses with a credit from the British Government repayable over ten years, then I am sure the Ministry of Housing will listen to him, and if in addition to knowing a way to build houses over ten years with a credit from the British Government, he knows that the British Government will give him $2 million to train the carpenters to build those houses, or to build new houses, well I will further congratulate the hon. member. It is not my intention to go into all these matters. What has

happened is that the previous regime bought a fleet of Coast Guard vessels from a company that closed down as soon as it had sold them to Barbados. They bought a ship called the George Fergusson which is fully capable of operating as a naval vessel on the river Thames where the winds do not blow and the waves do not rock, and the George Fergusson has proved itself to be unsuitable and unreliable as a naval vessel. It may have other purposes.

I am going to say something now that I have been telling the Cabinet as a secret. I don't see why at this stage it should not be said, nothing about South Africa and HARP and what the North Point was to be used for, as I have been reliably informed by a high-up member of HARP. The George Fergusson on the one occasion that we attempted to fit it with guns and have gunnery trials at sea could not fire the guns unless the vessel was stationary, and that is what was bought by the previous regime and that is why we have to replace it. (Mr. TAITT: We did not buy it for any guns, we did not buy it to kill anybody). Does the hon. member want to see the file that he himself used to look in to see whether it was intended to put guns on it or not? Of course it was intended to carry weapons.

Now, we are buying a 37 metre vessel, it is being constructed at the shipyard of Brook Marine in Lowestoft, England, it is being paid for by instalments over ten years on the basis of a very generous loan from the British Government, 85% of the cost of the vessel is being financed by the British Government on very generous terms indeed, and the Government is having to find only 15%. The hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, is well aware that when you buy a Coast Guard vessel you do not just buy the hull, you also buy a certain number of options with it, and to give details of all the prices, so I am advised, does tend to give information as to the vessel's capacity.

The hon. member is speaking of private conversations, the hon. member for St. John raised these points in his second reading speech, it is not any private conversation, he raised the point of the cost of the ship in his second reading speech and that is why I am replying to it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must interrupt.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I make it 5.44, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is now one hour before the scheduled end of the day's sitting.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I can't even be allowed to say that the armoured car will not have the capacity to kill anybody, Sir? It is to protect them, not to shoot them, because we have to put up with misrepresentations in here about an armoured car to shoot people? That is a lie. It is to stop the bandits that you got to throw the stones at Redmans Village from stoning the Defence Force, to stop the bandits who threw the dynamite at your own political meeting at Belleplaine. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Will the Hon. Prime Minister please..... Order, please, order!
5.40 p.m.

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

HEAD 72 – CAPITAL – DEFENCE AND SECURITY – $5,724,500

The question that Head 72 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 – AUDIT – $161,225

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

HEAD 19 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING – $3,974,115

The question that Head 19 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 – REVENUE COLLECTION – $1,643,368

The question that Head 20 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 21 – STATISTICS – $587,247

The question that Head 21 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 23 – LOANS AND ADVANCES – $3,668,500

The question that Head 23 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 24 – PENSIONS – $4,760,500

The question that Head 23 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 73 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING – $7,320,234

The question that Head 73 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – $1,078,901

The question that Head 28 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29 – PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS – $36,955

The question that Head 29 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 30 – JUDICIARY – $381,240

The question that Head 30 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 31 – POLICE – $3,416,004

The question that Head 31 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 32 – PRISONS – $654,480

The question that Head 32 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 33 – FIRE SERVICE – $393,400

The question that Head 33 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 – PROBATION DEPARTMENT – $50,180

The question that Head 34 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 75 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – $5,184,500

The question that Head 75 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY – $3,968,942

The question that Head 35 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 76 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY – $8,130,000

The question that Head 76 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM – $11,119,063

The question that Head 36 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 77 – CAPITAL – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM – $9,840,476

The question that Head 77 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – $51,226,480

The question that Head 39 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 40 – CULTURAL AFFAIRS – $464,259

The question that Head 40 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 78 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & WORKS – $33,798,558

The question that Head 78 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 79 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE – $29,437,600

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

HEAD 41 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – $6,725,464

The question that Head 41 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 80 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – $774,374

The question that Head 80 as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

5.50 p.m.

HEAD 44 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Head 44 – Ministry of Labour and Community Services – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $27,245,887 under Head 44 – Ministry of Labour and Community Services – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 83 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Head 83 – Capital – Ministry of Labour and Community Services – was called.

Hon. L. S CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $278,000 as amended under Head 83 – Capital – Ministry of Labour and Community Services – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 81 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 81 – Capital – Ministry of Health and National Insurance – was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $29,099,049 under Head 81 – Capital – Ministry of Health and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 45 – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Head 45 – Ministry of Information – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $994,491 as amended under Head 45 – Ministry of Information – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 84 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Head 84 – Capital – Ministry of Information – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $499,961 under Head 84 – Capital – Ministry of Information – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

ANNEXED ESTIMATES

HEAD 50 – POST OFFICE

Head 50 – Post Office – was called.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,946,354 under Annexed Estimates Head 50 – Post Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

The Schedule was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule in the sum of $387,657,631 as amended be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 as amended was called and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report to His Honour, the Speaker, the passing of the Appropriation Bill in Committee.

The question that the Chairman report to His Honour the Speaker the passing of the Appropriation Bill in Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking to re-open the Order of Business with a view to granting the House's permission to lay Government Papers and Notices.
6. 00 p.m.

Yes Sir, we are all anxious to have our Easter recess and I am sure that all hon. members on the other side will allow us to reopen this item so that we can complete next week and all of us will be able to enjoy our Easter vacation.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Government will have to use its numbers in order to push this through. They have not co-operated or kept an agreement with the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member for St. Michael South has risen to second the motion.

Mr. SANDIFORD: No such thing, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move Sir that the documents to be laid be re-opened at this stage.

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

The question that the order of the Hon. House be re-opened at this stage was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to lay The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1980 and I am also commanded to lay The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980. I might remark Sir, that this second Order relates to changes in the Establishment of the Police Force, changes in numbers and reorganisation of posts at the top and because of the date of its coming into force Government is proposing to deal with it at an early opportunity Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Report of the National Assistance Board for the years 1974/75 – 1976/77.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Report and Financial Statements of the Caves Authority for the year 1978–79.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980 and I also beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve of a guarantee to the Caribbean Development Bank for the repayment of a portion of a loan made by the Bank to LIAT (1974) Ltd.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Bill to give effect in Barbados to the New York Convention on the recognition and enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to give effect in Barbados to the New York Convention on the recognition and enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards be now read a first time.

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

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

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

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to move this, I would like to clear the air on another matter which arises out of the affairs of the Ministry under which this item falls. I am accused, or the Government is accused of not keeping to some agreement. Let us get things quite clear, last night it was made clear to the Opposition that the Heads to be called would be Housing, Health, Defence and Security. It was opened to the Opposition, if they wanted it called early because an agreement between the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition and I cannot stop the hon. member for St. Michael South West from talking, it cannot stop the hon. member from speaking. The Opposition, if they wish to discuss Defence and Security, they did not have to let the hon. member for St. Michael South speak four times and keep a debate going for seven hours. Hon. members can be convinced from my speech this morning that I did not intend to say anything about housing. Hon. members can be sure that having heard me I did not intend to speak on housing. I came in here this morning prepared to speak on Defence and Security and the hon. member for St. Michael South himself told me, that there is no time to have meaningful debate on Defence and Security.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Prime Minister, I take it that you are going to speak to the Order before this Hon. House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Yes, I have something to say about Immigration Sir. I still have my notes on some matters relating to the Immigration Service and I will not keep hon. members long but having been cut off, hon. members would expect that I would have to take a little longer time. What I lost on that roundabout I will gain back now.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as is known, the Immigration Service is being made civilian and responsibility for immigration is being transferred from the Royal Barbados Police Force to a new civilian force and will employ a large number of current members of the Royal Barbados Police Force in Immigration roles but has already, and will in future, recruit persons from outside the rank of the Police to become Immigration Officers. The headquarters of the new Immigration Service will be at the old Customs building on the wharf, the same building I think, as Careenage House. We are hoping that the service will be able to move in on the 15th April. As hon. members would see, we are providing for a Chief Immigration Officer who will no longer be the Commissioner of Police. It is not my intention to revoke the appointment of senior members of the Police Force as Immigration Officers. Just as the Permanent Secretary himself had been appointed an Immigration Officer and he had to turn and go at an Immigration desk and work for two hours admitting visitors on a recent occasion. I am not intending to break connections with the Police Force altogether Sir. The new civilian forces are being provided in the form set out in the Addendum to the Order, due to the increase in the number of tourists to Barbados and the increase in passenger movement at the airport and also due to the fact that three years ago, I introduced immigration checks on outgoing passengers. This is after the two people who were involved in the Cubana Aircraft disaster got out of Barbados and I had no way to stop them. I had to arrange for Trinidad to look out for them Sir. There is a Chief Immigration Officer graded seven, a Deputy Immigration Officer who is the same grade as a Senior Assistant Secretary, two Assistant Chief Immigration Officers, three Senior Immigration Officers, 72 ranks of officers, eight ranks of Immigration Officers at one, 64 bracketed as ranks of Immigration Officer two and three. In addition, there are a number of temporary posts which are being used to estimate the ultimate requirement at the airport for these immigration services.
6.10 p.m.

It is intended to appoint Assistant Superintendent Kenrick Hutson of the Royal Barbados Police Force to be the new Chief Immigration Officer, and he has taken up his duties already on a temporary basis. It is intended to appoint a civilian as Deputy Chief Immigration Officer. The officer has been identified as Mr. Herman Yearwood who first occupied a temporary post of special assignments officer at the Ministry of Defence and Security while training for his new role in immigration. It is intended to fill the two posts of Assistant Chief Immigration Officer from the ranks of the Royal Barbados Police Force. I believe those posts will be like a little promotion for an Inspector, not very much, but just at that sort of range, and the other posts can be taken in scale therefrom.

The work of the two departments previously responsible for immigration is being amalgamated. The Ministry used to carry out one set of immigration functions and the police another. Now they will all be immigration officers and indeed I have appointed everybody from the Permanent Secretary Mr. Miller, the S.A.S. Mr. Estwick and all the other persons in Defence and Security who have been writing letters exercising the

authority of the immigration officers for many years now at the junior level, not of course the two top posts; I have appointed all of them; I have already done this, so that the old cumbersome method of the Ministry writing to the police to have to arrange formally for a stamp to be put on the passport or whatever does not now have to be done. We are integrating the department making it a career service with a suitable structure, and it has its own headquarters, and the new department will do all the work rather than having the dual responsibility of the past.

I do not want to go at length into immigration matters, Sir, but I thought that two initiatives of the new Government have excited political controversy in the past and certainly political attention, and so I will take this opportunity of reporting to the House how the new Government's ideas of firstly allowing the husbands of Barbadian women to enter Barbados freely as long as they are living with their wives and to work or indeed receive permission to become immigrants. This is the first one. And the second, how the operation of amnesty has worked. In neither case have the numbers taking advantage of these new privileges been great. In the years 1977–1979 inclusive 120 persons entered Barbados as husbands of Barbadian women; 67 of these are from Caricom countries, 19 are Indians, from the Indian sub-continent, but of these a number were apparently already resident or already in the Island; 19 were British, five American, and a number of countries account for the rest: Canada, Italy, Germany, Norway, New Zealand, The Netherlands, France, Ireland, Nigeria, Malawi and Venezuela. The number is not large, Sir, and the fears expressed by hon. members in the debate in 1973 when I sought to amend the then Immigration Act to allow the husbands of Barbadian women to enter Barbados have proved quite groundless. There has been no flood; Barbados has not been overwhelmed and there is no body of men abroad apparently which is anxious to embrace to itself a Barbadian spouse and enter the country.

The number of amnesty applications according to my instructions is only 250, and that is the successful applications. These are persons who however they entered Barbados were resident on the 1st September, 1975. It is a small number and I will quite freely state that I do not think it represents the number of illegal immigrants who were in Barbados on that date. The corollary of an amnesty of illegal immigrants is the tightening up of subsequent illegalities. In 1977 we deported 32 persons; in 1978 we deported 81 and I think that the figures in 1979 are 79. In 1978 we refused entry to 159 persons and asked a further 180 persons to leave without formally deporting them. I do not yet have the figures for 1979, but I think they might be a little up on them. It can therefore be seen, Sir, that it is not as a result of flood gates being opened that the rise in revenue from the Immigration Department equal now to something like $900,000 is due. This very great increase in immigration revenue has come about through the enormous increase in the fees, and it is very welcome because where you have effectively to employ thirty to forty percent more immigration officers to deal with the much larger number of movements through your airport, it is good to know that the revenue is expanding at a rate commensurate with the increase in your local staff. Indeed it has been expanding at a rate greater than the increase. I am sure that hon. members will not object to the legislation required to carry out the Government's policy relating to immigration, namely this Civil Establishment Order, and that even though it comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence and Security, they will embrace the principle in their hearts whatever they may do outwardly with their vote.

I beg to move that this Resolution be now approved.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second this Resolution, and since the airport and hence the immigration service has been the subject of some comment lately by Governments in other areas in the Caribbean, I think that it is necessary for me to make just a few statements on this.

I noticed in particular that in the comments that were made that the Government of Barbados as such was specifically exempted from any strictures. Nevertheless I think it is fair to say that we have had an investigation done and I am very pleased to say that the offer which this Government made to some Government in the Eastern Caribbean who use our airport has been taken up on a number of occasions whereby we have offered them the facilities of immigration permission at any time for any number of persons to provide the facilitation services for any of their people who are passing through the Grantley Adams airport. We believe that our geographical position is such that it is inevitable that Barbados will be a gateway to a number of territories in the Eastern Caribbean and we have offered to all the Governments in the Eastern Caribbean facilities to hire their own staff at Tourist Board level, at immigration level and whatever levels they want to be at the airport to meet any person who is coming to their country and who has to pass through Barbados.

6.20 p.m.

I am very pleased to say that some of the Governments have taken up this facility, but I have one regret, they have not taken up this facility permanently, they have only taken it up on a number of occasions.

I also want to state that LIAT which is the transfer airline and any other airline has a responsibility in this respect. Anywhere one goes in the world in which an airport is a well recognised airport as a transfer airport,

airlines have a responsibility to facilitate passengers who use them for the purpose of getting to other destinations but have to use an airport as an intransit. At the Grantley Adams Airport we have made special arrangements whereby visitors and other people who use the airport can be transferred without going through Customs and Immigration facilities. That responsibility is the responsibility of the airlines. Only in yesterday's or today's paper one will see an announcement by LIAT that they are in fact using this facility. If a person comes from Great Britain, from Canada, from the United States and is being transferred to other islands, and has a connection with LIAT, there is absolutely no obligation on him to go through Customs and Immigration, but the responsibility is on the airline to ensure that Customs and Immigration are informed, and we have had to erect certain facilities there to make sure that they are facilitated.

I also want to make it clear, very clear, with respect to charges that have been made against the hotels that we have also investigated this. At this time of the year all the hotels in Barbados are under pressure with their contractual commitments to tour operators, and it is not only legal for a hotel to demand that people pay for a three night minimum stay, the reason being that if they put people in their rooms for a shorter period than three nights they are committing their rooms for a small period and they are opening themselves to losing revenue in the event of the next day people coming in and wanting to stay for seven days. The Government recognises that Grantley Adams airport, like large transfer airports, has to have facilities for overnighters. Cabinet has approved the conversion of certain of the old terminal building space into overnight hotel space at very reasonable rates. The money that we are voting in the Estimates this year will facilitate this. We hope to have 20 or 30 rooms available at the old airport for overnight facilities in case passengers have been unable through no fault of their own to make their connections because of the fact that planes are either late or that they made connections which had not been confirmed.

In addition to that, we are very pleased to state that we know that there are a number of owners of land near to the Grantley Adams airport who have made applications for the erection of modest accommodation, the Church in particular, and we are very pleased to see it. We would like to see a number of modest size accommodation units erected around that area. I just thought, Sir, that it was important that these matters be mentioned. I know that no strictures have been made against the Government of Barbados, but I think that in the interest of the other people in Barbados upon whom strictures are made, the people in Immigration and Customs, and the airport authorities, that I should make the statement that I made, and particularly the hotel industry.

I also would like to tell the Ministry responsible for immigration that I am aware that there are a number of people who were involved in immigration, some in the Police Force, some who were civilians in the Police Force, who originally did not quite understand the options which they were being offered and they therefore did not reply taking up the options for the transfer into the new immigration service. A number of them failed, but now that they have an opportunity of seeing the full scope of the immigration structure they would like another opportunity to exercise an option to transfer, and I hope that they will be granted the opportunity, notwithstanding the fact that they did not comply with the deadline which was originally given to offer their services in immigration, and I hope that this will be granted to them. Many of them were either in the Police Force and have had a lot of experience with immigration, or they were civilians working with immigration and they would like to continue to work with immigration, particularly now that the Civil Establishment Order setting out the full scope of the immigration services, and they now understand that going into the immigration service provides them with equal opportunities for a career as they have had in the past. I hope that now that we have passed the Bill and the Order that they will be given a second opportunity to apply to continue in the service.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, in view of a number of comments that were made which seem to put Barbados in a very bad light, I feel that it is part of my duty to explain to Barbadians a situation which has caused a lot of people to feel that there has been in fact some truth about an alleged statement made in respect of this country. We have heard quite recently a news report coming out of Grenada that there has been some attempt to prevent the smooth passage of movement of people going into that country.

6.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member up to now is just rehashing what the Hon. Leader of the House has already said.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I am not really rehashing, Sir; I think I am speaking on a completely different matter. What was said was that some officials have tried to prevent the smooth passage of people going through Sir Grantley Adams International Airport, and what must be pointed out is that the Grenadian Government had a representative at the Grantley Adams airport between the fifth and the eleventh of this month to assist with the smooth passage out of Grantley Adams Airport. And I was made to understand by the Airport Manager that that officer was not prevented in any way from asking for any assistance and was accommodated in every form and fashion. To the best of my knowledge there were no

reports of any incidents at the Grantley Adams airport. It must come as a matter of concern to me as a Barbadian when I hear comments which reflect on the officers who have to perform various functions at the airport. The point is that that officer was allowed at the airport to assist with the transfer of passengers to and from Barbados and that officer made no complaints here in Barbados, so I must express surprise when I hear these comments coming from that country.

Realizing that the Grantley Adams Airport, like the seaport, is of strategic importance as far as the defence of this country is concerned, one must hope everything is done to safeguard the defence of the vital link of the Airport, and we must ensure that very tight and adequate security is maintained at all times so that we will be able to repel any sort of attempt at taking over the Airport, because it is commonly known that whenever there is an attempt to take over a country the airport becomes a target. I believe anyone realizing what is happening in the Caribbean and the entire world must be concerned about security and defence at the airport and we hope that the Prime Minister who is responsible for Defence and Security will decide that we must have the Airport Manager or Assistant Manager on any security committee with a view to reporting any matters which may be suspicious, because there are lots of suspicious movements which usually go on at such places. I hope that suggestion will be taken as a hint so that we will have our defence on a sound basis.

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

BILL TO AMEND INCOME TAX ACT, CAP. 73

The next Order was called – Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73 in order to make provision for the budgetary proposals for the year 1979 made by the Minister responsible for Finance.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this Bill stands in the name of the hon. Minister of Finance and it seeks to give legislative approval to the tax concessions which the Minister of Finance announced in his last Budgetary Statement. As hon. members will appreciate, the Minister of Finance having decided as a matter of policy to implement the Government programme of tax reduction and having announced that in the Budget, a little time was necessary to pass the legislation to give effect to the proposals. The scope of the concessions which were announced in last year budget were of great significance, and in view of the complexities, it took some time to bring forward the necessary legislation. But the legislation, complex as it is, is before the House now and in sufficient time, and I want to assure all members of the public that they will get the full benefit of the concessions announced because those concessions when they were announced were always intended to relate to the fiscal year 1979. That is why we have to pass the legislation before the end of March this year. The Bill will cost the revenue in tax concessions some $17 million; so, contrary to what the other side says, we have been pursuing a programme of modernizing and updating our tax legislation. This Bill is one of a series of Bills to implement that programme.

I would want to make it clear that income tax legislation is a very complex matter. Government needs revenue because we have an expanding programme of expenditure, but we will proceed at a pace which will allow us to grant monetary concessions at certain levels of taxation, but at the same time we do not wish to curtail Government's expenditure nor curtail the capital development programme because we believe that Government has an important role to play in the provision of capital expenditure to ensure an expansion of employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.
6.40 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 21 were called and passed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report to His Honour, the Speaker, the passing of one Bill in Committee.

On motions of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time. My only observation on this is that this is another example of incompetence on the part of the Government Printery and I am shocked as Leader of the House on the part that I have to tolerate such incompetence and inefficiency on the part of a Government Department in that hon. members have been circulated with a Bill in which a number of Clauses have been left out. I can only say that I hope that this House will be able in the very near future to have its own printing machinery and will not suffer

this total incompetence from a Government Department any more.

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

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

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Order No. 2 was called – to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Act for the purpose of introducing a system of flat rate duty assessment on passengers' baggage.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: This seeks to implement an Agreement which hasbeen made in relation to all Caricom countries of a flat rate of duty on passengers' baggage. This matter has been going on for a long period of time and I am pleased to say that all the territories have all agreed that rather than holding up passengers at Airports and Sea Ports to investigate liability, a particular fee for baggage for Customs Duties should be instituted and that there would be a flat rate irrespective of whether the individual rate would be larger or not.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.
6.50 p.m.

The Schedule was called and passed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report to His Honour the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

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

CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a consequential amendment to implement the agreement which I referred to in the previous Bill to exempt from Consumption Tax certain classes of goods which were the subject of a common regime in the Customs Act.

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

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

Order No. 3 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to validate certain matters relating to land tax.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Bill is to amend the Land Tax Act to give effect to the Budgetary Proposals in relation to giving tax credits and rebates for land that is in use in agriculture. It was part of the Budgetary Proposals last year and it is necessary that it be passed before this Budget.

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

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 25th March, 1980 at 12 o'clock noon.

I want to tell the House that we will be having a recess thereafter. *(Consults with Clerk)*

Perhaps if I could be informed of the outstanding matters. As I understand it, there is a Bill in relation to integrity; a Bill in relation to corruption, a Bill in relation to the International Finance Corporation, a Bill in relation to the second reading of a Bill to implement the Convention for the prevention and punishment of crime. That is all that is outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment, I think it would be best out of the abundance of caution to do Item No. 4. It was well circulated in advance. There is no question that it was not given notice of; it is the passage of the International Finance Corporation Bill. We have passed the Resolution to join already; this is only the Bill, and after that all the rest can wait until April.

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION ACT, 1980

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the membership of Barbados in the International Finance Corporation.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this House passed a Resolution and had a long debate on joining the IFC. This is the commercial arm of the World Bank and this is only the Bill. We have passed the money for membership; this is a Bill that is necessary to give the legislative approval as distinct from the financial provision. We have had a long debate on this and all sides of the House are in favour of joining this Corporation.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Mr. SISNETT, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until April 1, at 12.00 noon.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that, Mr. Speaker, and in seconding it I would like, if you will bear with me, to make a comment on the responsibility of the Opposition to this country. In 13 years I have sat in here during the Estimates and in association with you and my colleagues on the other side over the past 13 years, 10 as a member of the Opposition and 3 as a member of the Government, and the worst display of

criticisms, contempt and irresponsibility that I have ever seen from any Opposition party is during the Estimates here, Sir.

I read, Mr. Speaker, on Sunday last an appeal in the Advocate newspaper by a Neville Martindale who said it was his fervent wish that the debates would reach a high level and that the Prime Minister in his introduction would no doubt set the tone. Out of $387 million of the Appropriation Bill, of which $162 million is to go in Capital Expenditure, I sat in here, walked around, slept on one occasion, Sir, and heard absolutely not one constructive criticism from the Opposition. Seventeen hours on two Heads, ten on Agriculture, seven on Housing, out of 38¾ hours debating time, and all the notes which I was taking on Housing, there is not one single criticism that came from the Opposition that I could go to the Ministry and say let me implement this which came out of the mouths of the Opposition.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, you dealing with Education and with Health and I recall the civil servants in the Gallery there to advise the Ministers scrambling up and down the corridors, getting on the telephones to get the necessary information for yourself and my colleagues on the other side. I am sure if there were 200 civil servants here they did not use the phone on six occasions, and if they did it was not for the purpose of getting information to answer the Opposition, but it was for the purpose of getting information to carry our debate a little tighter. I condemn the Opposition as the most irresponsible bunch of people that I have ever met in my entire life. I say this, Mr. Speaker, if by accident or by design, since my belief is that God moves in a mysterious way, that the reins of Government were to ever fall back in the hands of the Democratic Labour Party as it is now constituted, it would only be a vote for scandal and rumour in this society, for all they have done since they came in here in the Opposition is to indulge in scandal, rumour and character assassination, and if I am a taxpayer who is paying something like $1,274 a month in income tax, which must be a contribution to the young generation for the purpose of educating them, however small it is, Sir, I make that contribution, and if I have to pay tax for my children to be educated then to be represented by that quality of person on the other side, then I ask God to save this country and the entire Caribbean. That is my hope and desire, I hope that it would never fall into the hands of the present DLP as it is constituted.

I recall reading in the Advocate by a columnist, Mr. Martindale from the Advocate News, he actually pleaded with them, no walk outs, but we did not only have walk outs, we did not have come ins, not a single constructive criticism, and then to crown it all, after giving them the opportunity in 1977 to call the Heads so as to give them mileage, so as to make them attack the Government and put the Government on its toes, they refused and condemned us, and the then Leader of the Opposition said it was nothing else but a trick. Now they spent 17 hours alone on two Heads, out of 38¾ hours debating time. They now want to debate Defence and Security and they had an undertaking from the Prime Minister that he would do it today. One would have thought that they would have come in this morning and refused to talk – or refused to clown, put it that way, Sir, and that is no reflection on the Chairman, I am talking about their contempt – one would have thought that they would have settled in, allowed us to talk and when we run out of steam, then they come in for the kill, but what did we see? At something to five this evening the Leader of the Opposition is actually trying to break up the House because he wants to debate Defence and Security.

Well, Sir, the Leader of Government Business over here has a different approach from me when I am conducting in his absence. I believe if you are given a job to do, it has to be done to the best of your ability, the way you feel to do it, Sir. If you are given the job to govern, one must govern and one must not take orders from the Opposition, and if I am not careful some of us over here will fall into those traps. The Leader of the Opposition and his political dummies, not parliamentary dummies, Sir, his political character assassinators, have found themselves with their backs against the wall because of a productive, dedicated, hard working Government which is committed to the people's welfare and the people of this country.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion and I sincerely hope that the staff will appreciate all that we have done to make their task as easy as possible, though at times it was not as well as I would have hoped for. Mr. Speaker, I second the motion and look forward to seeing you next Tuesday, Sir.

7.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can only say for the Opposition that it was their opportunity to be or not to be.

ADJOURNMENT

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 1st April, 1980 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.25 p.m.