
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th May, 1980.

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, and Mr. L. L. SISNETT.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, the 6th day of May, 1980.

Dr. CHELTENHAM and Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the 6th day of May, 1980 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a Message from His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable, The House of Assembly.....

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it would appear as if we are having some difficulties with the amplifying equipment and I would beg to move that we suspend the House, Mr. Speaker, for half an hour, until one o'clock, so as to have these difficulties rectified.

Mr. ODLE: 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: I was reading Message No. 3 of 1980 from His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable, the House of Assembly.

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable House of Assembly that according to the advice of the Prime Minister, he has appointed DeLisle Othniel Bradshaw, Esq., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, to be Minister without Portfolio for the period 7th to 24th May, 1980 with particular responsibility for matters relating to Civil Aviation and Tourism. (Signed D. H. L. Ward, Governor-General at Government House on the 13th May, 1980).

PAPERS LAID

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

Statements showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders for the months of October 1979 to February 1980.

Statements showing Money Order Transactions through the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations for the months of October 1979 to February 1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Clapham, St. Michael, for the purpose of the erection of a new Primary School.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Welchman Hall, St. Thomas, for the purpose of road improvement.

On behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government for the repayment of a loan of \$2,000,000 to be made by the Central Bank of Barbados to the Barbados Development Bank.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central, his Resolution respecting one-armed bandits.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

"Be it resolved that this Honourable House take note of the Report of the Commission of Enquiry on Gambling. And be it further resolved that this Honourable House call upon the Government to put an immediate end to the operation of the one-armed bandits in Barbados".

Thank you.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act was read a first time.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. R. TULL: The reply to Parliamentary Question No. 13 is now ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be the instant Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT THE IVY, ST. MICHAEL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Order No. 5 was called – to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at the Ivy, St. Michael, for the purpose of housing development.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, Sir, seeks to acquire a portion of land at The Ivy which is known as Atwell's Land for the purpose of additional housing development in Barbados. It is proposed, Sir, to use part of the land as service lots to assist these people when we resite them from Church Village.

1.10 p.m.

Also Sir, in the initial plan as it is right now Sir, as Minister responsible for this subject, I am also proposing to build additional terrace units for rental at the Ivy. Of course Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member who is not in his seat at this present moment and who represented that area for almost the past 10 years, five years as an Hon. Minister, and three years and a few months as an Hon. Member of the Opposition never thought it a wise idea to improve the lot of the people in that area even by bringing into Parliament, a Resolution or a question seeking a housing development in the area which is known as the Ivy Sir. It is rather densely populated and the area is a bit depressed. It is Government's policy and the policy of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment to make sure that we improve the quality of life to all Barbadians.

I am hopeful Sir, that in a few days, I will be able, along with the Hon. Minister of Health, to start the construction of the St. Cecelia Project which is going to be in the region of close to \$5 million and I believe that it would probably be the most expensive, single project undertaken by any Government in this country Sir. We have been talking about it for a very long time, for some 16 months but there have been a number of problems which did not allow the Government to start the project there.

Now that the Sanitation Authorities have been able to find a site, I think it is at Wildey, to carry their Headquarters, the Government is now in a position to start the construction of St. Cecelia and in a couple of days Sir, I

am hoping to assist in the performance of the ground breaking ceremony at St. Cecelia Barracks.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks — all of the persons involved have been notified, the Acquisition Authorisation under Section 4 has been published, and we now seek His Excellency the Governor General assent to take the necessary steps to give effect to this Resolution — I beg to move Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just wanted to say a few words, not so much about the proposed development of the Government at the Ivy, but about the people who it is proposed, should move from Church Village to the Ivy. These are people who now live in the City of Bridgetown, and I wish to take this opportunity to impress upon the Hon. Minister of Housing the importance of the kind of Public Relations Programme which has got to be done for the people who live at Church Village, so that the move from Church Village, to the Ivy, would be as smooth as the move from Emmerton to Clapham was.

You know Mr. Speaker, it is a bit of a shock when, out of a clear, blue sky, people hear on the media, or read in the Press that there are plans afoot to move them from one district to another. I should hope that the Ministry of Housing has already begun to talk to the people who live at Church Village and to understand what their needs are, or what their priorities are, where they work and that kind of thing. I would be more than willing Mr. Speaker, Sir, to play a role in this exercise and whenever the Ministry of Housing wishes to set up a Citizens Committee, such as the one which was set up at Emmerton, I would be more than happy to play my part. These people are now my constituents and I still have their welfare as a priority.

I am very pleased Mr. Speaker to hear that the housing complex for St. Cecelia will very soon start. The ground will soon be broken and I am exceedingly happy to hear the Hon. Minister of Housing refer to the ground breaking, or the starting procedures, however you choose to term it, as a joint venture between the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Health. Again, this is an area where relations with people at the basic level is important. A man's home, they say, is his castle and no matter how humble it is an how cramped a part of the City of Bridgetown the people reside, they have a whole district around them. They have neighbours, and they have relations which it will not be easy to shift or to break and so, I hope, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that it will not be an occasion for cheap politics to be made out of the fact that you are moving people from one area to another, and just as we did everything in our power both from the point of view in the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry

of Health to make sure that the people who were moving were moving into better and more salubrious surroundings, I am sure that this is what must be planned for those people who are going to move from Church Village to the Ivy.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just let me assure the Hon. Minister that the Public Relations aspect of Housing is in very good hands. I myself, for over 20 years, was accepted and recognised as a top Life Insurance Underwriter, of which both members sitting on the other side can testify to this, they being my clients, Richard Christopher and Louis Erskine. Sir, it is all back in the 1950s, and I think that in order to be a successful underwriter Sir, you should also be a good public relations man.

We have informed the people, many of the houses are not owned by the people, they are owned by the landlords and they are in a very bad state of disrepair. I am subject to correction, but I think that 60 per cent of them cannot be removed and cannot be resited. Therefore, the people are going into better houses with better facilities and I would also like to assure the Hon. Member here, that only yesterday, I was in Clapham looking at the development in Clapham, and I made up my mind that the National Housing Corporation should now take the necessary measures when they remove homes not only to just strengthen the homes and give them the water borne system but they should all be painted by the National Housing Corporation and landscaped, so as to give a new picture of a new way of life. I assure the Hon. Minister that the Public Relations aspect of it is in very good hands.

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

Order No. 6 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Lower Estate, St. Michael, for the relocation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

1.20 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this Resolution which is under my charge also is to acquire a portion of land at Lower Estate for the purpose of the relocation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. It contains by admeasurement 8.603 hectares of land or 21.259 acres.

The Resolution is primarily for the purpose of resiting the Barbados Marketing Corporation; the entire complex is going there.

There is not much I can say on this Resolution. I have no doubt, however, that this should initiate some form of debate since I have been hearing from the platforms of the second eleven team of the PPM that Lower

Estate was bought and there was some fiddling and so on; but I am so used to hearing these things like I heard from the mouth of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central with my own ears, and I was really horrified when he said it, that Sidney Burnett Alleyne was coming back to be Managing Director of the Off-shore Bank in Barbados. Such complete ignorance was the subject of politics and was beyond my imagination; but criminals think alike anyhow, Sir.

I can only move that this Resolution do now pass. May be if there are any questions which the hon. gentlemen on the other side would probably like answered, within my limited scope of the Cabinet Paper I shall attempt to do. The Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation is in his seat and probably would be in a very good position to answer any questions posed about the operations of the BMC.

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

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

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

RESOLUTION TO LEASE LAND AT REEF ROAD, FONTABELLE

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 7 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease of land at Reef Road, Fontabelle, to Mr. Paul B. Altman, for the purpose of providing seating accommodation for outdoor dining.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to lease an area of 6,350 square feet of land to Mr. Paul Altman. The land was leased in April, 1973, Mr. Speaker, and we are therefore seeking that permission be granted for the sub-letting of this land for the purpose of carrying on the work in which Chefette, I think, are the persons who sub-let from Mr. Paul Altman.

I do not know there is much more I can say on this. We have asked Mr. Altman to have the place at all times kept clean, and that no permanent structure be erected on the land. The rental is \$2,000 per month. That is as much as it is as far as this is concerned.

I was again surprised, I must confess, at the thunderous silence from the Opposition benches. It is really amazing when I go to the Opposition public meetings, like the one in the Ivy where I counted myself 37 motorcars and 475 people on Sunday night. I go to the meetings and if you were to hear the things that are said about the BMC and this wicked Government, and

now not a single word. There is thunderous silence over there when they can be challenging the facts from the Government benches, but there is not a single word, and every day you look in the newspapers you see "Do you agree with the Prime Minister having a car? The DLP does not agree. What about you?" All that lot of nonsense, and the very Leader of the Opposition got up in Independence Square and said that not a single person should buy the Advocate Newspaper, and in the Advocate Newspaper you see these advertisements. Now what sort of country they could run? You see the inconsistency.

Now we heard on platforms about the BMC, how Nigel Barrow's father is in something; all these things I have on tape from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central in particular. All of these things you can hear and now in here this morning you have them like three blind mice sitting down there and not a single word at all. I am inviting them to have a debate on these matters. We have housing, the BMC, all these things, and not a word. You heard how Senator Don Blackman did not want Dr. Caddle and one Haynes to fight each other, all this jazz, and now right in the Ivy where Atwell's land is going to be, not a single word. I would have thought that one would be talking about what sort of land it was or what sort of houses you will put there or that you should have got lands somewhere else.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are now at Reef Road, Fontabelle.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir; acquisition. That is what I am dealing with, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are now leasing lands, not acquiring.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Well this is land and I am Minister of Lands, so I can talk about tenantry land, all sorts of land, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I used to think so until I knew better.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: All the land in the country is getting scorched; all that I can talk about because we are dealing with lands and I am charged with these affairs, Sir. However, Sir, I am still inviting the hon. members on the other side to make their contribution. If they are unable, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BRIGHTON,
BLACK ROCK**

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 8 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Brighton, Black Rock, St. Michael, for the purpose of Industrial Development. 1.30 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this Resolution seeks to acquire a parcel of land at Brighton, Black Rock, known as Exeter Playing Field, and is part and parcel of the Texaco playing field. The whole idea behind this is that the Government proposes to set up an industry in that area and there is to be an exchange of lands which involves part of a portion of land along the Spring Garden Highway where it is hoped to site an industry. We are hoping to bring the Texaco playing field just under what we call The Farm, by Ocean Park Road, I think, where there will be a larger and better playing field. I believe that the Minister of Community Services will be using it as a whole sporting complex — hard courts, football, cricket — the whole works — may be horse back riding since Mr. Sammy Chandler is in that area and for many years young Barbadian boys and girls, and some oldsters too like my colleague the Minister of Communications and Works — he also does horseback riding — and the Prime Minister and the former Prime Minister. And I have no doubt that you too Mr. Speaker, since I understand you are now indulging in wrestling, you are again reactivating that sporting feeling. I understand that many years ago you were an outstanding athlete at the Parry School. You are now looking at wrestling and I understand you are an avid fan of Abdul the Butcher and Mr. Fugi and that you are tossing about chairs and so on. So I know you will be interested in hearing that the Government is providing this type of recreational facilities to improve the social aspects of young Barbadians.

This also embraces another parcel of land which the Government is examining. I may say that we are almost on the point of closing out matters opposite that St. Cecelia School where I think the Community School once was, and we are hoping that when St. Cecelia is in the final stages we will move the work force just across the road and we are hoping we will have the necessary recreational facilities there.

This is as much as I can tell you Sir, about the project, and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In supporting the passage of this Resolution Sir, I want to say that the Government has made a very great effort to expand industry in Barbados and to expand the basic employment-promotion economic activities that Government can project in order to conquer our economic problems, and I regard all the industrial expansion that is going on along the line of the new Spring Garden road as being a major contribution to the provision of an industrial base that can prevent unemployment from ever again reaching the levels that it achieved in 1975 where at one stage there were over 26,000 unemployed people out of a work force of then less than 100,000. And for the first time since the war it is now revealed that we had less than 80,000 people actually working in Barbados. I think we must never again allow our society to reach the stage where unemployment on this scale threatens the social fabric and social stability.

There is a great deal being said at the moment about crime, but if you examine the Crime figures you will see that even now although there has been an expansion in crime we have not reached the level of criminal activity of 1975, and a great deal of that is obviously due to the poor conditions that prevailed in the Island at that time and the inability of the then Government to handle the problems caused by the oil price increases which the present Government has by fortune or skill been able to surmount during the last two years. And I think all of us have to give thanks to the good Lord as well as to the Government that while our brothers in Jamaica have been unable to handle the new oil crisis we in Barbados have been able to keep our heads above the water.

But there is a danger in the present situation which has been pointed out and which we all have to bear in mind. I am told by officials of the Industrial Development Corporation that in a very few years we may very well reach a situation where there is going to be a labour shortage rather than a surplus of labour in the industrial field. I was very surprised to see the latest unemployment figures in the United States which revealed that unemployment among men is greater in the United States and in Western Europe than it is in Barbados. Our real unemployment problem is with females, and although this particular piece of land is being acquired for heavy industry and will presumably tend to employ more men than women, I think that for the future we have to be very careful indeed that the aim of the development is in the direction of absorbing the female part of the labour force which seems under present conditions to be the only part that is in serious need of new jobs. We will not reach the Offshore Banking Bill today for various reasons

and therefore I do not wish to anticipate it, but I would hope that all those who are critical of the concept of offshore banking will bear in mind that the industrial development effort so nobly spearheaded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the hon. member for Christ Church East appears to have put us in a position where we can keep down the male unemployment to more or less acceptable levels. What we need is a new type of economic activity which will absorb white collar workers and the female unemployed; and it is this sort of service-oriented activity that the offshore banking sector is designed to provide for, to reduce the other half of employment in Barbados, the girls with two or three "O" Levels and the boys who do not want to cut canes or work as labourers on construction sites or in the new chemical plants that will be built on this land, pulling levers or controlling the steam or stirring the vats or whatever has to be done. It is the other type of employment that we have to worry about at this time, and I think all concerned deserve congratulations on a great job done in getting boys off the street corners and into useful activity. We have done a great job in expanding training for boys leaving school at 15 or 16 and making them suitable for work. But we now have to take a step further and show that in the same way we have managed that, we can bring down unemployment as a whole to acceptable levels. But this is a very difficult time economically; don't fool yourselves. Never mind Rev. Matthews about 1974. The former Government proved itself incapable of handling the oil crisis in which the price of oil increased by \$11 a barrel.

1.40 p.m.

We are now dealing with an increase in the price of oil at \$20.00 a barrel and we have managed it without the economy collapsing as it did in 1975. We have to show, Sir, that we will never be a country in which food is going to run out and I read it is supposed to run out in Jamaica after July 1, imported food; and the only way — and, of course, my sympathies have gone out and I am glad that there have been well reported and recorded as expressing my sympathy to the people of Jamaica in this their hour of travail but the only way we can do it, Sir, is by all of us pulling together.

If I can believe that the lack of Opposition comments on the land acquisitions is a reflection of the confidence that the Opposition has in the conduct of Government affairs, I would be very happy in all the circumstances. I would not like to believe that the only reason they cannot talk in here is that they cannot meet us face to face, but they can only aim lies at our backs and cannot meet us as men across the Floor of the House and say what they have to say in a forum that it can be replied to.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise specifically to respond to one or two comments made by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance during his contribution on this matter, if I may be permitted to do so.

The Hon. Minister of Finance indicated that he would not be dealing with the amendment to the Offshore Banking today but proceeded to emphasise that one of the main factors to be gained from Offshore Banking would be the employment of those females in Barbados who are unemployed at the moment at particular levels.

I rise, Sir, to make it absolutely clear that a thorough survey of the most authoritative sources on these matters certainly would not indicate that employment is one of the major benefits to be derived from Offshore Banking. The confusion that arises in this area is because.....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order. If the hon. member would just give us some names of the authoritative sources, just identify some, name them, call the references and page numbers too.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to do so.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the hon. member would give way perhaps he could also deal with the fact that Offshore Banking in the Bahamas employ more than the Tourist Industry, although they have two million visitors. He may perhaps compare what he has just said to that published fact.

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Speaker, one reference I would like to make would be an article by Ian MacCarthy, December, 1979 Volume 16, No. 4, Finance and Development, published by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Another reference I would make would be the proceedings here in Barbados, "Tax Havens and Financing Centres" published by the Central Bank of Barbados from the proceedings of a Conference in June, 1 — 2, 1977.

The next reference I would like to make would be the publication by Mr. Eric Brathwaite on Offshore Banking Centres from the Central Bank of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: What are the dates of these publications?

Dr. HAYNES: September, 1979 is Mr. Eric Brathwaite's publication. The publication on Tax Havens is June, 1979 again published by the Central Bank. The date is not given but the document is well known. I believe the Hon. Attorney General made a contribution on that particular document.

I would refer, if he wishes also to two other important documents; one by Thomas Canning of J. H. Challenor and Company and another by W. Kelner Brown from Manufacturers' Hanover Trust. I am not making them documents of the House. I am using them in the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am just checking for the benefit of the Hansard Reporter. That is all.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I have been asked to produce information on the sources I refer to and I am very happy to do so. I have to go through these things because I have them all here. J. F. Chung and Company, Thomas Canning dated April, 1977. John Challenor and Company from J. F. Challenor and Company, dated April, 1977; W. Kelner Brown from Manufacturers' Hanover Trust, The Hanover Bank Guernsey, dated April, 1977 and Anthony Parker, International Consultant and Author of Exchange Control, April, 1977. You can get them all if you want to; Christopher Haynes from the Financial Times, April, 1977. There are lots of other authorities that I can quote.

Anyhow, what I was saying, Sir, is that the Hon. Prime Minister rose on a point of order and asked me if I would explain the figures emanating from the Bahamas and the problem resides here. If you look critically at those figures, where it is claimed that 8% of the people in the Bahamas are employed in Banking, those figures do not discriminate between Offshore Banking, the Offshore component of the Banking System of the Bahamas and the total Banking system in the Bahamas and the reason for that, of course, is that in the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands, for example, Offshore Banking takes place in a society in which there is not the two-tier tax system quite distinct from what say obtains, in other countries.

Now, it has been worked out that as a point of fact if you were to isolate the Offshore component of the Banking element in the Bahamas in terms of employment that those people actually involved in Offshore Banking represents probably only 0.3% of the 8% because there are a whole lot of other areas.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. On this question of Offshore Banking, I am sorry that I cannot deal with it today because I have another amendment to add but there has to be some limit about misleading information.

I have heard the Leader of the Opposition in here point out that out of over the 300 Banks in the Bahamas there are only about four or five that a Bahamian can go into and do business. I have heard the Leader of the Opposition himself deal with this and 0.3% is the number

of people engaged in domestic banking business and the hon. member is saying it is Offshore. It is the other way around.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am not talking about people who can go into Banks and do business. The fact is that whether you take the figures put out by Singapore or the figures put out by Hong Kong or the figures put out by the Bahamas, there is no clear distinction. 1.50 p.m.

You will find that local employment, apart from among certain professional and clerical areas on a limited scale, is not one of the major benefits to be derived from Offshore Banking. I am not saying that there are not some advantages, but there are also very significant disadvantages which we will deal with later on but I do not consider that employment *per se*, emanating from Offshore Banking, is a major factor.

The second point I wish to respond to Mr. Speaker, is the false information which is usually put out by the other side about the collapse of the Barbados economy in 1975. I would like to state, from this Floor of this Hon. House that if you look at the macro data relating to the performance of the economy in Barbados from 1975 — you have the reports in your hand, look at them — you will see that about June 1975, that the foreign reserves of this country were over \$100 million, the Balance of Payments in Barbados by the end of the year, ended up with a record surplus of some \$39 million, as you yourself said in your first Budget Speech, and the rate of inflation, if you look at the Quarterly Report of the Central Bank put out in June 1976 at Page 1, you will see there that the rate of inflation in Barbados had fallen to a zero position. Therefore, whatever consequences flow — anyhow, by the end of that year, the figure averaged out at around 5 per cent in 1976, by the end of that year, you had succeeded in converting a Balance of Payment Surplus of some \$39 million to a record Deficit and if you want to see the reason for that, you have the same documents in your hand. If you compare the balances of visible trade in this country between September 1975 and June 1976, and September 1976 to June 1977, you will see the reasons why Balance of Payments ran into the trap that it ran into. You will also find the reasons why your Foreign Reserves fell to twenty something million dollars around August and September of that year, despite the fact that you flew down \$20 million from Trinidad for purposes which the public of Barbados do not know up to now. When you talk about the crisis that was created in this country, the economic crisis in respect of Foreign Reserves, in respect of a Balance of Payments position, they were largely generated by the actions taken by this Government at the time of the change around 1976 and 1977. The only element which the Democratic Labour Party could reasonably argue to have contributed to that particular problem was to change the system in

financing the Sugar Industry which resulted to some extent, in some expansion of the money supplied in Barbados and also when the very substantial increases which the Democratic Labour Party gave to the people of Barbados in, I think it was June of that year, which would more than compensate for any erosion in their incomes that had taken place during 1973. So, when it comes to a crisis, there was no crisis in 1975, the crisis developed in the early months of 1977 and all the defensive measures that have been taken by this Government, classical, conservative, defensive measures, they were correcting their own mistakes. Therefore, let it be publicly known and clearly understood that this economy was never in a tidier state when you look at all the macro data available, even the levels of unemployment which the Hon. Minister of Finance prior to 1976, said was somewhere in the region of 28%. He was able by April of the following year, when he delivered his first Budget Speech to come down to a figure of 15.6% I think it was, as far as I remember and you said that you arrived at that figure by a refinement of the statistical method which removed from the ranks of the unemployed, those who were not willing to work, or words to that effect. I do not have a copy of your Budget Speech.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know the Hon. Member is being as honest as he can and I do not want to let him embarrass himself by saying something was false when he does not mean it.

The refinement was not introduced by me, the refinement of the voluntarily idle was introduced by the previous regime. The figure of 28% was the number of unemployed women in 1975. The true figure for 1975 was 22%. That is the true figure, at least that was the alleged true figure. The figure of 15.6% was the end of year figure for 1976. If the Hon. Member wants to go further, he could have pointed out that at one time during 1976, after allowance was made for the voluntarily idle by the previous regime, they managed to reduce the ostensible figures to 13.9%. That was when it was in, not by me. Even now, I am not entirely happy with our employment methodology.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to hear that, because looking at the figures for employment which he claims and also looking at the growth of the economy which he claims, there seems to be an adverse relationship between the levels of expansion and the percentage drop in unemployment. For example, last year, and I think you said that you were satisfied with a 7% increase in the Gross Domestic Product, nevertheless, it is only a drop of 0.9% on unemployment, so your policies either are not speaking to the question of unemployment in Barbados, or the figures are wrong when you pick up the trend, or a combination of both. I think that it is a question that the figures might well be

wrong and I have been making this point all the time. I am very glad to hear that you, yourself, would be questioning the methodology here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

Dr. HAYNES: Sorry Sir, I am very glad to hear that the Hon. Member for St. Thomas is questioning the methodology of the collection of unemployment figures.

In summary, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have addressed myself to the claim made by the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister about the employment gains in Offshore Banking *per se*.

I speak not of other activities that might be associated, such as captive insurance business and other aspects of business. I am talking, and I hope he gets the point that I am making – it is possible that.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sorry Sir, I would like to elucidate something because I think a number of important concepts are being discussed. I hope that the Press can deal with them at the same high level that the same Hon. Member is putting them into play. Important concepts are being discussed and I would not want to be misunderstood about the employment pattern.

Mr. SPEAKER: Especially, when time is not on your side.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sorry Sir, I do not want to delay the House but the reason why we sometimes get expansion but an unsatisfactory fall in employment, is that the methodological concept of the voluntarily idle builds into the statistics, the condition that when the economy expands, a number of voluntarily idle move into the Work Force before they get jobs and therefore, the rate of unemployment does not diminish as fast as the number of newly employed.
2.00 p.m.

The rate of unemployment therefore does not diminish as fast as the number of new employees, so last year you got many more people employed, but you also got a lot of girls who were previously willing to stay at home offering themselves for employment, and so although the number of new jobs last year might have been of the order of 8,000, you got 3,000 to 4,000 previously idle people searching for jobs; so you had a lot more work, but you had a lot more people looking for it. That is one of the methodological difficulties with dealing with the San Francisco system where there is a straightforward count such as is used in some places; you count the number of people reporting themselves at labour exchanges as unemployed and you use that. That system has certain advantages in times of expansion, otherwise the San Francisco system may be a better

system to use in times of contraction, because you really learn from the San Francisco system the problem you are dealing with. I think the hon. member will grasp what I mean.

The last point that he is making, perhaps we would be wise to speak of the whole offshore financial regime when you speak of employment. You would really be wise, and I would accept not so much the reproof addressed to me, but if what he is complaining about is that you are concentrating on the banks rather than on the international business companies and the capital of insurance companies that come in harness with the banks, I think that was a very sound point he was making. I think we should make it clear we are talking about the whole regime.

Dr. HAYNES: I think that the Hon. Minister of Finance has taken the point. Finally, I think we have laid to rest once and for all this question of the D.L.P. leaving the economy of this country in any form of a mess. It was caused by the Barbados Labour Party by inexperience in the first nine months in office.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I should wish to correct some of the financial misconceptions of the hon. member after that, to tell him as to what happened with the balance of payments, and the lack of growth in the economy for the last three years of D.L.P. rule. So perhaps when we resume.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. It is now Question Time.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised there is one Reply ready to Parliamentary Question No. 13 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:—

To ask the Minister of Education and Culture:
1. How many fourteen year old pupils left voluntarily or were required to leave each of the following schools in the school years 1976/77 and 1977/78 respectively: St. Leonard's Boys', Ellerslie

Secondary, The Garrison Secondary, West St. Joseph Secondary, Springer Memorial Secondary, St. Leonard's Girls', St. Lucy Secondary, St. George Secondary, Princess Margaret Secondary and Parkinson Secondary? 2. Would the Minister also supply the corresponding figures in respect of the fourteen year old pupils leaving each of the Government's all-age or composite schools?

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 13 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South is as follows:—

1. (a) Fourteen-year old pupils leaving the secondary schools listed voluntarily —

1976-77	—	48
1977-78	—	168

- (b) Fourteen-year old pupils required to leave the secondary schools listed —

1976-77	—	585
1977-78	—	540

2. (a) Fourteen-year old pupils leaving composite schools voluntarily —

1976-77	—	138
1977-78	—	145

- (b) Fourteen-year old pupils required to leave composite schools —

1976-77	—	292
1977-78	—	250

All pupils required to leave schools were given an opportunity to continue studies within the public educational system. Details in respect of 14 year old school leavers by destination in the schools listed are being tabled in Parliament.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Question Time. It is now time for Private Members Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

Order No. 1 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution calling upon Government to introduce measures to assist the people of Barbados in coping with inflation.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister would wish us to proceed with this Resolution in about two weeks or so, and subject to the wishes of the House I will be willing to

accommodate him if the House so wishes, otherwise I will be willing to proceed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am charged with the Leadership of Government Business today in the absence of the Deputy Prime Minister, and I do not know of any communication either written or otherwise sent to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. However, I believe that the Hon. Prime Minister is still within the precincts of the House and if the Hon. member is desirous of starting the Resolution I personally believe that a resolution of this nature should be going on for a very long time and just the introduction of the Resolution should take the hon. member to the end of Private Members' Business.

Secondly, I would like to correct the hon. member as to his remarks. The hon. member cannot accommodate the Government. We are in a position to form a quorum and we do not require the Opposition to accommodate the Government. I am therefore hoping that the hon. member will proceed with the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: You merely rise to reject any suggestion of accommodating the Government?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, it is a stupid remark.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of personal honour and as a matter of honour as a member of this Honourable House I am willing to respect the wishes of the person on the Government benches who deals with financial matters, which is the main subject of this Resolution. If, however, it is generally felt that I should proceed, then I am fully prepared and ready to proceed. I believe the Hon. Prime Minister is in the precincts of this House and if he indicates it is okay by him I am ready and willing to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister can give any hon. member any sort of indication in this House, but until the Chair calls on an hon. member to address the Chair he cannot open his mouth.

Dr. HAYNES: I am ready to go ahead Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. HAYNES:

(It was ordered by Mr. Speaker that the speech of Dr. Haynes be expunged from the record.)

3.25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I am having a little difficulty because the hon. member has made his case.

Mr. SPEAKER: This I appreciate.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: He has made his case; the hon. member for St. Michael South has seconded a Resolution that does not exist.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg your pardon.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I said the hon. member for St. Michael South....

Mr. SPEAKER: He could second nothing because there is no Resolution before this Honourable House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: What I mean is that the hon. member has spoken and I think made a speech that has a great deal to it for all of us to think about, but on this side we will have a difficulty because as I understand Your Honour's ruling we cannot really say anything, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate the difficulty with which hon. members might find themselves faced at this particular time, but as it now stands there is nothing before this Honourable House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: But, Sir, I am not arguing with Your Honour's ruling. I am only wondering if this now means that any Private Member's Resolution can be brought, spoken to and that will be the end of the matter, because, Sir, what I heard of the hon. member's speech, and I heard it upstairs and downstairs.....

Mr. SPEAKER: If a situation like this occurs which means there is a ruling from the Chair that there is nothing before this Honourable House, I would say that the Press has nothing to report.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I don't know if the Press could say that, Sir. But I suppose I can ask for leave to make a ministerial statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: A Minister can make a statement at any time. All a Minister need do is to notify the Speaker that he wants to make a statement. A Minister does not have to seek the permission of the Speaker, he does not have to ask leave of the House; all he needs do is to notify the Speaker that he wants to make a ministerial statement. That is all.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I would like to make a ministerial statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister is at leave to make a ministerial statement.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, the statement arises out of a speech made on a Resolution that fell to

the ground because it did not conform with the rules of debate, made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, and I want to be very short.

I would like to say that the Government shares the concern of the Opposition for the inflationary conditions which are afflicting Barbados just as they are afflicting the entire world.

3.35 p.m.

The statement by the hon. member contained a number of arguments, some good, most bad, but it was framed in terms I think all of us should pay attention to. I would like to give all hon. members the assurance that the Government is looking at the question of indexing. It does not believe that we are in a position to afford much in Barbados. We think the indexing of prices is well satisfied by the fact that we have public servants' salary negotiations every two years and by the work being done at other levels, the Ministry of Community Services and Welfare being the principal one. It is not generally known that the vote of the Ministry of Welfare for National Assistance has been maintained although with the increasing levels of prosperity in Barbados the number of persons requiring national assistance has diminished as the years have gone on. A recently published study by Michael Howard on a fiscal profile on Barbados up to 1965 reveals that at the end of the Local Government times in Barbados there were over 20,000 persons receiving national assistance. Since that time, and especially in the last three or four years, the number of children receiving national assistance has diminished and the number of adults receiving national assistance has also diminished, but we have not dropped the vote although the amount that can be paid on individual classes is smaller because we are reaching out into many of these areas of basic needs in times of inflation to which the hon. member referred. Contrary to popular belief, the electricity bills of old age pensioners who live alone are being paid, as also the water bills where these are applied for. National Assistance grants are also being made to many persons who find themselves in straitened circumstances and cannot buy food. I said many persons, but there are not that many in Barbados now; the number of persons on the National Assistance books is only 11,000 compared with 20,000 in 1965. It is a small point but I think it illustrates that the Government is not insensible to what the hon. member has imparted into an economic debate for the first time, the concept of a basic needs policy. This is a commonplace overseas term but we have not used it here very much.

On the other points which the hon. member raised relating to performance of the two parties on the inflation front, all I can do is to take issue with him; he has put his case, we put ours. In the United States in 1974 inflation was of the order of 13%; in Britain it was be-

tween 19% and 20%, Trinidad 14%. In Barbados it was 42%, three times what it was in Trinidad. In 1979 in Barbados the annual average was 13% and the point to point average was 16%; in Britain it was over 20%, in the United States it was 14%, in Trinidad it was over 20%. The facts speak for themselves. Faced with identical conditions overseas and with an alleged price control policy, the Democratic Labour Party allowed prices to go up by an annual average of 42% in one year. With the Barbados Labour Party Government, under the same conditions, prices went up by an annual average of 13%. The proof of the pudding is in the eating; the proof of inflation is in the purchasing power that is left to you. The year 1974 was clearly a worse managed year in Barbados than 1979 when outside conditions were roughly the same.

The hon. member looked at the percentage increase in oil prices. Different means were taken to deal with that in 1974 and in 1979. The world outside was in bad shape in 1974 and so was Barbados. The world outside was in bad shape in 1979 and Barbados had a 7% growth. The fact that we have had to pay for that growth with a 13% inflation when it could easily have been 30% will be seen by future analysts as a tribute to the wise policies of the Barbados Labour Party. Inflation last month was 0.6%; the month before that it was 1.8%, and the month before that — there is still a little doubt — at first it was assessed that prices had actually fallen in February but in fact it has been reassessed that they have risen 0.03%, and in January prices rose 1.4%. If the hon. member multiplies it out he will find that at present we are running at an inflation rate of under 16% although we have had one month that I consider highly unsatisfactory, which was March. This compares with inflation rates in the United States, Britain, Trinidad and Jamaica of pressing 20% or more, and these are the countries which are our principal suppliers of imported goods; those four countries will supply between 80% and 90% of the billion dollars of imports coming into Barbados this year. There will be a billion dollars of imported goods this year and our Gross Domestic Product will only reach 1-1½ billion or perhaps 1.4 billion. So when we say we are an import dependent economy and that we depend upon imported prices, it is virtually impossible in Barbados to have an inflation rate that is less than the average inflation rate in those four countries. I know that Mr. Cameron Tudor believes that there is some mathematical relation between inflation in the United States and inflation in Barbados. I think he should take some tuition from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and the hon. member for St. Michael South who will surely put him right on this matter. But in a backhanded way he has struck at tourism — no Minister of Finance can tell you that this country can have economic health or pursue a proper economic policy if it tries with imports of the level that we have to maintain a rate that is in any way substantially below the rate of inflation of

export prices in our principal trading partners, and it is my belief that in Barbados, far from keeping down locally produced goods that they go up in price more than the imported goods. I believe that when the new index of retail prices is published for March and April — both sets of industries were prepared and a new index is going to be published as from April 1; it will not come out immediately but it is now proceeding. When that comes out it will be seen that the price of construction is going up, not just because of consumption taxes on board or cement, but because of the wages you have to pay carpenters and masons. I am not complaining, Mr. Speaker; they must be well paid, and paying them better will improve activity in the industry and will recognize that they have skills which are in short supply and will produce a situation where building contractors make better use of labour to put up buildings in the construction boom that is going on now. You will find that with personal care, including medical care, doctors' fees have gone from \$5 to \$15 in five years. I am told that five years ago a consultation without an appointment could be had for \$5; now it is \$15 — that is a 300% increase in five years. All these things go on the index. We cannot stop the price of gasoline from escalating; we are trying to reduce the amount of gasoline being used and we are having some success in this, but you cannot stop the price from going up, no more than King Canute could stop the waves from lapping at his feet. All of these are the things that are putting up the index rather than any acts of Government policy. It may be that we will have to put some locally produced things on price control; I hear, for instance, that farmers are reducing the production of their vegetables so as to maintain prices.

3.45 p.m.

I hear that the farmers are reducing their production of vegetables so as to maintain prices, I hear, and they are complaining bitterly that the sellers of vegetables are increasing their prices inordinately. Maybe just as we have had to control onions to stop Plantations from escalating the prices of onions in Barbados, prices similar to those in Trinidad, we may have to do it with other things.

There are one or two things that have a big psychological impact on the public, Sir. Corned Beef is one. I never knew that really, a country used to be run on the basis of how much a tin of Corned Beef cost. I believe that I went through my entire life in operation without ever mentioning the word "Corned Beef" on political platforms. I had to get in power to hear that Corned Beef was price controlled at \$2.50 when we came into power and that we reduced it to \$1.60 and now we hear people telling us that we are the most wicked people out because Corned Beef used to be \$1.60 and now it has gone to \$2.00 so obviously there is some psychological effect that this item Corned Beef has.

I should recommend to the Minister of Consumer Affairs when he returns or perhaps the Acting Minister would better give some consideration to viewing the cosmetics that the hon. member for St. Michael South West would put as a fact. I think he should control the use of Corned Beef and make a big spread in the Newspaper on the whole front page to declare that the price is being controlled but none of these things can work as permanent policies.

In 1974 some items, I think drugs was one. The price was raised three times in five months, all was price controlled. We had items during the year 1974 that there were seven or eight different Price Control Orders made and every Price Control Order was made at some level that allowed the big Merchants to make money but caused the small Merchants to go out of business and that was called a policy which controlled the Merchants. It allowed the big Merchants who had money already to close down the small Shopkeepers all over Barbados and it did not even succeed in keeping down the prices, so whatever is tried, Sir, there has to be a mix and the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was very profound when it said that Government should seek an appropriate mix to control inflation.

All that has happened, Sir, is that he can speak irresponsibly and with deep knowledge of his colleague's incapacity of finding the right mix. Irresponsibly because he is not charged with the duty of controlling inflation. He is only charged with talking about it and innocently because he does not realise the depth of the incompetence which formed the inflation policy of the Democratic Labour Party during its years in Office because he was not part of the decision making process at that time.

It is very good sometimes, Mr. Speaker, to be able to come to politics with a mind that is innocent of earlier experience because experience may lead to bad directions as well as good and if the hon. member's experience of his own Party is such that he can make a speech as he has made today, well then I can congratulate him because that speech is not really critical of this Government at all. That speech is critical of the policies that were followed from 1971 to 1976 when every principle enunciated by the hon. member was betrayed by the administration which was then in power when none of the basic needs were attended to and when tyrannical policies forming the worst possible mix for controlling inflation were pursued.

The speech of the hon. member; I really had to say that I thought that he was using notes from a past view that he had read when he was getting his education in the political economy in Barbados. I was really quite pleased that he was using some authority as the hon. member for St. Michael South has so long relied on in his pursuit of

economic argument in here in speeches made by the Opposition Benches in days gone by. Anyhow, Sir, I think that if the hon. member's tone or his speech today is at all a reflection of the grasp of the fact that he has been a great disappointment to many persons who think that Barbados Scholars owed the public a little better than what he has offered on political platforms, Sir, we all should be very pleased indeed.

If the hon. member would stick to making speeches which look at policies, which talk about matters that are important to people's pockets and not merely in a sense that they are malicious; if the hon. member would avoid telephoning New York to enquire about the name of the Head of the Secret Service detailed to protect the Prime Minister — you want me to give you the time, the length of the call to the Department, the name of the person you telephoned.....

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: No. I have not heard of any telephone call you made recently but I do know that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central telephoned Marson Gibbs and asked him to obtain certain information for him from New York a few days ago.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot now hear the hon. member on a point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sorry, Sir, I would withdraw that because what I am saying is no part of a Ministerial Statement, Sir. I do not believe Marson would lie on the hon. member but between the two I would believe Marson.

I had hoped to give hon. members some details of the price movements during the whole period and I gather it was overtaken by the urgency of the debate. Indeed, Sir, I do not think that we have lost anything by that because I think that the ground that the hon. member covered was adequately covered in terms of any material he could possibly need and therefore I must offer apologies for the Ministry of Finance for not producing materials earlier. I do not really think that we have wasted our time by the speech made by the hon. member and in the few words which I am uttering now.

The Government would bear in mind, Sir, all that the hon. member has said. I think that we are already pursuing these policies. We think that we have a realistic policy towards the inflationary pressures which are besetting us at the present time. We think that we have structured even such things as Consumption Tax as was introduced in the Budget in such a way as to keep down

its impact on ordinary people to the greatest possible extent.

I do not think that the Barbados Workers' Union, Sir, has really studied it, for example, and if it realises that the weight is falling on car parks, office equipment and clothing which is not now a big item of people's expenditure in Barbados. Only 3% of people's income is spent on clothing in Barbados. If the Workers' Union realises all of these things, perhaps they would not have made the hasty and catastrophic error of assuming that this Consumption Tax is anyway similar to the increases to the Indirect Tax in Great Britain.
3.55 p.m.

I think Sir, that history, including some of the Hon. Members opposite when they look back on this particular Administration, will marvel at the relatively small rates of inflation in this country during these years of 1977, 1978 and 1979, will marvel at the way that our inflation rate came from being the highest in CARICOM to be the lowest in CARICOM, will marvel at the way that at successive salaries negotiations, we were able to meet the inflation rate with the unions concerned in the Public Service, where previous negotiations were not able to meet it. They will marvel at the fact that we could show economic growth, when all others and all sides of us were falling by the wayside, or having to pay inordinately and extravagantly in terms of inflation for a policy designed to improve employment and growth in the country generally.

Inflation is one of the concomitants of growth. There is no doubt about that and we have had to accept that, but our aim Sir, is always to put enough money in people's pockets to make up for the extra money that they have to pay through inflation. That will always be our policy, if you cannot stop something from going up in price, make sure that a man has enough money in his pocket to afford it. That is the policy of this Government and it will continue to be the policy of this Government Sir.

Sir, that is the end of the Ministerial Statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: I just want to make this cross statement. The Speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to this Resolution which was not properly moved, or which was not moved at all, must be expunged from the Records of this Hon. House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I can say something. Again, I do not want to challenge Your Honour's ruling, but I would ask Your Honour to consider what happens if there is only one Hon. Opposition Member in the Hon. House and therefore, without the assistance of the Government, he cannot move a Resolution because he cannot get a seconder. His speech is not normally struck from the Records Sir, and I

would be prepared, on behalf of the Government, to ask the Hon. House to give its leave, to allow the Hon. Member's statement to remain Sir. I would be prepared on behalf of the Government to do that because I would actually think Sir, that it would be a little unfair....

Mr. SPEAKER: Standing Order No. 14 prohibits an Hon. Member from asking hypothetical questions such as the one which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has just raised.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not mean to be hypothetical Sir, I am saying, that I would ask the leave of the Hon. House to allow the speech to remain Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, it cannot, since the Chair has already directed that it be expunged from the Records of this Hon. House.

Mr. WARD: On a point of clarification Sir, I would..

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no such point according to the Standing Orders.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, what I would like to ask is why did you not stop the Hon. Member from speaking when he was speaking. Why did you wait until he made his speech for 18 minutes and then say that it must be struck from the Records.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that the Hon. Member is.....

Mr. WARD: I am not concerned whether I am out of order or not. It does not add up to me Mr. Speaker. This is causing us embarrassment in public.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know that the Hon. Member who has just sat down likes to read and the more he reads, the more he should understand what procedure in this Hon. House is all about.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Sir, that Government Business be now resumed.

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

Item No. 9 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Six Roads, St. Philip, for the purpose of housing development.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this acquisition Sir which I seek to....

Pardon me Sir, I did not remember that my colleague was about to speak on Resolution No. 8. I therefore would like to withdraw the Resolution which I called Item No. 9. Continuation of Item No. 8, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Acting Leader of the Hon. House is asking to withdraw Item No. 9 and substitute Item No. 8, to resume consideration of Item No. 8 which was under consideration when the suspension was taken, if there is no objection.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the adjournment was taken on Item No. 8, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central, as you will recall, was expounding on the relationship of the creation of jobs by way of Offshore Banking Legislation. It is the Government's intention to develop the land being compulsorily acquired at Brighton for Industrial Development and he was making the point that the creation of jobs by means of Offshore Banking was not one of the big results of the Offshore Banking Legislation.

I think that the Hon. Member went on to say that whereas there were difficulties between 1973 to 1975, that the increase in unemployment and a worsening economic situation was in no way due to measures taken during that period. I wish to stress that this Resolution is a worthwhile Resolution in the fact that it has taken into account, the necessity to develop industrial development rapidly and particularly, to pre-zone the area and that it is part and parcel of the need to widen the Government's economic pace and Foreign Exchange pace.

I want to say Mr. Speaker, that there is no point in referring to macro economic figures of the period 1973 to 1975, unless one looks at the result of that period in terms of the growth generated by the economy.
4.05 p.m.

No matter what the hon. member may say about the dropping of the inflation rate in one year only to five percent or the increase in the foreign reserves in 1975, he must eventually come to the conclusion that during the 1973-1975 there was no growth in the economy. The economy had a position in which it went into negative growth. This is documented in all of the reports, and any analysis of micro-economic or macro-economic indicators will show that Barbados' economy stagnated between those years. One of the reasons for the stagnation was the wrong mix of economic policies and very bad economic management.

The indicators of which the hon. member speaks were due to two things. In the year 1975 there was a phenomenal increase in the price of sugar on the world market and Barbados benefitted by way of foreign exchange from that once and for all phenomenal increase in the price of sugar; but if the hon. member would look

at the policies taken prior to June 1976, he would see then that the Government at that time permitted consumer imports at a rate which showed up in the end of the calendar year figures, and if the hon. member would have taken the opportunity to read the speeches made during that time by the hon. member for Christ Church South Central in the Senate, the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas and myself on behalf of the Opposition, we forecast exactly these results that would have occurred with a negative growth and finally a drop other than for the very limited of periods in the foreign exchange position of Barbados.

You will note also, that it was the period during which there was a decline almost to a negative growth in tourism during that very period. Now the hon. member might rightly claim that the world economic situation was such that one would have expected some problems in tourist sales, but inflation reached its highest figure ever in the preceding year in 1974; it reached a figure of 40% in Barbados. Now it is true that it came down the following year, but it came down for two principal reasons; one was that the Government acting on the advice of the Central Bank re-aligned the Barbados dollar to the US dollar and reaped what was a once and for all shock in the re-regulation of the calculation of the rate of inflation, and I will challenge the hon. member that had they remained in power after that they would not have been able to continue at an inflation rate of 5%. The other reason why of course there was a change in the inflation rate was because in the principal trading partners from which Barbados imports there was also a drop in the rate of inflation, and principally from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, but principally from the United States at that time.

Now Barbadians seem to believe that when you are dealing with inflation figures that there are set measures and only set measures that a Government with an open economy like Barbados can adopt, and this would *ipso facto* mean a decline in the inflation rate. We will continue to have some inflation in this community as long as our principal trading partners have a rise and an increase in inflation rates, and a Minister of Finance can only seek to contain that rate within reasonable bounds by using other budgetary measures which are available to him.

Let me give you an example, Sir. If we import our wheat from the United States and from Canada in order to refine it here into flour and the cost of wheat increases, we have to pay more money for it, and therefore when you sell it, unless there was an unreasonable profit margin, you sell that wheat at more to the ultimate consumer. Now if this is one of the items taken into account in the cost of living increase in this country, it will obviously show an increase and you

will cite that there is inflation, but it does not mean the particular Government can be beaten for that increase unless we were a wheat-producing country or unless we were able to substitute other foodstuffs and decrease our cost of imports of wheat, or unless we were able to produce more and sell more overseas in order to have more foreign exchange to control all sorts of increases in prices that would go on in our economy. It is less than honest to convey to the public when one is dealing with the area of inflation.....

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, if the hon. member would give way, I believe that I had made it quite clear when I was speaking earlier on today that there is an import element to inflation. I criticised Governments which give the public the impression, or political parties, that they can totally control inflation. The point I was making was that there is an area where Government by its policies can certainly influence the extent of inflation in a country one way or another and there is an area in which it cannot. So I do not think the hon. member quite took the point I was making. I certainly made that point in very great detail.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, would the hon. member therefore concede that in the context of Barbados today the inflation rate which resulted in 1979 was reasonable in the context of world conditions and in the context of Barbados? That is what I am asking him. He can argue as much as he likes, but an inflation rate of 13.5% where some of our principal trading partners have a higher rate, is not an unreasonable rate, and it shows that Governments mix of policies has been working in this context. The inflation rate in Israel exceeds 70%; the inflation rate in Argentina from whom we import is 140%; the inflation rate in the United Kingdom has moved from 17.5% to 20% within the last couple of months because of the influence of price increases there. These are our partners. The inflation rate in Canada is only a few percentage points below the inflation rate in Barbados, either 1979 or other figures, and to give the public the impression that this Government has not taken all measures to contain inflation, and he has asked them about the containment of inflation between 1979 and now, is a mistaken view to have of the economy of this country; but the hon. member must bear in mind the relationship of inflation to the increase in performance of the economy. He cannot get away with that, Sir, because during the period of time that inflation hit 40% in this country and during the last three years particularly of Democratic Labour Party rule, there was a no growth economy, and if you have a no growth economy sliding into a negative growth rate, it means you were decreasing the gross domestic product of the country and decreasing the real wealth of the country.

Now under this Government there has been an increase of gross domestic product, an increase in GNP and a re-distribution of the level of wealth in this country so that a wider segment is better off, and I am not listening to the political people who have a political axe to grind on this at all. If you look at the IMF or the World Bank report on Barbados, that bears these factors out in an objective way, that Barbadians are much better off today in real economic terms than they were in 1976, and a rate of growth of 6.5% to 7% is one of the highest in the Caribbean and indeed in western economies and indeed even when compared with eastern economies, because the rate of growth in the totalitarian states like the Soviet Union in 1979 was only of the order of 2.5%, falling considerably from the average of 5%. The rate of growth in the United States' economy was 2.1%; the rate of growth in the Bahamian economy was 7%, and the rate of growth in Barbados was 6.0%. So that only Barbados and the Bahamas among all of the Caribbean States outside of Trinidad which is an oil-producing country were able to perform at that level and in that way.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I was under the impression that we were debating a Resolution on the acquisition of land. I submit the hon. member is out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate the point raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy, but as the member for the City of Bridgetown has said, the hon. member for St. Lucy was not here earlier to know what went on. 4.15 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I make the point therefore in reply to the hon. member that when he is dealing with macro-economic figures, the figures in themselves are not really totally relevant unless he looks at the final result of the growth and distribution of wealth in an economy such as ours. And on those facts the period to which he alluded not only resulted in higher unemployment but it resulted in no growth and therefore no distribution of the wealth of the country. And when that period is contrasted to the period subsequent to 1976, we will find that although there was a short period in which foreign reserves fell, we also hit the highest level of foreign reserves, we had three or four years of consistent growth, we had falling unemployment and still have falling unemployment, and a real redistribution of income. Therefore, the government's acquisition of land is only one of the aspects of the continuation of a proper mix of policies to widen the industrial base, to widen the level of productivity in order to improve the economy so that we can have an increase growth rate in 1980.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SIX ROAD, ST. PHILIP

Order No. 9 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Six Roads, St. Philip, for the purpose of housing development.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister this Resolution is to acquire an area of land at Six Cross Roads, to continue the Government's housing development. As you know, Sir, not only has the Government gone ahead at Six Cross Roads with the expansion of industrial development in that area, but it is Government's intention to build not only at Six Cross Roads, but also in another area in St. Philip. You will recognize Sir, that the only government housing construction in St. Philip was constructed during the period of the Barbados Labour Party administration prior to 1961; and now that we have resumed the Government of this country we intend in the St. Philip constituency to continue the programme which has been temporarily interrupted in 1961. I am sure Sir, you will consider this a worthwhile Resolution which should have the support of both sides of the House, and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution which had its genesis when I was Chairman of the National Housing Corporation as part of our programme for creating a land bank and doing the necessary forward planning to have sites available for housing developments at various points in the country including the rural areas. The type of policy embarked on by the National Housing Corporation under this Government shows a marked difference from the policies of the previous Government, to the extent that I recall many years ago – as recently as 1976 or 1977 – there was a number of artisans in the country who every year used to take time off from jobs as carpenters and masons to go and work in the sugar industry. This applied with equal force to employees of the National Housing Corporation. It suggested to me that because there was not a continuity of employment in the construction industry and because of the temporary attraction of higher wages in the sugar industry there was every year a withdrawal of labour from the construction of industry into the sugar industry. The significance of our policy and the importance in terms of long term planning especially for the construction industry – is that in the last two years, particularly in the crop season, we have found ourselves in a situation where a man who is a carpenter or mason no longer finds it necessary to down his tools at the beginning of the crop and leave the construction

industry. The reasons for that is that the artisans can look down the road a year or eighteen months ahead and see himself in continuous employment at the trade that he has practised for a considerable period of time; and that is significant, because it gives the artisan a sense of job security and that in my view is one of the things that this government should be complimented on, for creating conditions in which people in the construction industry no longer respond instinctively to a pull to go into the sugar industry but will remain at their trade because they can see employment in construction before them for at least eighteen months ahead. As I said, it was a conscious part of the planning of the National Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing that we would require parcels of land so that when work was completed on one site the employees of the Housing Corporation knew that the following week they would be moving to another area to start new construction. So we built up this land bank as we call it and in the long term planning Six Roads was looked at and decision made to acquire it.

I want to say something about construction or housing development in St. Philip at this stage. As the Attorney General has said, not since 1955 has there been any substantial housing or other development in St. Philip. There were a few houses built at Gemswick — I do not think they reached twenty — but the heart of housing development in St. Philip was concentrated in the Six Roads area which was then seen by the Barbados Labour Party Government in the 1950s as a focal point for development in St. Philip.

4.25 p.m.

So it was this Party which gave the Housing Area at Six Roads, Princess Margaret School in Six Roads, the Health Centre in Six Roads, the Post Office and the Public Library.

Prior to the General Elections of 1976 there was no Industrial Development pursued by the IDC in Six Roads. Let us not forget. I made it an issue in the bye-election of 1976 that there had been no Industrial Park in St. Philip. Hurriedly, about June or July 1976, a ceremony was held at which the present representative for St. Michael South West was present driving a Caterpillar pushing down some mould and I remember the evening well.

I was a representative of the people of St. Philip North at the time and just to show how things happen and how things change; the hon. member for St. Philip South was invited to this ceremony. I was not but I refused to allow myself to feel slighted so I went armed with one or two of my constituents who would assist me in keeping a little noise and I was present when the hon. member for St. Michael South West held up a piece of paper with a drawing of a large building that was the plan made in the speech of the Hon. Leader of the

Opposition and he held it up for the crowd to see a design of a square building.

I doubted then that that was a genuine plan for any factory building and I am now satisfied, having seen the type and design of building that has been built there, that it was only so much as a sham. It did not convince the people of St. Philip North.

I want to compliment the Government at this time and I also want to compliment the Chairman of the Industrial Corporation and the Minister of Trade for having extended development from those five or six types of development which I outlined earlier which were done by our Party when we were in power last to now embrace Industrial Development.

It is strange that the hon. member for St. Philip South and my good friend and colleague was unable to move his Government for 15 years to add to the housing stock in St. Philip South. Indeed it was strange that the hon. member for St. Philip South was unable to move his Government even to repair the roads in the Six Roads Housing Area in the Farm Gardens that is now called the Housing Area and it is indeed strange because it was in a part of his constituency and it is subject to great flooding and it was left to me when I was Chairman of the Housing Corporation to ensure that in 1978 the roads and the drainage were all done in the Farm Garden Housing Area.

I trust that the constituents of St. Philip South will appreciate that it is this Government, the Barbados Labour Party Government, whether it be that of 1955 or 1980, which is prepared to look after their interest, to enhance the quality of their life, and to provide such infra-structure and other developments as they require even though we know that they are not supporters.

I would like to hear, but we do not hear it anymore, the stupid talk one heard of victimisation at the time of the bye-election of St. Michael South Central. That seemed to have died down but when allegations are made of victimisation I hold up for those who want to criticise what this party has done for St. Philip South in the full knowledge that it is not our constituency. That, I believe, would put a lie to the allegation of victimisation.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time as I welcome the development in St. Philip South I wish to know how soon, and I keep repeating my plea, how soon are we going to get development at Lammings at St. Philip North. I was broadminded enough and conscious enough of my national responsibility not to have forced a housing area in St. Philip North when I was Chairman of the Housing Corporation to the exclusion of national development or perhaps a more pressing and higher priority but

the time is now ripe for the people of St. Philip North to see some action.

We want the bulldozers to start moving in also at The Rock in St. Peter but I want them to start at Lucas Street first. Let me see the bulldozers moving in. There is a plot of land there. I do not believe that it is hedged around by the same considerations as that which preclude certain development at Six Roads. It is bounded on all sides by good roads, water and light.

I believe that it was about \$75,000 and it has great possibilities for rental houses, houses for sale both wood and wall as well as fulfilling a need that is present in the country; that is, the provision of house spots.

The piece of land that I have in mind, Mr. Speaker, has been shown and seen by the officials of the Ministry of Housing and Lands. As I said, it is a piece of land which has lent itself readily to continuous development. All I am asking of the Government at this stage is to give me 75 units for rent. We used to build 16 to the acre when I was in the Housing Corporation. That, presumably, is still the ratio.
4.35 p.m.

If you like, five Sir. Five acres and give me 80 housing units for rent. Later, in the Government's planning, it can decide on the house spots and the houses for sale. The pressing need and the pressing demand at the moment, is for houses for rent.

There was a view that was echoed by the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition in February 1976 that people in the rural areas do not need housing areas. That is a fallacy. It is not only a fallacy, but it is foolishness. I can say, from my own experience and by experience gleaned from seeing people in my office weekly, daily. People from St. Philip, St. Joseph, St. Peter, St. Lucy, all over the place, have been coming in search of houses to rent and you know why Sir, it is because you may find a young man who is friendly with a girl, he visits the home of this girl and he is doing nothing about getting married. The girl's family sooner or later put pressure on him and tell the girl not to bring him back there because he does not have a good mind towards her and that kind of thing. There is overcrowding. There are youngsters who are working and are able to pay \$18.00, or \$15.00 or whatever it is a week for rent, who would be glad to move out from home, set up their own existence, pay their rent, save some money for four or five years and then, having paid a subsidised rent, be in a position to buy their home. All these are factors which go to suggest that there is a need for housing in the rural areas.

I am grateful, as I say Mr. Speaker, to the Hon. Minister of Housing for the quick action that his Ministry has taken in acquiring this land at Six Roads in recogni-

tion of the need. I can tell him that he would have, if there are 40 houses, I do not know how many it is intended to be built there, 45, that whoever is going to allocate the houses, the Tenants Committee at the Housing Corporation will find that they have a tremendous job on their hands trying to sort out which 45 of probably 600 applicants are going to get those houses. So great is the demand, and I prophesy so great will be the demand.

I have some assurances from the Hon. Minister Sir, that something is going to be done about Duncan's. The Hon. Minister of Housing has never disappointed me yet. I take his word as his bond and I say to him today in this Hon. House of Assembly, that his commitment made and carried in the Press twice to establish the housing area in St. Philip North, is a commitment which he will have to fulfil because the people of St. Philip North are expecting him to fulfil that promise.

Mr. Speaker, it will only now be left to the Housing Corporation to push ahead with the work and set up the houses at Six Roads, before I conclude, I have always been an advocate Mr. Speaker, of housing development as a complete whole. That is to say, an integrated development, you not only have houses, but you have subsidiary services built around the development. I wish the Government to know, on behalf of the people of St. Philip South, that there is a heavy concentration of human beings in the Six Roads area, there is a heavy concentration of vehicular traffic in the Six Roads area. There are people who come from other districts to work, or to do business in the Six Roads area. In the Six Roads area, which is so heavily populated and the subject of so much activity, there is not one playing field available to the people of the Six Roads, Marchfield area.

I do not know whether the plan for this housing development in Six Roads has in it, any playing facility, but I counsel the Government, as a matter of urgency, to try and establish some playing facility for the people and the children in the Six Roads, Marchfield area. It is a pressing need, and a crying need. I am not articulating it because I want to make a political point, I am articulating it because I know of the problem and it has been represented to me several times by people from the area that they would dearly love to have some playing facility established in Six Roads. I am appealing to this Government to use its best endeavours to persuade the Ministry responsible for Sport to address its attention to this matter. It is one of urgency, it is needed Mr. Speaker. We need to create facilities to keep the young people off the streets, out of harms way and out of trouble.

There are certain signs that one observes in Barbados which can cause no comfort to anybody in Barbados who is interested in his country. If some of the restlessness that may be observable is among the youth, the

Government's social policy planning must be of such a kind, as to seek to arrest the problems of restlessness early, otherwise, the 80's may be the troublous times for Barbadians.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Just very briefly Mr. Speaker, I have taken note of all that the Hon. Member has said. I just want to make one point and that is about the playing field and the facilities at Six Roads.

I know that the area is just five acres of land. I myself, was in Six Roads on Sunday and I recognised that there is a need for some form of recreational facilities because at the corner of Six Roads, there is a very old house which seems to be in a state of, I would not say disrepair, but there is no roof and I recall seeing a sign outside, "Only Dreads Allowed," so the Hon. Member would note that I was in there.

I can assure him, that whatever plans I have in the Ministry of Housing that it is always geared towards having some form of recreational facilities within the area — but as far as I can go, that may be providing the necessary Hard Courts or whatever it is — I will surely pass on his comments to my colleague in the Ministry of Community Services whom I know is examining every considerable aspect.

The Hon. Member has not got to say too loud and remind me of any commitment to him. I have a commitment to Barbados as a whole and to its housing needs.

What I would say to him Sir, is that he has done such a wonderful job at the National Housing Corporation when he was the Chairman there, that he is deserving of anything at all Sir, and if you were there, Sir, you would have had yours at the Rock long ago.
4.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, let me assure the hon. gentleman that we will do all within our power to have Six Roads and Duncans looked after.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this brings Government Business to an end.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 20th May, 1980, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

