
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th May, 1980.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; 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; Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc., (Econ.); and Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., (Edin.).

Prayers were read.

Mr. SANDIFORD and HIS HONOUR E. E. ALLEYNE entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 13th May, 1980.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Sir, that the Minutes for the 13th May, 1980 be taken as read.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by Hon. Members, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay, on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Charnocks, Christ Church, for the purpose of Road improvement.

On behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1980.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central, his question, in respect of the dust at Halls Road.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask of the appropriate Hon. Minister:—

- (a) Is the Minister aware that the thick layer of dust which has been left on Hall's Road, St. Michael, is causing serious inconveniences to the residents of that area?
- (b) Is the Minister also aware that this matter constitutes a health hazard, particularly to those residents who suffer from various pulmonary conditions?
- (c) Is the Minister also aware that, despite continuous efforts by the residents of that area, the dust is to be seen in their living rooms,

bedrooms, bathrooms, dining rooms and kitchens, and that cooked meals often have to be thrown away because of contamination by the dust?

- (d) If the answers to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, will the Minister indicate what measures will be taken to alleviate this unfortunate situation?

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to report that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 42 is ready. 12.25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order No. 18 (1) on the question to move the Adjournment of the House.

Mr. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member proceed.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, it is a question of asking leave of the House to adjourn on a definite matter of urgent public importance. With all due respect, I do not wish in any way to be disrespectful to Your Honour's ruling. The matter is definite and of public importance, and I wonder if, Sir, you would be inclined to reflect on that particular matter in view of the urgency of the matter as far as the people of Barbados are concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is my pleasant duty to see at all times that the business of this Honourable House is conducted as the Standing Orders direct. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has already sought my permission to raise a matter of the adjournment of the House as one that is definite, a matter of urgent public importance. He has been advised as to the definiteness of the matter. It is undoubtedly a matter of public importance, but I regret the urgency to which the hon. member refers does not exist. He has been so advised. I want the hon. member to understand that the Chair is as willing to assist him in getting over his point of view as he is in getting it over on any matter that is definite and is of public importance, but when the urgency does not exist, it is a horse of another colour.

I believe that the hon. member might canvass opinion amongst his colleagues to see wherever or how ever he could be accommodated under these very Standing Orders, but remember, the Standing Orders

cannot import urgency into any measure that might be raised in the circumstances.

12.35 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order 17(3) be suspended for the remainder of the day.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we go to normal business, Standing Order No. 17(3) has just been suspended. I am of the opinion that the whole House – and I prefer to put it that way by saying the whole House – is not fully aware of what has taken place and the purpose of all this. And I well say so in that it amounts to an indictment of the whole House, although I do not intend indicting the whole House. In other words, the Hon. Leader of the House has been seeking ways and means of assisting the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, to enable the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to be able to debate a measure which he wanted to bring before this Honourable House but which he sought to bring perhaps not as tidily as he ought to have done. I have nothing further to say on that score.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the significance of the motion by the Hon. Leader of the House.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of privilege then.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the privilege?

Dr. HAYNES: The privilege is that there is an assumption that an hon. member is ignorant of the provision of the significance of a particular rule.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will take his seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this is what we get for trying to help persons on the other side. It serves me right.

Mr. SPEAKER: What he said about assumption, it is too factual.

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

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CLAPHAM, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 5 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Clapham, St. Michael, for the purpose of the erection of a new Primary School.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this is another acquisition for land to improve Government's developmental plan, on this occasion in the field of education. All of the appropriate notices have been sent out. This land is for the purpose of building a new primary school at Clapham, which I have no doubt will serve the residents of that area and the surrounding areas. Therefore, to allow construction to start, a portion of land has to be acquired, and this is the purpose of the Resolution for which I now seek Parliamentary approval. The land is something like 1,650 square meters, with the regular butting and bounding on the lands of Walcott and others.

There is not much more I can say on this Resolution since it directly touches on the Ministry of Education, and I can only beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. I am hoping I have not said too much on this, since what little you do try to do of public importance, at the end of it it is still a thankless job. I as Leader of the House went out of my way to accommodate something that is even going to touch on me.

1.45 p.m.

I am as interested in the debate because if you build a school one has to get electricity in the school, Sir. If I have to get around to that debate, you see how I will touch on it, Sir. You know the old time ropes. These are the things you can do. I would talk about the amount of schools we have in Barbados, the amount of power you have to use and so on. All of these are the ways.

I can give the hon. member for St. Michael South Central a lesson but he knows everything and somebody only just has to write him or telephone him so you have to do it in a roundabout manner so as to assist members on the other side or you will soon hear, Sir, that we are muzzling them.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass and the member even has a chance today to talk on it. I can give him an idea how to get around it. He can talk about putting electricity in the schools. This is a Resolution. There are one or two little things in here.

I am not going to sit down and say that I do not have time. I know what I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. That is an ABC in here and unlike the hon. member who sat down and did not know it was a Resolution that he was dealing with.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Resolution and reserve my right to speak on it.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Resolution and would like to make a few comments in the meantime. The Resolution seeks to acquire a portion of land in the Clapham area. The Clapham area being part of my constituency and the acquisition for the purpose of facilitating a Primary School would benefit my constituents as well as the Hon. Attorney General, the member for Christ Church West.

I would like to say that I am indeed grateful and thankful to the Government as a whole and the Minister responsible for Education for selecting this site for the erection of a Primary School.

I would like to express the gratitude of the people in the Wildey/Pinelands/Clapham area, Flagstaff included, to the Minister of Education who has realised that this area has been developing quite rapidly since 1974 and at the sametime there seemed to have been no plans by the former Administration to accommodate a Primary School in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is alright for a Government to plan housing development in a particular area but along with the development of a housing area should go certain facilities and certain considerations as well. These considerations should include adequate recreational facilities as well as educational facilities.

Since 1974 there have been some 1,000 Electors being brought into the Wildey area and in the Clapham area. Since the Chapman Lane people have moved to Clapham, it means therefore that some 1,200 voters or electors have been moved into that area. That is since 1974. What I mean, Sir, is that now that there are more electors, it is obvious that more and more children will be in that area and even before the resiting of the Chapman Lane people, even before the full development of Wildey, there was a need for a Primary School in that area.

Now I feel, Sir, that the Government, having realised the density in terms of population in that area,

has considered it a wise thing to erect a Primary School and that is why the Minister of Education has so selected Clapham for the siting of a Primary School.

I want to give the Minister of Education and the Ministry as a whole the assurance that vandalism which has so plagued many of our Island Schools is something which the electors in the area are fully aware of and that they will be doing everything in their power to ensure that vandalism does not exist in the South East and surrounding areas.

My reason for touching on this particular point, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that it is at times like these when members of Parliament and those responsible should make a call on the residents and the young people of this community to cherish Government Property and since schools have been plagued by such acts of vandalism causing the Government considerable sums of money, I would like to appeal to the residents in that area as well as the residents in other areas where schools are situated, to make a concerted effort to see that the property of the schools are kept in good shape.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want also to compliment those Youth Groups who are so well organised that have been seeing to it that the youths of the schools or that the schools are used to their fullest and at the same time have not been involving themselves in any act of vandalism. There are some Youth Groups which should be complimented for utilising the schools and making sure that even after school on afternoons that activities can take place. That is reflective of the upliftment and the good of the society in which the schools are situated.

It was heartening for me when I attended the Parkinson School Speech Day earlier this year and to hear the Headmaster of that School in delivering his Report saying that there was no vandalism at Parkinson School and I must say that this is something which the people in that area should be fully proud of because it has shown that at least where people have been thinking that there have been lawlessness and that young people cannot pull themselves together and devise something useful that here was a particular case where not only the youngsters were engaging themselves useful but were mainly responsible for the lack of vandalism in that particular area.

I did on one occasion give the Minister the assurance that with the erection of the new Polytechnic at Wildey which is also in my constituency, that the residents in the adjacent area would see to it that this sort of act of vandalism is stamped out.

Now, Sir, we must look carefully at this particular situation because lots of Government funds are placed in this particular area in order to correct what has been the

malicious and stupid acts under the heading, or branded as vandalism
12.55 p.m.

I want again to salute the Hon. Minister of Education for recognising that there is a need for a primary school in this constituency and as this is just a part of what St. Michael South East will be benefitting from; there are other parts Mr. Speaker; I want also, at this time, to thank the Hon. Minister of Health for having disclosed that on June 1st, the turning of the sod will signify the erection of a polyclinic in the Wildey area. I want also to say how grateful I am to the Hon. Minister of Labour and Community Services for so encouraging the present Hon. Minister of Housing and Lands for initiating the policy of expanding the present day nursery in the Pinelands area. This, too, Mr. Speaker, has shown that the present Hon. Minister of Housing and Lands realised and recognised as early as 1976 when he assumed office, that there was a need for expanding the day nurseries in that area, in order to accommodate the fast building or expansion of people in that particular area; and having so many Ministries involved and recognising the importance of having such facilities for the people in the area, one must conclude that this Government is doing a very, fine job.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give the Hon. Ministers the assurance that the people in the Pinelands, Wildey, Clapham, Flagstaff area will use the Primary school to its fullest and I do hope that the children who go to that school, will attain a proper education which will go a long way to emulating the school which this Government intends to build there for them.

I want to thank the Government for everything that has been going on in the St. Michael South East area and I am sure that when I speak for the people of St. Michael South East, it is well said. Keep up the good work, I will continue to support the Government which is so thoughtful about the people in St. Michael South East.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, this matter of providing schools in densely populated areas carries with it, the right of the people in the area to use school buildings when they are not occupied during the day.

I remember sitting in the Opposition and hearing the then Government complain about vandalism in schools. This Government had said quite clearly that wherever possible, residents should be able to use school buildings after normal hours. I rise today, so that not only the Hon. Minister, but the Hon. House and the public at large will understand my feelings about certain things that have been happening, not only in St. Joseph, but in many other areas where schools have been kept closed after the normal work of the school day.

I believe that vandalism occurs when people are frustrated. I see children playing around schools – if you drive out to St. Lucy any Saturday or Sunday evening, or even many of the rural districts, you will find children playing around the schools and the schools tightly closed. In St. Joseph, in particular, we have endless problems in getting schools opened to youth groups, and various other community organisations. There is a problem of not being able to find the key, the headmaster will not allow certain groups to meet in schools and I would like it to be known that this Government opposes such behaviour. I believe, that vandalism will fall, if people in the districts are allowed to use school premises after 4 o'clock, or after 4.30 in the afternoon.

I believe that the Hon. Minister has said before that if groups write to the Ministry of Education that permission would be granted, but I also believe that groups have been frustrated in this action because it sometimes takes quite a long time to get a reply from the appropriate Division in the Ministry of Education for the use of schools. I would like to hear the Hon. Minister make his policy known today – I personally believe that any organisation that goes to the headmaster and makes it known that the group wants the use of a school in the afternoon, that every effort will be made to facilitate the group in using what is no more than public property and not the property of the headmasters and the caretakers. I have told the people in St. Joseph that they are entitled to use Government's property and I would hope that headmasters understand that when Government votes money for providing schools, social centres, or any other recreational facilities, that those facilities are there for the general public and that there should be no discrimination whatsoever to the use of those buildings by anybody living in the district.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, as I have done before I wish to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Education on the emphasis which he is placing on providing suitable plans and equipment for primary education in this country. I have said before, that it is an area of education that I think should receive and which is now receiving greater priority. It is obvious, that we cannot restructure the physical plan of the educational sector at one go and whereas, in the past, we have had concentration on the physical plans and equipment at our Secondary Schools, we have not had the same concentration on the physical plan and equipment at our primary schools. A case has been made out for, not only the construction of new plans, but in some cases, the amalgamation of existing primary schools and the updating of some of the plans.

The Clapham, Wildey, Sargeants Village, Fordes Road, Bonnetts, Club Morgan area, is an area that has been increasing in intensity of population. One only has to recall the movement of some of the residents from

Emmertons, to the upper Clapham area to see that this area is becoming a pretty high detachment area. Although there are schools in the surrounds at St. Paul's Primary Schools; in the Pine, and further up, in Vauxhall, yet, it is clear that the density of population in this area demands a school that caters for the age group of up to 11, which is intended, that this school should prepare children up to the Common Entrance Examination. I believe, that in that area, looking at population trends and looking at birth rates, the construction of the School is fully justified.

In addition to congratulating the Hon. Minister Sir, I want to say that I had the opportunity, when he was selecting sites to be up there to look at the areas that were available and I think that the Hon. Member for St. Michael South East is fortunate that in a great part of his constituency, he has got upgraded educational plans. 1.05 p.m.

I think the hon. member for St. Michael South East is fortunate that in a great part of his constituency he has got upgraded plant, upgraded health facilities, upgraded sanitation facilities and shortly upgraded recreational facilities, upgraded housing facilities and shortly as well upgraded law and order facilities, and although I am only on the outskirts, Sir, he has also had quite a lot of upgraded commercial and industrial facility with the expansion of the industrial estate in that area. I think the people in the Wildey/Pine area, in the Clapham area in particular, should consider that. I think the Government has been doing a duty to them in no uncertain terms, and I have no doubt that it has a lot to do with the concentrated and persistent good representation being given to them as the hon. member for St. Michael South East, and I hope that in due course they will recognise the high level of representation which he has been giving to this area.

I wish to join him not in begging the Minister but merely in reminding the Minister because the Minister is a convinced man in this respect, that it would be a good idea to use the opportunity to perhaps put in some additional recreational facilities. I know the 4.5 acres is just about adequate, but perhaps it would be an opportunity to provide basketball, netball, volleyball and tennis facilities in the area.

I may point out to him that when the Garrison School was built, although we had a limited land area between King's Village, Deighton and Chelsea Road, the hon. member for St. Michael South was able to put in in that area some facilities that are still being very well used, and we for the first time had a basketball court together with tennis facilities. So even in limited land areas it is possible to cater for these needs, and this may answer the point made by the hon. member for St. Joseph. I think the opportunity should be taken to plan in con-

junction with the Ministry of Sports these facilities. I give him my undertaking that between the hon. member for St. Michael South East and myself will ensure that whatever influence we have in the area, and it is not inconsiderable, that the best care is taken of the people's plant and the best use is made of the recreational facilities which are provided.

In upper Clapham, we have some of the finest citizens in Barbados, and in Fordes Road of course we have some of the choicest citizens in Barbados, and I would wish to point out that we have already several clubs functioning in that area which are carrying these types of facilities. Certainly on my side of the road we have about four clubs which play from Darts to softball cricket to football, to volleyball to basketball. I believe one is known as the Clapham Youth, one Henry Forde's Eleven, and it is doing extremely well in competition now, and I want to say and to emphasise that we are willing, the clubs which operate there, to give of our spare time to assisting in the schools with coaching as I know the Minister has just begun at the school, coaching in basketball for the Mini-league.

We have in Christ Church West the highest concentration of basketballers per square metre of population any part of this island, and we happen to have some of the most outstanding basketball players be it in Weavers, in Senators, in Clapham United, Clapham Youth or Springfield, and we are quite willing to give of our time to assist with the schools under the coaches which the Minister has appointed, and I believe that you can see the beneficial effects in concentration on games in that area on the standard of conduct in the community. I am therefore happy to be associated with this Resolution and to give my undertaking that I will continue in that area to support this type of venture.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, over the last number of decades a great percentage of the school plant in Barbados has been run down by lack of attention, by lack of repairs and so on. In addition to that, Sir, there has been tremendous population shift in Barbados and there are many areas built up and there was not the type of integrated planning that one would have expected in this country at the time. The result is that areas like the Pine/Wilkey area has had a large number of housing units constructed over the years but no ancillary social amenities have been provided as a concomitant to that. We find in that area that there has been no provision for health facilities, there has been no provision for school facilities, and we are beginning at this period to feel the weight of the lack of planning in that regard.

One thing that troubles me about that general area, Sir, is the fact that a school like St. Giles Boys' School which is a school that enjoyed enormous prestige and high esteem because of its academic and sporting

achievements over the Thirties, Forties and Fifties was virtually excluded out of development in this country, and there was the construction of school units in the immediate vicinity of the St. Giles' School – the Stow Primary, Charles F. Broome Primary, Wilkie Cumberbatch School, the Pine Primary School; all were built in the immediate environs of the St. Giles' School with the result that the St. Giles' School has virtually been destroyed.

In 1949 there were 1,000 children attending the St. Giles' Boys' School. In 1980 there are 240, all because of the reckless allocation of school plant in an area that did not immediately need it. What I am trying to do, Mr. Speaker, is to correct that imbalance. We are at the moment engaged in over \$40 million on school construction in Barbados and I have in mind very much to redress the imbalance also set up through the neglect of primary education over a number of years. I believe, Sir, that education is a very important tool in national development. We hear week after week a lot of debate and discussion about the state of the economy, inflation and employment and lack of it and so on, and very seldom do we hear at a national level discussion of the important social issues of our time. I feel very strongly, Sir, that without a proper base in education, all the other considerations that I hear about weekly will come to nought. I believe at this stage that before the hon. member for St. Michael South gets up and shouts that he has some idea of what he wanted to do in education, and I have had occasion more than once publicly to pay some tribute to some of the things that he was trying to do, but he was always over-awed by his leader. I refer to the Welch Village school which the hon. member for St. Michael South talked about as waste of taxpayers' money and said so, and allowed his leader for electoral purposes to make him hold on to it.

1.15 p.m.

I believe that the Polytechnic that we are constructing at the moment at Wilkey for an excess of \$20 million will provide the skills and technical training to 4,000 people at one time and meet the massive need for skilled people in this community – I believe that if the hon. member for St. Michael South had been allowed by his government to do what he thought was right we would not now be constructing that Polytechnic but it would have already been constructed and the shortage of skills we are reading about all the time would have been met. My only criticism of the hon. member for St. Michael South is that he was not man enough to stand up to the courage of his convictions but allowed himself to be pushed around by his leader and his colleagues. But I am trying to correct that. I believe that education is too important to allow piecemeal planning. Primary education has been run down in this country; there is unanimity on that; everybody in education accepts that primary education was neglected over

a period of many years in Barbados and was made to play a secondary role to secondary education. But I am going to correct that imbalance. And while we have negotiated loans from the World Bank to do a great deal of rehabilitative and new work on primary schools in Barbados, I do not feel that education at any level is simply the construction of buildings. And allied to this, we in the Ministry of Education are embarking on a new dynamic programme of training for teachers so that they may be better equipped to deliver the type of education necessary in our schools in the 1980s. We are also trying to devise a curriculum that is more akin to the needs of the 1980s. There is a National Curriculum Development Council that was set up about nine years ago which has been given a bit more beef, because I feel that the cultural realities of the people of Barbados were not being brought to bear on the educational system of this country. In 1977 I advised the Prime Minister that it was difficult to separate education from culture; that there was a vital and dialectical link between the two and that if you were going to train children in the education system in this age it was necessary that there should be this vital link about the culture of the people. That aspect is now being woven into the curriculum of Barbados to prepare a more aware, well rounded, young people to meet what we require in this period. The Pine-Willey school will accommodate 840 children and will take some of the load off some of the schools in the surrounding areas. It will also serve as a school that we will be looking at very closely, right from its beginning, on a number of new concepts in education. For instance, we are going to be giving a direct emphasis on science-based concepts right from the beginning of primary education in that school, and we are taking a look at it so that we can spread it throughout the whole school system in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I consider that the education of children in this country has a more pivotal role than is considered by most people in our community. Nobody who has the slightest perception of what is happening in our society can deny that there is a restlessness among our young people. It is simmering, a lot of it is below the surface. But the young people are disenchanted; they feel alienated, and if we are not to allow our country to blow up in a social explosion, if we are to avert the difficulties we see in many communities right here in the Caribbean, it is necessary that we not rest on our laurels because we feel that we have a good education system. We cannot be smug about our accomplishments, but rather we should try to head off the type of difficulty that is necessarily engendered by the type of restlessness I referred to.

Education has to play an important role as a catalyst in a developing society. It must move people away from a lot of old-fashioned ideas and out-dated

concepts of what a community should be and bring them into the glorious dawn of a new, striving, would-be prosperous country. I believe that the difficulties endemic in the situations I have outlined are difficulties that must be comprehended and tackled by the total community; they are not problems that must be tackled by the Minister of Education alone or by the Government alone; rather, all decent and right-thinking people in the community must put their spirit and heads together and work towards the common goal, that is, a better quality of living for all our people in this society.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that a lot of the disenchantment among young people stems from the fact that they see in the community a number of double standards; what is right at one time is wrong at another. I think the philosophers call it situation ethics, where what is right today is wrong tomorrow and what is wrong today is right tomorrow. And there is no common guiding principle to move the young people in the direction in which we would have them go. There is a lot of hypocrisy in the society. Young people are turned off by their leaders and while for instance this Government and I myself will be trying through the Ministry of Education to build — and I am not only talking about building schools, I am talking about building the spirit of our young people to make them useful citizens in this society — you hear the spokesmen for the Opposition party rather than building with us trying to destroy. While we seek to build for the youth we are being abused by the spokesmen for the Opposition on public platforms. When we try to hold out hope for the young people and tell them that they have an important part in the scheme of things in this country, we hear on the DLP platforms that we are criminals. But I believe that before the disenchantment and the restlessness get to the point at which there is an explosion — and I must say at this stage that I regret that a number of people in the society who should be alert to this situation do not seem to be aware of what is happening — you Mr. Speaker, would know what I am talking about — there is very little regard for young people, poor people and black people by certain people in the community and people who should know better condone this and refuse to raise a finger to help. I think that if this type of general attitude is not changed, the type of explosion I referred to will not be avoided.

It is easy for me to identify problems and not come up with solutions. But a statement of my policy as Minister of Education over the past three and a half years is a clear indication that I have identified solutions. I, unlike some other hon. members, especially one particular member of the other side, do not know everything.

1.25 p.m.

I do not know everything and therefore I need to be assisted and advised by others so I am stating solutions and I am working towards them. They might not all be right but at least I am trying to come out with workable solutions and I am calling on all people of this community to realise, as I have said, and I will say over and over again, that the answers to the problems in this country, the restlessness that I am talking about, lies not in the Gross Domestic Product, inflationary rates and how much more money people get, nor how much the wage increases are, nor balance of payments. It does not depend on those things only. It depends to a very large extent on an almost spiritual re-enlightenment because I believe we were enlightened at one stage; a re-enlightenment in this country.

That is the role of Education, Sir. That is the role of Education, and it does not matter to me who at any given time is responsible for Education in this country. Education generally, that is the role of Education in this community. It must make people more aware of themselves and their role in the community. It must seek to break down the barriers of bigotry which are still rampant in this country. It must seek, Mr. Speaker, to break down the petty prejudices that are rampant in this country.

I am worried, Sir, about certain traditional aspects of the Educational system of this country. I have been promising for some time that I would bring a new Education Act, a new Education Bill before this Parliament and I intend to do that this year, Sir, but one of the important things about that Education Act, it is worth my time bringing it, is that the ridiculous, outmoded, dichotomy between older Secondary Schools and newer Secondary Schools must be ended. I feel strongly about that. If I cannot do something in that regard, Sir, then I am not bringing any Bill on Education.

I feel also, Sir, that this enrooted prejudice against the less bright children in our community must end. I am not going to preside over any Ministry that feels that you should spend all the money in Barbados on Education at one or two elite snob schools in Barbados and at the same time allow schools like the St. Leonard Schools down there to the collapse on the heads of the children just because a stubborn community refuses to admit that no matter what your origin is you are entitled to your fair stake in this country.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that the people who would have to run these schools because, certainly, I do not believe that they should all be run by the Ministry of Education, are people who should have some awareness of the destiny of our people. People who are not to be blinded by their own selfish positions and feel very little for people who are not as fortunate as themselves and

therefore in my plan for new management in schools, I would bring those criteria into being.

I have had, Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than my fair share of difficulties in school management since I have been responsible for Education and it is based, to me, Sir, in many cases, not on a perception of what is good for the community or good for the school but merely for the preservation of the *status quo*. Now, Mr. Speaker, if people are interested in the *status quo* in many areas, I am not one of them. I certainly am not one of them.

Whatever Chapters of the Laws of Barbados are cited on big occasions and how many people spell out how many powers certain bits of legislation give them, I have been elected by the people and I will show them where the power in Education really resides. You, Mr. Speaker, know what I am talking about. You very well know what I am talking about. (ASIDES).

I am being advised to spell it out but I believe that there is a time for everything under the sun; a time to be borned and a time to die. The time would come when I will say what I have to say about the matters that I have alluded to. In fact, I do not believe in firing my shots too early. I do not believe in that.

There is also, Mr. Speaker, and I must address myself to that, to the shocking irresponsibility about people who should know better in respect to aspects of the system, the Educational System I am talking about, the various commentaries expressed about the Common Entrance Examinations and it is time that I make a public statement on it, Sir.

I have invited the 21 Head Teachers of Government Schools to sit down with me and work out solutions of the problems of the Common Entrance Examinations. I know we have gone through this argument before but I believe in covering certain ground before I take certain action and I have told the 21 Head Teachers of Government Schools in Barbados that if within a specific time they do not come up with a solution to this problem, then you have no further say. I am giving you a chance. I am counting on your experience to help me with a solution. If you do not come to one by a given time, I do not remember the date I have given them, but it is probably passed by now, Sir, I will make a decision, whatever the consequences.

I am seeing year after year the anxiety of parents as their children go through the agony of taking an examination that determines to a very large extent what will happen to them academically over the next five years and their agony is my agony. I am concerned about it and I believe that the time is not very far off when some type of solution would be proper to this problem that I am raising.

Mr. Speaker, the school at the Pine/Wilkey will be a school that has all the modern features required for modern education. The Hon. Attorney General has raised the question about playing facilities and so on but we do not build, and when I say "we" this Government does not build schools without providing proper sporting and recreational facilities for those schools, so he can rest assured that all of that is under contemplation.

The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, Sir, raised the question of the use of schools by the community. It is the stated policy of the Barbados Labour Party and certainly a policy that I as Minister intend to carry out that the schools of this country should be the peoples' school. The people paid a lot of money to build those schools and I believe that the people should be allowed, out of hours, to use the schools for worthwhile endeavours.

Now, I do not know about the people that the hon. member referred to who stand around the corners and so on. There has to be a system and there must be a system Sir, and the system I have spelt it out before and I will spell it out again. Any responsible group can write to the Ministry of Education and request the use of any school that falls under my authority, Sir.

You know that there are one or two, Sir, that the people who teach in them and who sit down and govern them tell me that I have no say in them, but the chicken will soon come home to roost, but any schools over which the Ministry has direct control, and letters are written to the Ministry asking for the use of schools and if we are satisfied that they are responsible people and if we are satisfied that they would not be disrupting the use of the school, they would be allowed to use the schools.

Even the Democratic Labour Party Constituency Group wrote to ask to use a school and we allowed them to use the school. As far as I can remember one of them even wrote to ask to use the School Meals Kitchen at one of the School Meals Centres, although they have said that we are poisoning the children with what we are giving them to eat in the Schools Meals. Do not mind that they say that. They even want to use them but we believe that these things belong to the people and that everybody should be allowed to use them, but that is my view.

These schools will remain community schools not only in the sense that responsible groups in the community will be able to use them out of hours but it is a community school in the sense that the schools must act as a radiating force that reaches out into the

community and spreads a significant glow over the whole community.

1.35 p.m.

There are a lot of aimless, restless people around, with no sense of purpose and direction and the schools and the churches will have to provide the necessary direction for them. If a school cannot make an impact on the community which it serves, then that school is not serving the purpose for which it was constructed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that the several points raised by speakers before me have been covered. I want only to say, Sir, that when this primary school is constructed, in the Pine, Wilkey area, it will relieve the heavy load on the schools as far down as St. Paul's, St. Lawrence. I think, the Wilkie Cumberbatch School is pretty crowded and indeed, the Erdiston Primary School Sir, and it should be able to wean away all these people who prefer to drive from one end of the island to reach that school and take them to this new school Sir, so that Erdiston School, can again be brought back down to manageable numbers Sir.

Mr. Speaker, that is my contribution to this Resolution, which, for all obvious reasons, I heartily support Sir. (APPLAUSE) Mr. SPEAKER: The question is.....

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I did not really intend to speak during this debate. I am grateful to the Hon. Minister for sending across some information on the area of land that we are talking about — he co-operates with me, there is no doubt about that — but there are certain matters which I want to refer to in this particular address. I am not going to say anything particularly Sir of the Hon. Minister's address, I mean the Hon. Minister of Education. We followed him in his rhetorical flourishes. He talked about situational ethics and whatever else, so I am not really going down that road, but I wanted to rebut certain charges that were made and it is necessary that there be no misunderstanding about the directions of education, or indeed, of any other service in this country. Least of all, it is important that no misinformation, or distorted information, should be allowed to get out lest the people get the wrong information about trends, developments and so on.

As far as the Barbados Labour Party's Campaign on non co-operation with the Democratic Labour Party when it was in Government and as part of its campaign to capture the Government, it went around this country saying that no attention was paid to primary education by the Democratic Labour Party Government and that, if returned to power, the Barbados Labour Party Government would place major emphasis on primary education.

We have heard today, the Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Member for Christ Church West saying that there was no, or little emphasis placed on primary education by the previous administration; the emphasis was on secondary education. The Hon. Member for St. George South, the Hon. Minister of Education, has indicated that there was no integrated planning to deal with certain matters like shifts in population and that primary education over previous decades was allowed to become rundown. Now, we would have thought that a Government that was really interested in primary education, apart from rhetoric of the situation, would have taken steps immediately to correct what they found was wrong in primary education. But, Mr. Speaker, would you believe that the very first act of this Government which was criticising the previous Government for not taking any action on primary education, was to turn a newly constructed primary school into a secondary institution. I refer to the Roebuck Primary School.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Hon. Member is misguiding. I do not think that he is doing it intentionally.

The Roebuck Secondary School was constructed by this Government after we came into power. There was no primary school called the Roebuck School when the Democratic Labour Party went out of power. We built a secondary school at Roebuck when we came into power. We started construction in 1977 Sir. The Hon. Member is misleading the Hon. House Sir.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, it is well known that the plans and the arrangements were there for a primary school at Country Road and that those plans were altered. They were changed and instead of a primary school going on that site, a secondary school went up and the same criticisms that were made about driving piles down into the ground for constructing the Polytechnic at Martindales Road; I believe that they had to go even further down into the ground as far as, piling is concerned, to put a secondary school. The main point I am making and let the Hon. Minister deny that. (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want the Hon. Member to be heckled by Members of the Government.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Let him deny that. The first action, plans for a primary school and those were changed into plans for a secondary school.

As far as, the St. Giles School is concerned, Mr. Speaker, if the St. Giles School had a role of 1,000, all I would say to that, is that, it was woefully overcrowded when it had 1,000 and in my view, this St. Giles School — if the children of this country are to be adequately educated in primary schools — that particular school can hardly hold more than about 400 or 300 pupils. If the

pupils are to be properly accommodated and if the staff is to be given facilities as benefit primary school teachers who are doing an important job in this country, any excess space which comes to schools which do not have facilities like staff rooms for staff, those facilities are to be provided.
1.45 p.m.

There is no way of talking about St. Giles' Primary School and saying that it only has 250 or 300 students now. I am saying it can hardly accommodate more than that if adequate facilities befitting primary education today are to be provided for the students as well as for the staff, and it is well known that the Charles F. Broome Primary School that was built at Government Hill was a replacement for the old Stow Primary school which was given over to the Springer Memorial School to assist in the accommodation at that secondary school. So we had to build a replacement for the facilities that were given to the Springer Memorial School and also to add additional accommodation to ease overcrowding over at the Pine Primary School. So it is pointless to come and develop some type of argument suggesting that facilities were put up around the St. Giles' School in order to destroy a school which was an outstanding school or is an outstanding school in this country. It had nothing at all to do with that. And as for this argument that no emphasis was placed on primary schools and that primary school education was run down, I want to look at the record. We placed a primary school at Lammings at St. Joseph; we placed a primary school at St. Christopher in Christ Church; a primary school went at Deacons Farm; a new primary school went at Good Shepherd in St. James; a new primary school went at St. Bartholomew in Christ Church. Need I go on, Mr. Speaker? These are all primary schools. There were major extensions at the Christ Church Girls' School, major extensions (A VOICE: Not in St. Peter.) A new school at St. Margaret, St. John.

Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that as far as physical provision was concerned, I am challenging and we will wait. We are not interested in the words or the rhetoric; we are interested in the action, and as far as educational provision apart from school buildings are concerned, the Minister himself I have no quarrel with. He is following a sound policy; he himself admits it. Whenever he departs from that policy, he falls into errors.

Now we did not hear anything new today. We had a lot of promises because their manifesto promised a new Education Bill and all types of things about Common Entrance Examination and so on. We are no further along the road today. We may be carried away by the rhetoric, but whenever you analyse it, it is words we are having; no further along the way. What he did say is that he stood up to the Minister of Finance and we are glad to hear that, and we believe him. He has told him today on the floor of the House it has nothing to do with per

capita income, that development in this country is not a matter of per capita income and this type of macro-economic statistics. The Prime Minister rose to say something about zoning and he ignored the Prime Minister. He is not making any statement about zoning today no matter what the Prime Minister tells him, so we admit he can say that on the floor of the House. There is nothing wrong with that. (ASIDE) I am not attacking the Prime Minister, nor am I attacking you. What I am attacking is the type of rhetoric that came from your side about primary education, and I have attempted to point out that we provided facilities at the primary school level, and we set up a National Development Curriculum Council to do exactly what the Minister is saying he will do, that is, to draw up a national development curriculum to look at the textbooks, to look at the type of teaching materials that are or should be provided for the young people of this country, to revamp it, revise it and put into place the type of curriculum and facility that are required for the people of this country.

I do not wish to get into the other matters. I merely wish for purposes of the record to indicate that we have a sound policy. As far as integrated planning is concerned, let us look at this again. We are talking about new areas developing and putting in the facilities with these new areas. Another major inconsistency is down at Ferniehurst where you are putting in more houses down there but no provision at all is made to deal with the young people who will go into that area. We left plans for a school at Ferniehurst on Deacons Road which was to provide additional accommodation as well as ease some of the problems of the very schools to which the Minister made reference, the St. Leonards' Schools. Instead of that those plans were scrapped and far from doing something to ease the problem of the St. Leonard's Schools, what has been done will exacerbate and make those problems worse, because what you will get is more people in the area making greater demand upon the schools that are inadequate at this stage to deal with those problems. This is the type of leadership we are talking about; so that when you come and shout, people are not listening to the noise; what they are listening to is the content, and it is not enough merely to say that you are doing something for primary education, but you must be able to get up and say what it is that you have done.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The hon. member has given way. We have contracted a loan of over \$20 million to be spent on primary education and we are constructing ten new schools, doing major extensions to another seven schools. We are building at Erdiston Teachers' Training College a whole new wing so that we will be able to build a teachers' resource centre, train more of the untrained teachers in the schools; we have now set up a new course in educational management at the University so that primary headteachers and senior teachers can be trained

in the management of their schools. Does the hon. member want me to go on?

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: I appreciate your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but I have to enlighten him. He is in total darkness.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I gave way on elucidation. He has said they have made a loan. What is wrong with that? You have made a loan and you are going to build schools with that loan. Without any such loan we were able to put up some schools. We got some assistance for three or four schools. We put them up. You borrow the money. It is only five years you have. Mr. Speaker, we introduced programmes for the training of primary school teachers. All of these are areas that we have covered. We carried out a revamping of the Erdiston programme ourselves.
1.55 p.m.

And we provided additional training facilities for teachers in the primary schools. We revamped teacher training programmes put in science facilities in schools, put in additional teaching materials. All these are steps we took at the primary level.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If the hon. member will give way, I would like to draw to attention that it is 2 o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will complete within ten minutes.

Mr. SANDIFORD: So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion we maintain that we have done a remarkable job for primary school education in this country and we will document that. We are not opposed to any action in this country which will improve any level of education in this country, but to come with an analysis suggesting that the previous administration did nothing for primary schools, that it allowed them to become run down — I am submitting that this is the type of criticism which should not come in a speech where you are appealing for the people of this country to cooperate with the Government. But we know that the people will cooperate with the Government — when the election comes.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now just past 2 o'clock. This Sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m.
2.00 p.m.

On resumption:

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

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 42 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Lucy, whom I do not now see in his place.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 42.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, whom I do not now see in his place.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I sincerely hope that this House will take note of the fact that it is now Private Members Business and we on the Government benches try to accommodate the Opposition as much as we can and it is really frustrating to the work of Parliament as a whole when Items on the Order Paper are called — Private Members Business in particular — and there is no one to conduct the Private Members Business. I sincerely hope that note is taken of this and that when some criticisms about the working of Parliament are reported in the Press the reason will be available. There is a Resolution standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central relating to gambling machines etc., and I as acting Leader of the House would have been happy today to be able to accommodate the Opposition. I sincerely hope that the House take note of the problems which we on the Government side have with members of the other side with their own business on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Private Members Business. Government Business is the instant order of the day.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution which is before the House is in my name. I do not propose to say anything in reply to the speeches made by the other side since most of the speeches made in effect related to education and I must admit that most hon. members made good and interesting contributions to the debate. I can only beg to move Sir, that the Resolution do now pass.

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

2.50 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WELCHMAN HALL, ST. THOMAS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Order No. 6 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Welchman Hall, St. Thomas, for the purpose of road improvement.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: This is another land acquisition, Sir. This is for the improvement at the Welchman Hall Post Office. It is part and parcel of the Ministry of Communications and Works for road improvement development and, Mr. Speaker, all of the owners have responded to the Ministry's inquiries and I have no doubt that all of the necessary advertisements have been put in the Press and the owners have been notified.

In this light, Sir, I can only move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second this Resolution and reserve my right to speak since I see the hon. member wants to say something.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: This is part of an on-going Programme of the Ministry of Communications and Works in providing better traffic conditions in Barbados. We are faced with a number of roads which were constructed long before the developmental pattern such as since it came into operation.

We have numerous highways which are in need of major road improvement and I can say at this stage that while the Ministry is aware of the problems being faced in many of the narrow highways, we can only tackle them on a programme because in order to alleviate traffic conditions and the difficulties in maneuvering many highways it would take several million dollars to do such a programme.

Now in looking at those roads where we believe urgent steps should be taken in this particular programme, the Government constructed a new Post Office at Welchman Hall. We therefore have to widen the corner to facilitate traffic entering and leaving the Post Office.

Therefore, it was necessary to acquire certain portions of land in this area.

We are looking at the traffic movement in this country and we are looking at the development that has taken place and we recognise that we have to provide improved facilities for motorists, pedestrians and all other persons using our highways. We may be criticised by some persons for the manner in which we have approached the problem but I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Ministry is aware of problems which must arise in this programme.

Let me take the Hall's Road Junction. I have seen letters appearing in the Press expressing concern over the length of time taken to complete the Hall's Road Junction but I firmly believe that the writers of those letters are unaware of the problems involved in the development of the kind that is happening at Hall's Road, at what is called University Drive and other major highways which are being constructed by this Government.

Take the Hall's Road Junction. The Ministry of Communications and Works could have finished the Hall's Road Junction had it not been for the laying of sewer pipes in the same area. According to the programme of the Contractors, they would have dugged up Hall's Road in January/February, 1981.

There are numerous underground cables at Hall's Road. The Light and Power has an underground cable. The Barbados Telephone Company has cables in that area. There is a jam in the area. We have laid the Round-About because we want to take the traffic off the Globe Round-About and from the Belmont Road/Constitution Road as soon as possible.

There was a problem of land acquisition in the area and people are now aware that there is so much work being conducted by this Government that as one member has said, we are victims of our own progress and that is the problem. We have reached the point, as far as M.C.W. is concerned, we call in the Contractors of the Sewerage Works and we pointed out to them that we were not satisfied that the road should be dugged up within one year of having been laid. We had to wait until the Contractors could do their work at Hall's Road. Similarly, the Round-About, near Port Contractors, we could have finished it already. I understand that the Contractors have not got the necessary pipes that have got to be laid in that junction so we must leave the road until they can install their sewer pipes before we can complete the road.

It brings me to another point which I would like to reiterate again. For long, Mr. Speaker, and very long, there has been a system in Barbados. It has been criticised where the Ministry of Communications and Works would come in, pave the road and within weeks of paving the

roads, another Utility Corporation would dig up the same road to lay some pipes in there. It is repaved and then it is dugged up again.

The Ministry of Communications and Works have written to the Barbados Light and Power Company, the Natural Gas Corporation and the Barbados Telephone Company and we have asked them to give us a programme of work so that we would know what work is to take place, where, so that we can schedule our repairs to suit their programmes.

I said during the Estimates that the Waterworks Department has devised a scheme whereby we would install water in every taxpayers' home with a down payment of \$20 and the remainder spread over probably a two-year period. We have been waiting since then for householders to make the necessary applications to the Waterworks Department for the laying of water. This Government is committed to give every single household water by the end of next year. We would like to do it by the end of this year. To date, we have had only 55 applications.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to have two applicants in one particular area where we dig up the roads, we re-surface them and then find two other applicants applying for water service.
3.00 p.m.

People have been complaining about the bad state of the highways in this country but if people would look around and understand why the roads have deteriorated in the last year, it is because of the progress made by this Government. Everybody is applying for water and when you dig a pipe track, you fill it in and you do not seal the road. That is where the damage begins.

We are appealing again to those persons who would like a water service on their premises to come in to the Waterworks Department, make the down payment, if they cannot afford the full installation charge and we will do it on a project basis. That is, if we went into a village, we will lay all the water mains in that village at the same time and repave the entire road. We have been fortunate that now that the Grantley Adams Airport has been completed, we now have available a second Barber Green Paver. The Barber Green Paver at the Grantley Adams International Airport can supply at least six trucks non-stop. With two pavers in operation, we can repair many of the roads that are in need of repairs.

Despite the complaints made about road improvement by the Ministry in the past year, I am happy to report Mr. Speaker, that last year, the Ministry of Communications and Works completed 18.9 miles of tenantry roads, more than has ever been completed in any one

year in this country. The highest number before that was 11.3 miles of tenantry roads. We have got a number of villages just off the main roads and I am saddened Mr. Speaker, when I read in the newspaper of motorists talking about a pot-hole on Bay Street, a pot-hole in Clapham, but if you move off the main road in Clapham, there are people who still have to walk with two pairs of shoes, one to walk through the mud and the other to put on to get into the bus. I am committed Mr. Speaker to stop that exercise. I am committed, as long as I am in the Ministry of Communications and Works to provide subsidiary roads for those persons who still have to walk in mud to get to main roads and I myself am happy that we have been able to complete 18.9 miles of tenantry road within the last year.

I am in the process now of awarding contracts which would cost \$3/4 million to further extend the programme of providing proper roads for persons who do not live on the main road. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we are not leaving the main roads unattended. You will notice that main roads are now being repaired with Barber Green. We have been criticised for not repairing the main roads.

We have been using a water base mixture which we found, during the rainy season last year, was washed off the roads as soon as the rain fell. We have experimented, and we have come up with a new formula for carrying out repairs to the roads. I admit, that in its first application, the roads were not as smooth as we have been accustomed to but now that we have perfected the system, I believe that many people can see the difference in the repairs that are being carried out today. The Ministry has also ordered some new equipment which we hope will expedite repairs to many of these roads where people have complained, but I am sure that within the next year, much of the improvement to the highways which has been lacking for a number of years will be carried out.

I have great pleasure Mr. Speaker, in seconding the Resolution.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we hear many things in this particular House of Assembly, but today is the first time that we have ever heard in this Hon. House that the deterioration of the roads in this country has been due to the progress of the Government. That is what the Hon. Minister got up and said, that the deterioration of the roads has been due to the progress of this Government. Now when we.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Hon. Member is worried today. I said the people who were applying for water services and if they were not repaired immediately, that that is where deterioration

started, so I do not understand what the Hon. Member is saying.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am saying that you said that the deterioration of roads in this country.....

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: And that is what I said.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Of course not. You would not have said that Mr. Speaker, for all of the times that you have spoken in this Hon. House, I have never heard you say that.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will now address the Chair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will address the Chair. I made a mental note and I said that the Hon. Member for St. Peter would not agree with that because he cannot see any progress in St. Peter, but he can see the roads deteriorating.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Hon. Member for St. Michael South is sensible enough as to try not to involve the Chair in the Debate.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am sensible enough and I am aware of the Standing Orders. I am not trying to involve you in the Debate because I have not asked you to say anything and I know that you cannot say anything on this particular matter, unless it applies to the Standing Orders, but the fact is Mr. Speaker, that the roads in this country have deteriorated because the Ministry of Communications and Works had no programme for the repair of the roads in this country. That is exactly what has happened and like everything else in this country, (*Asides*) like everything else in this country, out of political consideration, the Government decided to refer most of these works until the latter part of its term in office to give the people in this country the impression that a lot of work was happening, that employment was down and that it was a busy and effective Government. During the early part of the Government, very little work took place, nothing was happening on the roads and that is where the problem of the deterioration has taken place.

I have heard all types of arguments about too many heavy duty vehicles on the roads and all of that type of explanation but, it is a simple fact, whether you look at housing whether you look at construction in the construction area, or whether you look at the repair of roads, that this has been a deliberate, political decision on the part of the Government, to defer major works,

including the repair of roads. I am saying, that that is a disservice to the people of this country because it means that the services to which they were accustomed have been deliberately down-graded, or that, towards the end of the political life of the Government, they could come and give the impression to the majority of people in this country, that it was a very busy and effective Government, getting on with the people's job. I do not think that any magic has been worked on this.
3.10 p.m.

I say that if the Ministry of Communications and Works can be busy now getting roads done in tenantries and carrying out repairs to the highways, that this is something that could have been phased in from the start, but it was a political decision and we have major activity taking place now on the repair and improvement of roads, in housing and in all other areas; but it is precisely because of that backlog and that backup that we are getting what the Prime Minister referred to as heat in the economy, that because of this massive programme now that they are trying to implement, it is having an adverse effect on the balance of payments in this country because we have to import all types of materials and that is sending up your import bill and putting heat into the economy. Now that is the state that we have reached in this country, but I do not believe that the people of this country will be deceived or flattered by that particular approach. A deliberate deferment.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member keeps talking about a deliberate deferment of work in the Ministry of Communications and Works. I would like him to turn to page 20 of this year's Estimates and he will see a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Communications and Works which deals exclusively with roads, and he will note that in 1973-74 \$9,861,609 was spent by his administration, in 1974-75 \$11.3 million, in 1975-76 \$12.9 million, in 1976-77 \$20.8 million, in 1977-78 \$22.3 million, 1978-79 \$23.6 million. How could we be deferring work? What has the money gone in other than highway improvement, so what deferment is he talking about? They talked about repairs to tenantries and have done none. They did only the one in St. John.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Hon. Minister has made his point.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Where the Minister has got up and read out some figures, he knows that it is inflation. We know you have to spend more money, but you are spending more money and getting the same amount or less work done. (*Asides.*) Argument sound.

Mr. Speaker, any decision taken which will lead to the improvement of the road systems in this country will

not be opposed by this side, but we have a duty and responsibility to point out to the people of this country where the tricks are taking place. We have a duty to point that out and where there are failures on the part of the Government, we will point them out. The Ministry of Communications and Works is now waking up because there was a public outcry when the motorists.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There should be no heckling from the Government benches.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Andrew had to hold strain because the brakes were on them. I am not blaming him; he had to hold strain. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Now we must have order in this Honourable House. Let us have order, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: The hon. member for St. Andrew, Mr. Speaker, was called upon to hold strain, but the present Minister now has been given the go ahead. That is all that has happened and the people of this country must understand how politics is going. It is not by chance now that when you drive on certain roads you find an improvement and you do not have to go to those people who sell parts as often because there is a programme which has been put into place now. Mr. Speaker, we know that that type of approach of deferring the bulk of the work towards the end of a five-year period to give the impression that a lot of political activity is now taking place will not work, because we are watching your every move and we are studying them and we will explain to the people exactly what is going on.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I did not particularly want to get involved in this debate, but I might even need to clarify certain of the comments made by the last speaker. Of course I have never accused anyone in this Honourable House of speaking nonsense, and I could never say that. The Standing Orders would forbid me from speaking disparagingly of another hon. member. I cannot on the other hand say that it was anything of sense that emanated from the last speaker. Now the first of his contentions was that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works together with someone else, presumably the Minister of Finance, has decided that for the period 1980-81 there would be the appearance of excessive activity by the Ministry of Communications and Works, and that deliberately for the past three and a half years the Ministry of Communications and Works had done nothing in fulfilment of its obligations. That as I understand it is what the hon. member for St. Michael South was saying in the first part of his speech.

The second part of his speech suggested that you must not wait until now to start this excessive activity

because the electorate would not buy it. Now I want to put these contentions in perspective. The last financial year for which money was voted in this Assembly prior to the change of Government in 1976 was in the Estimates of 1976-77 which would have been passed in here in March, 1976. Well knowing that there had been an election in February, 1976, and an anticipated one in May, 1976, and the general elections in September, 1976, the Government at the time of which the hon. member for St. Michael South was a Minister increased the vote for M.C.W. by \$8 million in an election year.

3.20 p.m.

The exact figure went from \$12,988,194 to \$20,854,366 — an \$8 million increase in election year. And the hon. member has the courage to come in this House today and suggest — we have not even reached election year yet — but to come in here and suggest that this is a deliberate plan and that it is full of tricks. He would be in the best position to speak of tricks because during the City bye-election I well remember the Barber-Greene machines down in Emmerton Lane. In my own bye-election, as I said last Tuesday, I remember a piece of paper with a drawing on it of a large house which Mr. Branford Taitt pretended was representative of some factory to be built in St. Philip. He had this drawing with red, white and blue crayons, all it looked like was a large bond. They went to Marley Vale where people had wanted water for all the years and up to today I am still being told that there is a certain cynicism by the people of that area, how five MCW trucks turned up one day just before the election and sheet the place with marl, no rolling or nothing but just left it for the water to come and wash it away. That is all that happened in Lower Marley Vale.

Now when I was at the Housing Authority we had it on record that work stopped after the planning had been done — or after the decision had been taken to make Ferniehurst the housing area. Work was stopped by the present Leader of the Opposition, and it is on the records of the Housing Authority that he wrote and said to cancel the decision to work on Ferniehurst and build as many houses as possible at Oxnards; they have a high visibility in an election year because you just have to put up a number of structures, they don't have to put on the roof, just let some blocks start going up; if you put up 50 you can walk about and tell the people you are building 50 new houses at Oxnards. That was the case, so it does not lie in his mouth to come today and accuse the Government of tricks. They were past masters at tricks, but the tricks did not work in 1976. I cannot therefore share the view of the hon. member for St. Michael South and that is why I must set the record straight, because I must concede that I have got more for the constituency of St. Philip North during the first two years of this Government than

since. I can enumerate — Dodds Land got a road, Chapel got water, Sunbury Tenantry got water — when Sunbury Tenantry got water I was in the Opposition; Thickets got water; Hillsview in Marley Vale got a road; Padmore Village got a road; the link road from Bayfield to Three Houses. But what I want to show the hon. member for St. Michael South is that those things have been given to the people of St. Philip North three years ago or within the last three years. If he attempts to go into St. Philip and talks like he talk today, the people in St. Philip North will run him out. I am not even talking about St. Philip South — all out by Four Roads widened. I cannot go into all the things MCW has done in St. Philip — I have no responsibility for St. Philip South. The hon. member for that constituency is not here today; he is dressing himself for his investiture tomorrow, so he left early. All I can say of St. Philip North is that the record of the Ministry of Communications and Works is good so far. With a few more roads I will be able to say the record has been great, and I believe that the present Minister of Communications and Works is not adverse to continuing assistance to the neglected people of St. Philip who could not get the things that I have mentioned today done in fifteen years but have got them in less than three and a half years since I was a member of this Government.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, nothing that the hon. member for St. Philip North has said has gone in any way towards a refutation of the deep logic used by the hon. member for St. Michael South in presenting the case in respect of the roads of Barbados and the over all economic situation of the people of this country.

Mr. Speaker, the question of roads is fundamental to our internal communications system. Where we have no internal communications by air and very limited by sea, it represents an infrastructural development which is not only of vital importance to the manufacturing, tourist and other sectors of this economy but also to the individual inhabitants. The fact that the roads of Barbados have been allowed to fall into the state in which they are, must be due to negligence on the part of the present administration.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the hon. member was not in here during the Estimates when I read a note from the files of the Ministry of Communications and Works from 1974 when the Chief Technical Director wrote, and the then Minister F. G. Smith signed it and acknowledged that the road material had deteriorated and was not holding. The note was written in 1974; this Government came into power in 1976. By that time the roads had already begun to break up. I wonder if the hon. member did not hear when I read that note.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the charge of negligence remains, because I am not satisfied that there has been any deterioration in the technology of either road-building or road repairs in Barbados. It is quite clear to me that for some time the Government's spending as reflected in the programmes of 1977, 1978 and 1979 was seriously curtailed for reasons which we are all aware of and which I do not wish to go into.
3.30 p.m.

My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that where the Government finds it necessary to curtail spending that it should always recognise that there are certain infra-structural services which could damage our areas of productivity in any community and be far more selective in their reduction in expenditure and their failure to increase expenditure in that area.

In respect, Mr. Speaker, to the repair of roads, there is little point arguing about comparative figures between 1975 to 1980 whether it be a 100% or 110% for this reason that road building itself, perhaps will bear the brunt of the highest levels of inflation, that is, the area of construction in this society so that the fact that we have been spending \$20 million now as compared with \$10 million, say five years ago, does not necessarily mean that we are doing much more but I want to address myself to the overall question of road repairs in the context of the economy of this country.

What we are seeing here can be described as some Economists would put it as a crash programme by a different name. Crash programmes have been injected by the other side as a means of generating employment in this society although the objectors were perfectly clear at that time. What we are seeing now is a crash programme under another name and the net effect of this, Mr. Speaker, is going to create alarming pressures on the economy in this area and I begin to foresee signs that we might well be running into the position in which this country found itself in 1977.

I would like to see the Government recognise that some fundamental error must have taken place in their maintenance schedules and their maintenance programme. We hear all sorts of excuses. We hear of increased road users. We hear of the heavy rains in a particular area and now we hear of increased applications from the Water-works for putting in water into the homes but, Mr. Speaker, these can only be excuses because in the context of a constructive road maintenance and development programme, this cannot happen and we must distinguish clearly between excuses and true causes and the object of Parliament, Mr. Speaker, is to try, by honest debate, to see if those true causes can be identified.

Now there can be no question that there has been an element of starving of funds for the road works. There

can be no question that there seems to me to be some negligence on the part of some Departments somewhere in relation to other Departments themselves or Government as a whole in relation to our roads but, Mr. Speaker, as representatives, we have to recognise that when this happens that it causes serious hardships to the community as a whole. The number of people who have had to commit themselves to increased expenditures on their cars because of broken springs or suspensions and various other factors is something that we cannot overlook.

The fact that pot-holes in the roads constitute a dangerous element which is likely to cause accidents is something that we have to face. This is a fact of life that if you are driving down the roads and you suddenly come across a pot hole you have a choice between either letting your wheel go into the pot-hole or if you swerve on a wet day you may land up killing somebody or running into somebody and it will constitute a major danger to motorists. (*Asides*).

Mr. SPEAKER: There must be no cross-talking please.

Dr. HAYNES: These are facts that we have to face and I would like to see the Government really come in here and tell us what we have to do to solve the technical problems which they say they had identified and to let us know whether in the future, in the next few months, that they will be in office, whether it be a year or a year and a half we do not know, but during that period we would like to know whether there will be an accelerated programme at least to put those roads which they found in a good state of repair back to the state in which they found them and also to be able to demonstrate to the public that apart from keeping the roads in good order which they found that they may have an additional record which would reflect occupation or decrease in Government for a period of 5 years.

I believe that this is the minimum that all Parliamentarians can expect of any Administration to maintain the *status quo* and also within the constraints of money available and within the constraints of the overall economy which might dictate from time to time some discretionary element in Government spending within those constraints so that you must demonstrate that when you come to the end of your term that the roads that you found in good order be left in good order and that you add to that in that you put additional roads in a better state than in which you found them.

This is the kind of thing I would like to hear in the House of Assembly, just not excuses. Not the fact that the member for St. Philip North can get up and boast that he has had more roads done in his constituency than anybody else because the record that has been stated it

would seem to me that a large amount of work has been done in St. Philip North. I am very glad for the people of St. Philip North but at the same time there are many other constituencies in this country.

Now, I am a little concerned about the deterioration of certain roads in St. Michael South Central. The Minister earlier on indicated that he was looking into the matter and I heard him verbally say so so I do not propose.....

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. The hon. member seems not to be able to be very factual today. It seems to be a problem with him. There are all the roads in Brittons Hill which have been done within the last year. There are all the roads that have been built off Tweedside Road that the construction is still going on. It is being done so why not be factual.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I did say that they were....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has the floor and is addressing the Chair so how can he rise on a point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: Sorry, sorry, Sir. What I am saying is this that the hon. member should recognise that what I was saying is that there are other roads in St. Michael South Central and I got the impression from that indication that he would be looking into those.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the good record that this country has historically had and it is a good record in relation to roads and when you compare the amount of surface roads in Barbados to any Caribbean country or with any developing country the amount of surface roads that we have per unit area is much higher than in any of these countries and I believe that the Government must by now recognise the mistake which was made in the early years in office and regrettably, Mr. Speaker, to correct those mistakes will be very costly to the taxpayers of this country at this stage.
3.40 p.m.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, correcting those mistakes will be very costly to the taxpayers of this country at this stage. When you try to do work now that should have been done two or three years ago, then the cost will probably be doubled and there can be no argument about this. You just have to look at the cost of all building materials and you look at the cost of labour, then, you can only come to one conclusion, that the cost must be doubled now, what it was three or four years ago. That situation has been caused by the policies of the present Administration and there is no way that you can

escape from facing the straightforward facts of life as they stand.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we have come to a pretty sad state in this country, when there are so many serious issues at stake that you can have so much time in this Hon. House wasted on pot-hole politics. If the Opposition cannot find anything more to contribute at a serious level, when there are so many issues in this country that they make the inane contribution which we heard today on pot-holes then, things are really bad in Barbados.

In 1975, when Mr. Frederick Smith was the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, he laid off 500 workers from the Ministry of Communications and Works, people who were working on the roads. You hear, that people were laid off when the Barbados Labour Party came into power, but the highest number ever laid off in the history of Barbados, was in 1975 by the Ministry of Communications and Works and that is when the roads were going down. A road Sir, is not like a flower that it takes a few hours to die, roads do not die overnight, they do not die in three years, roads take a long time in which to fall away and the roads were deteriorating long before the Barbados Labour Party Government got into power Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean that they were all laid off one time?

Hon. L. R. TULL: One time Sir, by the stroke of a pen Sir and you have to come in here Sir, and listen to all this petty, political, obscurantism from people on the other side and the utter inanity of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South is being decorated by the term deep logic. He is saying Sir, that Hon. Members of the Government, and I think it is an insult to my intelligence and the intelligence of other people in this country, and it is unworthy of a man as sensible as the Hon. Member for St. Michael South; I expect the others to say that Sir, but not him; it is unworthy of him to say that the Government holds back funds for road building until near Elections and then do it.

Everyday, I have my constituents on my back, Sir, running me down to get roads fixed all over my own constituency and I believe that this happens to every Hon. Member of Parliament on this side Sir, and I am hearing that we would sit back, despite all that pressure and say, well, we are not going to spend any money on the roads now, we are going to wait until two years before Elections; that is total, utter, incomprehensible nonsense Sir and they should be ashamed to get up in here and say that. Then, they talked about

politics being involved in it Sir and tricks. Five hundred thousand dollars were spend between July and August 1976 on welfare housing, more than you spent in two years before that; July and August, the two months before the 1976 General Elections. They were all kinds of people who never used a hammer in their lives running all around the country putting on some raw boards Sir, on old people's houses all over the country and you come in here now and tell us that a full year and more before Elections that to fix the roads is a crime? I will tell you Sir, I really hear some strange things in here. You know what I am hearing today Sir? We are being criticised by the Opposition for fixing the roads. They are telling us that for us to go out there and fix all those roads, is putting heat in the economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am being interrupted Sir.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The criticism of the Opposition lies, not in the fact of road repairs, but in the fact of the deferment of road repairs.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Sir, I do not understand what that means Sir, what I do understand is that I heard very clearly in here today Sir, two Hon. Members on that side speak, and they criticised what they called increased activity in road repairs and road building in this country as putting too much heat into the economy. It is a criticism by the Opposition of this Government repairing the roads of this country but they are blowing hot and cold because when the Hon. Member who just sat down had finished criticising the increased activity and saying that you put heat into the economy, then a little later, he gets up and tells us that he wants an accelerated road building programme in this country. He does not know what he wants Sir. One moment you are putting too much activity too soon and heating up the economy and later in the speech, he is calling on the Government to give an accelerated programme of road building in this country.

One of the things Sir that I do not understand about people who should know better in this society Sir, and I have to keep saying this because it is bothering me; Barbados has the finest system of roads in the Caribbean, but you are going to hear, all of a sudden Sir, that you have the worst roads in the world. A few roads, because of the bad material that they have been receiving and nobody disputes that — what do you call the material that you put on the roads? — the Barber Green material that you put on the road is of poor quality Sir. Everybody accepts that and therefore it does not stand up as long as it used to. There is no doubt at all that there was a period of high rainfall which damaged the roads. You only have to drive down My Lord's Hill and see that whole, big chunks of road were washed away when the rain fell a year or two ago. That is indis-

putable, Sir. There is no doubt at all and I believe that the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works made the point and the Hon. Member for St. Michael South got up, and as usual, put his foot in his mouth, Sir.

Obviously, the rate of progress in this country is, in a way, responsible for the decline of the roads. You have more vehicles on the roads in this country. When I bought a motor car 10 years ago, it was licenced G 1109, Sir, and today, I see G 2209 Sir. If that is not progress, I do not know what is Sir. The roads are full of new vehicles and so on. Mr. Speaker, the roads are full of new vehicles, more than you have ever seen in this country. There is a whole lot of construction going on in this country, Sir, with heavy vehicles carrying heavy loads of cement and steel and whatever, from one end of the island to the other and that is breaking up the roads. That is common-sense, my little five year old daughter would understand that Sir, that with a lot of heavy vehicles on the roads, they are bound to break up the roads. That is the price of progress. There is no doubt at all about that.

You hear, that they are digging up the roads to put down gas mains, they are digging up the roads to put down sewerage mains, they are digging up the roads to put down water mains and all that is the price of progress. All you hear, is a lot of petty, nit-picking over a lot of trivial issues coming from the Opposition in days when there are so many more important things to be concerned about Sir, but we are going to fix the roads whether the Opposition wants us to fix them or not.

I believe Sir, that perhaps it is time that we move our floor from in here to outside. I really would like to hear the answer given to these things. It is going to sound very good, Mr. Speaker, to stand up on the platform and tell the people that I sat down in my seat in Parliament and heard two Hon. Members from the Opposition criticising the Government because they were repairing too many roads. That would really sound sweet to hear it Mr. Speaker, and this is the substance of it.
3.50 p.m.

Now we hear about the amount of money being spent on roads in the MCW Estimates. You do not hear the Opposition talking anything about the big loans that we have acquired to do the road building projects. \$16 million we are spending now to do the Spring Garden Road, a main highway, to ease the flow of traffic in and out of Bridgetown. You do not hear anything about that; they do not count that, Sir; \$16 million is no money for them. They do not tell you a word about the new road that we have got the money for that is about to start up by the Polytechnic in Wildey and running all the way across to ease the flow of traffic in that area because the road out there is not suitable. You do not hear a word about that at all, and all they can find to do in a matter

as straightforward as this, instead of making some standard points, is to come in here and make all these silly statements about political trickery.

Mr. SPEAKER: They are all fundamental.

Hon. L. R. TULL: They make all these silly little points about political trickery. We hear for instance about a crash programme and economists talking about this. There is no economist who will tell you that if you build a proper road that that is a crash programme. That again is something that I do not understand. You talk about a crash programme in the context of throwing good money after bad one to keep a few people employed, not when you are building proper roads.

Mr. Speaker, that is my contribution. I really cannot be bothered to carry on with this, Sir.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, after hearing the various points and particularly the speech of the Minister of Education, very little is left for me to add. I should like to thank the Minister and to remind him on the floor of the House that I am very grateful to him for the road which he put in at Holders Hill. I think there was a gentleman by the name of Ellison Carmichael who some time in 1962 had asked the Government of that day to put in a road for the people to get from Holders Hill to Durants Village, and they found it impossible for even Mr. Carmichael, God rest him in his grave. But it is just about two years that I have been able to get the road in at the priceless sum of nearly \$90,000 to assist these people.

I want to refer, Mr. Speaker, to this aspect of the Opposition's argument about tricks. That is old-fashioned talk; they have to come with a new concept. I recall in the bye-election in St. Joseph in 1970 that almost 200 lights were put in in three weeks. In three weeks in St. Joseph in 1970 it looked like Dixieland because of a bye-election and the erection of a school at what they call Lammings, all in three weeks, but the people answered that by saying they were not interested. Then you had, Sir, the bye-election in the City. I recall, Mr. Speaker, that you could not get past the barbergreen machine in 1st Avenue, New Orleans. You had to apply to the barbergreen man to get through there on a bicycle because there was an election in the month of May, I think it was. On polling day the machine was still there.

Now you examine what the policy of the Minister of Communications and Works is. I would not stand here and not admit that there are a few pot holes on the highway; this is what I would admit, but what I cannot accept is for someone to say it is tricks. In defence of the Minister of Communications and Works, I would say that he has his priorities wrong because in the tenancies

where you could not get from the highway to your home, the Minister has made it very clear on the floor of the House that he has built, not repaired, miles of tenantry road for the humble people to get in there. It will take a motorist to drive at almost three or four miles before he runs into a little pothole, nothing big, and all the Minister has said he would have to do is to send and patch it. I have on more than one occasion called Highway and Transport because I observed that right opposite the Yacht Club there was a very big hole, and it was there because I think it was Natural Gas people who had done some repairs to the road; they put in the stones that as the buses come up and traffic passed they would push the stone away, and I have called them on more than one occasion because I thought it was dangerous that when a motorist sees a hole, he is inclined to apply his brakes immediately, and oncoming motorists can run into the back of his car. I think that any worthwhile citizen realising that you have a pot hole here and there in the road would call the Ministry of Communications and Works in the heavy pressure they were under to repair a road something like the one I have referred to. But you will never hear a word from the Opposition, and I do not disagree with them on that, because their duty is to try to mislead the country. It is the duty of that Opposition.

Now if they did not have the Pele issue to talk about, they would not have had 300 people in Rogers Road. For the big meeting of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, all you could hear however you turn on the radio was about the meeting in Rogers Road in the Ivy when they were talking about Pele — that is what they would be dealing with, and they had 300 people and just over thirty cars. Then the one in Boscobelle and then the one in Grazettes.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is fundamental.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: They believe that they can go out there and tell John Public a lot of nonsense all the time and do not believe that John Public understands what is going on. You only have to look in the press Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and you will see one advertisement "Carpenters, Masons, Electricians and Labourers wanted". Imagine that. Imagine an advertisement appearing in the daily newspaper with people appealing for labourers to work. The Jamaicans would love to see that in a paper and the Trinidadians and the Grenadians. The Prime Minister's office is flooded day after day with letters from people reading the Sunday Advocate. Never mind Neville Martindale would say I was angry with the Opposition; you don't get angry with the Opposition when there is no Opposition; and a bitter attack. Oh, yes, a bitter attack on the ignorance of parliamentary approach which would be a bitter attack, but not angry

with them. The Prime Minister's office is flooded all day with requests from the Jamaicans, the St. Lucians, the Dominicans and the Vincentians saying that they have seen in our newspaper an advertisement not only for carpenters and masons, but for labourers. Are we so short? It has never happened in the history of this country, and that is why all Barbadians can be justly proud to know they have the best Government in the Caribbean, and one which the entire world can be justly proud of. All over the world, in all the international papers, you read that they salute the Barbados Government for proper management, not only the financial management of the country, but the entire Cabinet, members of the Government and members of the back benches for their contributions; and yet you find at night the air can be filled with utter nonsense from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. Sometimes I want to wait until I get on the platform. Imagine Bull Murrell who ran for the P.D.M., a customs clerk at Courts advising the Prime Minister of Barbados.

4.00 p.m.

You see the other nonsense of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central? Bull Murrell, I know him well, from Sandy Ground in Christ Church, near South Winds hotel, a former member of the BLP and now of the PDM, is his adviser on economic affairs. And that is why he is in a tangle all the time, pronouncing on policies he does not understand.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY GOVERNMENT OF LOAN TO BARBADOS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Order No. 7 was called – To move the passing of the 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.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, one of the most successful areas of Government activity since 1976 has been the increased role which the Barbados Development Bank has played in the economic life of this country. More and more, small businessmen have been helped by the Barbados Development Bank; more and more Barbadians have been assisted in entering the tourist business; more and more manufacturing enterprises have been approved, although perhaps expansion in the industrial area has not been as marked an expansion in small business. The Barbados Development Bank has had abundant opportunities to obtain funds both from abroad

and from local sources, and it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance to manage the funds to provide an adequate mix of sources so that an adequate range of interest rates can be offered for the different types of loans.

The Bill before the House is intended to guarantee a \$2 million short term facility at the concessional rate of 4% from the Central Bank of Barbados to the Barbados Development Bank.

Very little is heard, Sir, of the Central Bank's financial position, because I think that sometimes when you are dealing with a bank that can print money as it needs it, you assume it does not have to manage its affairs in a prudent way. But the Central Bank has been very well managed since 1976 – indeed it was well managed before, and I am not suggesting that, like the Barbados Development Bank, it was mismanaged prior to 1976. It was well managed since 1973, and this year and last year it has been the beneficiary of two tendencies. The first tendency is that of interest rates to rise overseas, and the second tendency is that of a relatively buoyant balance of payments during 1978 and the early part of 1979, which although it might not be generating reserves of the same level still maintains a level of approximately \$100 million in investment funds. I say approximately \$100 million as I do not have today's figures to hand; but large sums of money are invested abroad – in Tokyo, New York, Frankfurt, London etc., and we do get an interest rate of 16, 17 and 18 percent on it. The Central Bank itself is therefore generating surplus funds as a result of the World economic situation. These surplus funds are very welcome indeed, because part of them will go towards the construction of the new Central Bank building in Church Village in Bridgetown. But we have been able to put part of this surplus in certain funds and we are glad to be able to ask the Central Bank to assist the Barbados Development Bank with this \$2 million. So we have a situation where the Central Bank is making record profit and the Barbados Development Bank is giving record assistance to small businessmen.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a strange country. The most important thing about the Barbados Development Bank to the Opposition – and I believe to the majority of the public – is that the Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank is a man who is prominent in the commercial life of Barbados and on the periphery and margin of politics. So more is known about the Barbados Development Bank in relation to David Seale than is known about the Barbados Development Bank in relation to Conrad Harris, the small shoemaker in the Orleans borrowing \$1,500 to replace some of his machines to make shoes for the Police – an example of how we are helping small business – or to Del taking over at Carlton with Bounty Chicken and a hamburger stall in the bus-

stand, arranged out of funds lent by the Barbados Development Bank to see that the small man gets a chance to make a living in this country and become a big businessman like David Seale and the rest. So you hear much more about who the Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank is than about what the bank is doing. I daresay there is not a member of the Opposition who can name the entire Board of the Barbados Development Bank, but they can all call David Seale's name. Ask them who the Deputy Chairman and the other members are and they do not know, because they are trying to see things in a negative way, to see politics in terms of personalities instead of in terms of achievement; to see politics in terms of hatred instead of in terms of love. And they are doing Barbados a very great disservice.

This money which is being lent is as a consequence of the very significant increases in the number and value of loans being approved by the Barbados Development Bank. I do not think Sir, that the House is yet aware that in 1980 — I believe for the first time — the BDB exceeded a hundred loans to businessmen, totalling \$12 million. And the provisional figures of permanent jobs created by a loan commitments is just under 600. That is only the permanent jobs, not taking into account the more than 2,000 jobs created in construction as a result of these loans. Three years ago when we were having a debate on the work that was done by the Barbados Development Bank when it was freed from the incubus of Bath Plantation that had for between two and four years prevented the Bank from getting enough money to lend to people — because all the money had been absorbed by lending to friends of the hon. member for St. John at Bath, there was no more money to lend to anybody else after Bath. We took Bath off the books of the company; we took the bad debts of Norwood; the other political loans were written off and the BDB made a loss. But I said in here that the new investments by the BDB were creating 1,700 jobs in construction.
4.10 p.m.

The hon. member obviously not the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who was not here then, and the the hon. member, I think the hon. member for St. Lucy commented that when the work is over there would be no more jobs and I tried to explain that the Government's policy in respect to the Barbados Development Bank was to keep such a rate of lending going as to maintain 2,000 or more jobs every year in construction from BDB loans alone and I am very proud to say that we have achieved that target.

The hon. member for St. James pointed out that wherever you go in Barbados you see "painters wanted", not masons and carpenters, Sir, the more skilled trades, but "painters wanted". It is easy to believe, Sir, that it does not take long to become a painter but we well know that there are levels of construction activities going on in

Barbados that exceed even the boom level of the years 1960 and 1970. I do not know why the decade years of 1960 and 1970 but 1960 and 1970 were the previous peak years of industry. It looks as though 1980 will be a third and higher than 1960 or 1970.

The Barbados Development Bank has identified long termed sources of funds needed to finance its projects for 1979, 1980 and 1981 but the Agreement with International Lending Agencies requires that the Bank first lend out the money and then be reimburse by the Agencies and that is where the Central Bank financing is coming in effectively by giving the Banks working capital to disburse the funds pending reimbursement from the International Lending Agencies. This provides the bridging funds for the Bank itself.

I am sure that hon. members, Sir, will approve the guarantee by the Minister of Finance for the repayment of this loan of the Central Bank by the Barbados Development Bank in due course. I am sure, Sir, that by their vote the majority of the House would endorse it. I do not think the hon. members opposite would vote against supporting the small people who are doing well in this country, Sir. I do not believe so. They will endorse the policies followed by the Bank in the interest of development of Barbados.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution and firstly let me say that we on this side have no particular objections to the Central Bank providing a bridging loan in the situation described by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, a bridging loan to another public institution.

It was noted, indeed, and I was very pleased to hear that the Hon. Prime Minister very rapidly withdrew the statement that the Central Bank has not always been managed well and that, of course, has been set up under the Democratic Labour Party and plays a very important role in the financial management in this country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, whereas there have been increased levels of disbursement from the Barbados Development Bank, there are certain areas that must be of concern to all members of this House.

The hon. member who last spoke somehow thought it was very necessary to define the position of Mr. David Seale. I have no attack at all for Mr. Seale today. What I am more concerned with is the distribution of a pattern of loans by the Barbados Development Bank and the implementations in terms of the future of Barbados and I would like, Sir, to refer to the Barbados Development

Bank's 10th Annual Report Decade of Development Finances 1969/79 and I will refer to pages 28 and 29 which give a pretty broad accumulative analysis of the loans approved from the 1st April, 1969 to 31st March, 1979.

Now when we examine it, what do we see? We see that 61.5% of the total disbursements have gone to the hotel sector. When you look at a further breakdown of this, Mr. Speaker, you will find that the hotels received some 4.8%. Now hotels are far more employment intensive than apartments. On the other hand, apartments received 53% and indeed, Mr. Speaker, once an apartment is completed, it is a different level of activity generating during the period of employment but once that apartment is completed, the number of jobs created either for direct employment for a particular apartment or a spin off employment factor on a permanent bases in the community is perhaps minimal. In other words, what I am saying is that the loans to the hotel sector have gone basically to the area that generate less employment.

Also of concern, Mr. Speaker, is when you look at the loans to Guest Houses which involve the small man. You will find 0.3% of the loans spread within that direction. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask myself the question whether or not the time has come and, of course, this has to be seen in the overall projections in relation to the tourist industry, whether or not the time has come that the Barbados Development Bank should be making a greater thrust in areas that are more employment intensive.

I think this is a legitimate criticism. I think that probably the BDB was responding to the area of greatest growth within that particular industry but bearing in mind that one of the fundamental roles of the BDB makes it somewhat different from the Commercial Banks and bearing in mind, for example, that you are getting in this situation getting a loan at 4% from the Central Bank as a bridging loan, you do not have to go to the Commercial Banks.

One needs to look at the area of lending and look at it with a far greater discrimination and not merely look at the levels of disbursements. You have to look at the impact which dollar for dollar jobs will be generated and certainly the pattern of disbursements here will lead one to question whether or not this is actually taking place.

4.20 p.m.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we go further along and we see that manufacturing industries are some 18.4% and in the manufacturing area, as you are aware, this has a very heavy employment component depending of course, on the type of manufacture.

Agriculture, which is now I understand, substantially removed from the Barbados Development Bank, to the Barbados National Bank, enjoys an extremely low priority of 6.6% and I do not think that I need to emphasise the importance of Agriculture in the 70s and beyond. Fisheries, 3%; small businesses, 4%. Now, I have heard again and again, the suggestion that because there are small businesses, you will necessarily expect them to get a smaller proportion of the disbursements from the Barbados Development Bank and that it is an integral part of the fact that there are small businesses therefore, a smaller percentage will go to them. My feeling is, Mr. Speaker that there is a need from these statistics that have been shown here, to branch out and provide more extension services by the Bank in order to identify those areas of business activity which can justifiably and on merit, benefit from further injection of capital by the Barbados Development Bank.

It is O.K. Mr. Speaker, for the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance to point out, perhaps unfortunately, the name of one particular person who got a loan. However, the fact remains that it is a constant complaint of small businessmen that when they get to the Barbados Development Bank, the amount of security that they are asked for seems to be unreasonable and in some instances, in excess of what they would require at a commercial bank. The advantage of course, of the Barbados Development Bank, is that they would get the money on a longer term and at a lower interest. I would invite the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance to look into this criticism. For example, people not only have to give the equipment as security, but often, they have to take out additional insurance policies and then they have to give their homes as well as security, in order to obtain loans from the Barbados Development Bank. I think, that it is in this area — I am not suggesting for any moment that the Bank should not pay adequate attention to the question of security for loans — but what I am suggesting is that there should not be this demand for over security, asking for too much security because when you look on the other side now, you can find, for example, here is a loan of \$2 million, this would probably about cover a 35 room hotel perhaps, at today's prices. You will find that an individual may be able to obtain a loan of \$1 million from the Barbados Development Bank of a minimum input in terms of capital, the project itself stands as merit as security and he might not even be asked for personal guarantees, or otherwise. Now, once the project itself, in terms of its real estate value and in terms of its money earning capacity is adequate security — and I am not complaining that these facilities can be advanced to people who are making more substantial loans — where I am making a plea is that some further consideration should be given to the small man and great care must be exercised not to tie up too much of his assets, more than is necessary to secure the particular loans.

It has also been brought to my attention Mr. Speaker, that there have been serious management problems at the Barbados Development Bank and difficulty in retaining and attracting supporting staff in critical areas of the Bank and that these matters stem from management problems within the Bank. I have already spoken of the distorted patterns of the loans and I would also like to bring to the attention of this Hon. House, that the basis of the calculation of jobs generated by loans from the Barbados Development Bank might not be accurate as they should be. Certainly, unless the system has changed very substantially, very often, when an application is made, one of the factors to be considered would be the jobs that would be generated to help determine whether it is a suitable activity to be financed by the Barbados Development Bank. However, when the project is completed, you might find that much fewer people are employed than the numbers which go down on the application when that is submitted to the Barbados Development Bank. I wonder whether there is any follow up, whether the number of people alleged to be employed consequential on investment, assisted by the Barbados Development Bank, whether there is a follow up to make sure that that number of people are in employment, or, whether these statistics are taken from applications which are usually loaded very much in favour of the number of people who are likely to be employed, in order to make the loan more easily qualified for acceptance by the Barbados Development Bank.

One final point I would like to make Mr. Speaker, and this is a recurring one, and that is, the status of the Barbados Development Bank in relation to the Barbados National Bank. I believe that the Barbados National Bank makes provision for the incorporation of the Barbados Development Bank as in the case of the Agricultural Credit Bank and other institutions in Barbados. My understanding is that Government policy has shifted from that position, where they will now be making the Barbados Development Bank a subsidiary of the Barbados National Bank and increasing the Directors on that Bank in order to accommodate this particular relationship with the Barbados Development Bank.

Now, I would like to know what is the cause for that shift in policy. Is it because the Government is not satisfied that the Barbados National Bank can adequately deal with the development functions of the Barbados Development Bank? Is it because the Barbados National Bank is now in its infancy and has been having problems with the various banks which it has attempted to take over, particularly, the Agricultural Credit Bank? Or, is it because — I promised not to mention the name of Mr. David Seale — is it because a prominent Member of the Board has taken a position, and perhaps, one of the few things that I would agree with him with, is that it

might well harm the functioning of the Barbados Development Bank, at this point in time, if it is incorporated fully with the Barbados National Bank. Now, these are questions which I think the public is interested in and questions that should be answered. If the Government has found itself in a position where, once again, it has to go back on a Manifesto promise because now, they are faced with the realities of the situation and it has to face the harsh logic of development banking, recognising that there are some areas of banking that might not necessarily be best served by being put under the umbrella of the Barbados National Bank, despite the provisions of the Act, which I think, names the Barbados Development Bank as one of the designated institutions to be taken over by the Barbados National Bank, at a point in time when they have already back-pedaled very early on their position in relation to the Central Bank.

4.30 p.m.

They have already back-pedaled quite early on the position in relation to the Central Bank, and I would like to know if the position remains the same with the Barbados Development Bank.

In brief, then, Mr. Speaker, we support the Resolution, but we have reservations in terms of what has happened with the Barbados Development Bank over the past decade, and indeed we invite the Government to look very closely at this question, because if for example there were to be a major recession in tourism, and God forbid, the most you can say is that at least you have ready-made houses for the people of Barbados and the assets of the Barbados Development Bank no doubt will substantially increase when you look at the particular loan ratios, etc. in relation to these particular projects. So, Mr. Speaker, we give our support to this, but we ask the Government to look very closely at the pattern of loans particularly in relation to job generation by the Barbados Development Bank, and also whether or not there are not other infrastructural areas in which it might not be of some value for the Barbados Development Bank to get into, and finally more emphasis on the small man and making it not too difficult but only as reasonable as is required for adequate security and protection of the Bank. I think that this is as reasonable a call as we can make from the Opposition benches while we give support to the Resolution.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, time and time again we hear calls from the Opposition benches on this question of looking after the small man. Today we have heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central making mention of the small businessman, and he gave the impression that this Government has not been doing enough to understand the plight of the small businessman. I want to assure the hon. member and the

spokesmen of the Opposition party that this Government understands the small businessman, his role in the society and the role which we would like him to play in the entire developmental aspect of our country. Unlike the former administration which has no policy, no clear-cut definition, no criteria to determine what is meant by a small businessman, this Government on taking office in September, 2, 1976, set about to establish a criteria which would easily identify the small businessman and the small business.

I remember way back in 1976 that the then Minister responsible for trade said that he was concerned about the level of treatment the dependency of the small businessman on the merchants, etc., and he went as far as to say that he was going to make available at least \$1,000 for the small businessman in order to enable him to become independent of the merchants in Roebuck Street. Mr. Speaker, there was never any such policy, nothing in writing in the files in the Ministry of Trade, yet we heard from the public platforms such a policy statement.

On assuming office after September 2, 1976, the Minister responsible for Trade and Industry, the Deputy Prime Minister, had issued instructions that responsibility for small business and the role which small businesses should play in the economy or in this country should be looked at very closely. That responsibility, Mr. Speaker, was delegated to me, and I realised from the outset that there was no clear definition for the small businessman and this was an absolute necessity if we were to do something for the man who fell into that category. I felt, like the members of this Government, that the small businessman should be part and parcel of the entire developmental aspect and that he had a definite role to perform, and therefore we set about to first of all make certain enquiries with a view to analysing the problems when confronting the small businessman in this country. We found that several small businessmen were at the mercy of the commercial banks, some of them were plagued by serious financial problems. They had to put up collateral in terms of motor cars and houses and whatever form of collateral, and some of them because of the economic recession, because of lack of proper planning for the involvement of the small businessman, were hounded down by the commercial banks. In some cases, Mr. Speaker, the motor cars of these small businessmen, were confiscated; the banks seized their motor cars, levied on their houses and most of them were disillusioned and were panicking on the verge of collapse, but it was part of my responsibility to go even further into these problems. Not only did we look at the financial problems which confronted them, but we looked at how best we could relieve them of the burdensome duty which they had to pay from time to time on equipment and materials used in their businesses.

I want to make it abundantly clear that several representations were made by the small business association to the former Government and nothing was done to relieve the small businessmen, and they were forced to pay very high duties on equipment and material brought into this country. As a result of the findings which the Ministry of Trade conducted, we were able to make specific recommendations to the Ministry of Finance, and from 1st January this year we had an order which was signed by the Minister of Finance thereby enabling the small businessman duty free concessions. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but we also looked at the problems and how best we could solve these problems because we realised that not only looking at problems was enough, but we had to face up to the situation where specific recommendations would have to be made to the Government and that these recommendations be adopted. First of all we drew up a position paper in which we considered the problems relating to small businesses; we looked at what was done for them and what should be done, and after providing that position paper we proceeded to recommend what is known as our strategy paper.

4.40 p.m.

Following that we reached the stage where we have been able to produce specific recommendations with a view to answering the problems which confronted small businessmen. During the course of the last three years meetings were held between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Small Business Association — the representative body of small businessmen in this community — and we discussed all problem areas and the appropriate recommendations. As a result of these meetings we were able to submit a paper to Cabinet and the paper has included specific recommendations for the development of small businesses. We looked at problems such as the ones raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central where there were certain requirements by the lending institutions and we realized that most of these small business were under-financed and we made recommendations to Cabinet that this area should be fully investigated with a view to finding the necessary funds, and this Resolution is to give effect to one of the recommendations in that Cabinet paper. This is the way in which this Government proceeds with its business, not by talking but by finding tangible solutions to problems facing the small businessman.

One of the recommendations included in the Cabinet Paper and approved by the Cabinet is the establishment of a Small Business Development Committee, and that Committee will have a responsibility for looking after and making recommendations to the Government for the betterment and development of small businesses as a whole. I want to make it abundantly

clear that the Small Business Association has fully endorsed the recommendations in that Cabinet Paper; they are virtually satisfied with the recommendations. They have no reservations on the recommendations and they are proud to know that this Government has taken the initiative to look into the problems of small businesses. Their President has said this time and time again that never has a Government done more for small business than this administration, and there have been letters coming into the Ministry of Trade and Industry from the National Union of Public Workers — they have a Credit Union and the Credit Union has written the Ministry congratulating it on the stand taken in respect of small businessmen in this community. So you can see Sir, that our policy and approach towards small businessmen is fully endorsed by those concerned. Yet you hear hon. members from that side on public platforms and even in this Chamber saying that we have not done enough. But I want them to understand that the organization and the people directly involved are satisfied that this Government is doing its best to help them. I have given instructions to officers in the Ministry to have letters sent out to the representatives of the Small Business Committee to have its first meeting. In other words, there is positive action. We do not believe in having a Cabinet Paper approved and then having it lying down in the Ministry; we want to effect the recommendations contained in the Cabinet Paper.

Now, Sir, what hon. members do not understand is that there are only two areas that the small businessmen in this community are concerned about, and these two areas are, firstly, the level of consultancy service provided by BIMAP and, secondly, the Export Credit and Guarantee Scheme. What I have been at pains to point out to small businessmen is that the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme applies to those businesses that have export potential. But there are some people who have only heard of the scheme; they are not engaged in or do not have any immediate use for the service, but because of the criticisms level at the Government they have been carried away by that and I am sure most of them are not in a position to understand the operation of the Scheme and it is important to know what the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme is. There are many small businesses that have export potential and that have been exporting to various countries that have been beset by economic problems and as a result of the economic problems of those countries the exporters have not been able to have their monies remitted to them. These small businessmen have been using the traditional CARICOM markets like Guyana and Jamaica that have been plagued with economic problems and they have been experiencing problems in getting their cash, and we have taken a step in the direction to ensure that so long as they are dealing with bona fides people the Central Bank will guarantee their money. That step was never undertaken by the former administration; in other words we have taken the

initiative to safeguard the exporter in this country. Not only that, we have decided that small businesses, like in the United States where 75% of the manufacturing sector is in the hands of small business, we have realized that the time has come when the small man has got a role to play and to participate in the national cake. That is why we have been saying that the mini-bus operator, the taxi man — we have made provisions to ensure that the taxi men are given something; we have encouraged them to form cooperative societies. For the first time in the history of the tourist industry we have had taximen being invited to form a cooperative and they have taken up the challenge and now for the first time they have their own private coaches. This goes a long way to show how concerned this government is with the small businessmen in this country.

I heard the hon. member who just sat down talk about ancillary services and spin-off effects. He does not understand that we cannot convey the impression that the Development Bank, because it invests in hotels and apartments, is doing something wrong. He does not understand the spin-off benefits for the small man but is looking only at the short term benefits such as the construction of the hotels. But there are other people, different categories of people, who will get a spin-off benefit from this service.

Now I would like to say this to those concerned about the level of service given to the small businessman, because this is the things which they have been complaining about.
4.50 p.m.

They have been complaining about the sort of consultancy service that is provided by BIMAP. I have set about to try to get information as to whether these criticisms are justified or not and I must say that I am very much concerned because the complaints have been coming to me from more than one source and from more than one small business man that BIMAP is not delivering the goods and they have asked me to make an enquiry to see whether or not the reports reflect the sort of service that is given to them.

It must be made abundantly clear that BIMAP is an institution which provides consultancy service to enable the small businessman to look at his business and to have an overall review of the operation of his business. If it is losing where he needs specialist service like managerial training and whether he can benefit from consultancy services. That is what BIMAP is there to provide and this Government has gone a long way to make sure that BIMAP provides this service for the small businessman because we know that lots of people can set up businesses. They are skilled men. They are good craftsmen but they lack the managerial experience, the expertise and the ability to manage.

Some of them want to remain masons, joiners, foremen, production managers, accountants, everything, and we feel that BIMAP as an institution should be able to point out to these people where it is an error in trying to cover all of these areas and we have signed, two years ago, Mr. Speaker, in 1978, a guarantee with the Canadian Agencies for development. We have guaranteed \$600,000 Can., over \$1 million to allow BIMAP to continue to provide these services.

What I would like to see done is that we have more and more money pumped into BIMAP so as to allow BIMAP to continue to develop and reach out to more and more small businesses as they come under the umbrella of small businessmen.

Mr. Speaker, there is a definite criteria. We know where we are going, the small businessmen for the first time. We have made recommendations and the small businessman must understand that this Government understands the plight of the poor man and we want to embrace him in what is going on in the development of the country.

Cabinet has approved the recommendations whereby the contracts for the small businessman should be considered for some self-contracting. In this way, Mr. Speaker, the small man will not be denied part of the national cake because when a contract is awarded by Government what we are going to be asking is that the small man be considered. In that way many of our small men will be developed.

I want them to understand that if they are going to criticise this Government for looking after the better off people they must ask themselves how many supermarkets have been erected since we came into power in 1976. Ask them how many. Ask them how many mini-marts and how many shops have been opened since 1976 by people. Ask them. You cannot compare what has been opened or what was opening because we are giving incentives. This Government has given incentives. We have opened the area. We have opened the environment so that the people can take part in the whole developmental aspect of this country.

Under the Democratic Labour Party regime the shops were closing. People could not find money but today we can find places like Del's opening up and like the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has said, you can find places like Del's operating. Look at the estates, you have little Mini-Marts going up and shops opening. If you look in the papers everyday you can see people applying for liquor licences.

In 1975 and 1976, Mr. Speaker, they were closing down. Wherever you turn you can see the small man

doing a little something. All of this is generating employment but the hon. member cannot understand. I have challenged the hon. member that instead of going out there at nights and talking nonsense and calling people BLP dogs, rather than calling people that to get out there and face the music and tell people what is really the truth about the economy and the relation of work for the people.

Mr. Speaker, the role of the Opposition is not to go out there and distort but to educate people and look at things critically and make certain recommendations so that if they, by the stroke of luck, had gained office would be able to carry on. Mr. Speaker, that is how we look at it.

So, Mr. Speaker, in seconding this Resolution or giving my approval to this Resolution, I want to make it clear that the small man can see even today that we are mindful of his plight, mindful that he has got a specific role to play, a vital role to play in the development of this country and we are giving him that opportunity. We are providing money and all that is possible to make sure that he takes part in whatever development there is in this country.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that Item No. 8, under Government Business, be the instant order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 8.

LAND TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Item No. 8 was called — to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act, Cap. 78A.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: (Pause) I am sorry, Sir. I apologise to hon. members. My copy appears to have been omitted from my papers. This is a very simple Act.
5.00 p.m.

We have discovered Sir that certain difficulties have arisen by reason of, abusive Sir, is not too fine a word, in the exemption of taxation being offered to certain church organisations. It does not seem Sir, that there is a margin between churches which are organised for the benefit of the congregation spiritual and otherwise and churches which are organised on the face of it, to provide spiritual benefits for the congregation and very large financial benefits for a proprietor. The Government has accordingly decided that the general exemption from land taxes on church properties which

churches have been granted, will now be granted only to those churches which come within the meaning of charity, as defined by the new Charities Act, 1979. It means in effect, Sir, that it would not be possible for a person to declare a piece of land a church and describe himself as a Minister, whether he described himself as the Reverend Doctor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, or any other church, so as to evade the payment of land taxes on his property.

Even with churches which have congregations, there is sometimes some evidence that these churches are carried on with so large a component of money making for the principal Minister, who is perhaps the owner of the property concerned and the proprietor of the church, in the sense of the proprietor of a restaurant, or a proprietor of a hotel, or even, a night club is the proprietor; that is would be unfair to all the genuine Ministers of Religion who adhere so strictly to God's Doctrine and the Doctrine in God's Holy Book, as to the necessity of poverty for the Ministry, to allow these theological plutocrats to enjoy taxation privileges on the same basis as the well-known evangelical churches, the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Moravian, the Methodist and the other better known churches in Barbados. We are accordingly making the Land Tax Act to coincide with the Charities Act in respect of this particular matter.

The rest of the Act Sir, is a little difficult. I would not go into the language because it might be a little difficult to deal with all the legal definitions concerned, but the point of it is that a Resolution of an anomaly has become necessary in regard to the payment of land taxes of property which is being sold. At the present time, there appears to be a loop-hole. If you sell a property and the taxes for the Current Financial Year have not been paid, the property is released from the charge of taxes and the taxes remain payable in the eyes of the Collector of Taxes by the person who owned the property on April 1.

Now, we first ran across this difficulty in respect of the parish of St. Thomas. There are certain properties owned by companies called the Inland Investments Limited and the St. Thomas Development Company which appear to be companies controlled by the same persons as controlled Norwood Investments and one or two other companies, well known in roles of defaulters in different institutions. Indeed Sir, I believe that even Inland Investments and St. Thomas Investment Company are well-known, since my memory suggests to me that they are among the largest debtors ever known to the Courts of Barbados. I think that one had sued for over \$2 million or something like that Sir. Now, when they sold the land, they never paid any land taxes at all and when they sold the land, the

Government found consistently that it was losing one year's taxes or more. These things led to disorders Sir.

There is a case before the Courts, of a young gentleman who, it was discovered that he was apparently giving false receipts in respect of payments of land tax and that also caused difficulty because taxes had not been paid, but false receipts had been issued to the Rates and Taxes and the Government was then losing taxes.

The present Act is designed to make it possible to enforce a procedure for the collection of taxes during the years when property is sold. I really Sir, do not propose to analyse the Clauses of the Bill to this end, I think that they are a little too involved, but effectively, we can now collect tax from land whose owners are unknown. There is trouble with that. We can collect taxes by issuing a demand for taxes in the middle of the year by what is called the Interim Tax Demand and we have lent validity to the Interim Tax Demand Notices under Section 7 of the Act.

I should say Sir, that I am sorry the Hon. Member for St. Philip South is not here; that although we are struggling to get the bureaucracy to conform with the wishes of the directorate in this regard, we are trying to give poor people, who can afford neither the time, nor the money, to utilise what used to be the Provisions of the Chancery Act to get a full title through the Court; the chance as they had until comparatively recently to get a title to land by allowing the taxes to fall into arrears, having it set up for sale by the Marshal and then going and buying it in. Many people Sir, will know that a very large number, perhaps, even a majority in certain areas, of titles which small people had in Barbados were titles which they got from the Provost Marshal's Office. That used to be the talk, "I bought it out of the Provost Marshal's Office." An ancestor dies, the heir-at-law is in America, you lived on the land for years and years, you find that you do not have any title and the simplest way of getting the title, was to let the taxes fall into arrears and then, when the Marshal came and sold the land, you bought it for the balance of taxes which were due, a very humane procedure Sir and you got the title.

We are trying to re-introduce this as requested by the Hon. Member for St. Philip South, always a spokesman for the small land owner, especially, in the countryside Sir and certainly, I welcome his suggestion in this regard. The section of the Act which deals with the sale of land belonging to an unknown owner, I think, will be a great boom in this particular direction and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, we do not have any particular objection to this Bill. There is just one small point of clarification which I would like if at all possible.

My understanding, from the speech of the Hon. Member for St. Thomas is that a problem has arisen where, when land is being sold that the vendor of the land may be held liable for taxes, if that sale takes place after the beginning of the Financial Year. I believe that the problem probably arises from the fact that the Valuation Notices and the Tax Notices usually come out at the end of the year, around November, December. 5.10 p.m.

My understanding of the position, unless it has been changed by recent legislation, was that the vendor and the purchaser paid a proportionate part of the tax depending on the amount of time of the year the property was in possession of the vendor and the amount of time of the year it was in the possession of the purchaser. Only recently it has been brought to my attention that if for example you were trying to convey property now that as vendor you may be liable for the 1980-81 taxes although you would not get the tax assessment or bill until November-December; so how do you know how much tax you have to pay at all in respect of 1980-81? I am a bit confused in this particular area.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Well, Sir, that conclusion is what this Act seeks to put an end to, but I will tell the hon. member this: the proportioning of tax between the vendor and the purchaser has always been a matter of agreement. It is a standard form in agreements for sale prepared by Attorneys in Barbados with which I am familiar but it could be enforced between the parties; it can't be enforced by the tax collector against the purchaser, and that is really what it comes down to, and the tax collector now will be able to enforce it against the vendor, and more important he will be able to hold up the sale till the tax is paid. That is really the significance of it. He does not now have power, although an effort was made to exercise this power. Theoretically he does not have power. I think he always had it. You cannot force people to administer something they do not believe in. I think it is always possible based on a proper construction of the Act to hold up a sale until the taxes were paid, but he will now, after this Act is passed, have power to say this sale will not be recorded until the tax that is due for such and such a year is paid, and the vendor and the purchaser can decide between them how they will pay it, and nothing in the law as far as I know will make an alteration to that.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation my problem in this matter is how do you know now in April what the tax bill will be on a given problem before the bill comes up. Let us say the sale takes place in a year which there was a re-valuation of properties. That is the problem that concerns me. How do you know what the tax bill will be for 1980-81 when the notices do not come out until November or something like that? That is the problem I am concerned about.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I suppose it will be very important to people to know what the tax is going to be in the outstanding year if they anticipated the tax was going to come down, but I anticipated that the interim demands will always have to be based on tax rates of the previous year. Certainly I would say this: I am not giving any legal opinion; I do not have the entire big fat file in front of me. Perhaps I do and perhaps I don't, but I don't think hon. members want me to go right through my arguments going on over three years with these people. Certainly off the cuff I would give the opinion that if you got an interim demand notice and paid the taxes, if the taxes are later changed you will already have been discharged by the collector's receipt unless they are made specifically retroactive which is not normally the case with legislation in Barbados. After all if you two years ago paid your driving licence three years in advance and next year I raised the driving licence fees, I cannot go back to you, the Minister cannot go back to you and say "well you paid for three years and got the discount for three years, but it has now been increased, pay more." More generally in Government if you are in a position to pay something in advance and the rates go up, you are not normally asked to pay the extra, Mr. Speaker, and I presume that would be the same with taxes. Certainly I cannot anticipate that dealing with a vendor and purchaser that if in order to facilitate your wish to have the taxes paid in advance you issue a notice, that it could be equitable at some later stage to say "well, you paid the taxes in advance, it was all right then, but you want more from him." I do not believe this is the intention nor would I seek to do such a thing.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN re-

ported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
5.20 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill do now pass and be cited as the Land Tax Amendment Act Cap. 78A.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, we are planning to adjourn the House but we are concerned about Order No. 3. It is a somewhat difficult matter to assemble sixteen Government members, and in the absence of a commitment of support from the Opposition — and one thing I can say about this Opposition is that it recognizes to the full that an Opposition does not have to be decisive or take a stand in favour of anything and that it can be as uncommitted as possible so as to use the electoral advantage of any passing moment.

Where Order No. 3 is concerned, it amends the pension rights of Englishmen who have served in Barbados, and what we are doing is removing the charge on the general revenue of the former English civil servants that served in Barbados and we have come to the agreement that the British Government will pension them so that it does not remain a constitutional charge for Barbados. We have to have sixteen members to do this, but unless we can get some kind of assurance — it seems to us that at the most we will have is fifteen on the day we are planning to return — and unless we can get some kind of assurance from the Opposition we might have to have a Special Meeting of the House when we can collect sixteen members. That is what is going through the mind of the Leader of the House and me. We want to adjourn until June 3rd, but it might be necessary, if we cannot be assured of the support of the Opposition on that day, to come back before next Tuesday in order to pass Order No. 3. I am sure the matter is not controversial and I can hardly believe that the Opposition would want to vote for English civil servants who formerly ruled over Barbados to continue to have their pensions charged on the general revenue. What I am really asking is that because this has been going on since 1978 when the Opposition was first approached about this — if the acting Leader of the Opposition will give us an indication that we

can deal with Order No. 3 now I would be very glad; otherwise we may have to ask the Leader of the House to call a Special Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House stand adjourned until Tuesday 27th May at 10 o'clock a.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the adjournment I would like to ask all hon. members to take note that it is intended to proceed on that day with Order No. 3 which requires it to be passed by the procedure appropriate for Constitutional amendments. The votes will have to be recorded.

Before I finish speaking, Sir, I will say this: Perhaps the public can take note and ask themselves if they really can concede that they would vote for a political party that is unable to make up its mind about something so small in terms of party controversy and yet so important because it touches on relations between Barbados and another country. If you cannot trust a political party to come to a decision on something like this you can only have contempt for their reasoning processes and their capacity to govern a country under any circumstances.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion for adjournment, may I make the position of the Opposition clear. As I understand it the Prime Minister got up and asked for the cooperation of the Opposition to get some measure passed. But I had information that there was nothing before the House and hence I could not speak.
5.30 p.m.

That was the impression that I had on that.

Mr. SPEAKER: On that matter the situation still remains.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: One must understand there must be some relationship between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of Government Business and it is for these two to arrange what they are going to do among themselves. This does not concern the Chair or people's time. The public's time must not be wasted in a decision between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition as to when we should and when we should not and what. It is not the people's business.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I could not agree with you more, Mr. Speaker, especially in circumstances where the Prime Minister has just said that they were dealing with this since 1977 and this is the first time that he has given

the House any indication what are the circumstances relating to this particular amendment of a fundamental entrenched provision of the Constitution.

There is no memorandum, nothing at all on the matter but they have been dealing with it from 1977 and I am saying that if that is the way that the Opposition is treated and then you come and ask for co-operation from the Opposition it cannot be given on that basis.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member sometimes lapses from what the public recognises as honesty into what the public cynically has to recognise in politics. The hon. member should know, unless that Party has no cohesion of any sort, that a letter was sent to the former Leader of the Opposition on this matter in which it was set out fully and I say the former Leader of the Opposition.

The hon. member is also less than candid. It seems to be the habit, Sir, to reveal all conversations held between Government and the Opposition. You report in full what was said true or false to Eric Sealy and to the public, therefore, the hon. member must be aware that last week I raised this matter with him. Not the hon. member for St. Michael South. He does not tell Eric Sealy things. He does not have enough money to talk to Eric Sealy. Eric Sealy cannot hear him. Ask the hon. member for St. Michael South Central the criteria for holding conversations with the PPM but the hon. member knows that this was raised last week with him and he knows that what he has just said he is trying to put on the records in the *Official Gazette* so as to refute the charge of indecisiveness and the incapacity to deal in a positive way with any issue.

I know that the hon. member is either afraid to approach the hon. member for St. John or afraid to take the decision to support the Government on this issue because he does not wish to have the hon. member for St. John deal with him in his inimitable style. The hon. member for St. John, unable to deal with us on these benches in the way he has been accustomed, has to turn upon his own members. He has bitten off the hand that he fed with the hon. member for St. Michael South Central having raised him up under the right hand of the Lord. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has discovered that the higher you go the easier it is to cuff you in the mouth and the hon. member for St. Michael South does not wish to sustain the same role.

Just let it be ruled out of the minds of the hon. members opposite or the public that we are not begging the Opposition for anything. We have 17 votes in the House of Assembly and 16 of them will be cast next week in favour of this Motion or whenever we bring it and they can vote or vote not as far as we are concerned. If they want to make fools of themselves vote against

it. If they want to make cowards of themselves, stay out of the House or abstain but we really do not care. In the long term, we may care something about the political image of the Opposition because this country consists of two Parties.

As I have already said when I go abroad the things I say about the Opposition I believe it is that that gave me a soar throat in Washington and caused me not to be able to speak at the end of the week. If you could hear me when an acquaintance of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who started telling me about a wild boy, a Doctor who just got into the House. I said that boy is a Barbados Scholar, an intelligent person and I found myself having to praise the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

As for the hon. member for St. John, I had to say more good things about him than his mother would say to him and certainly more than any member of his Party would say for him in order to maintain the image of Barbados abroad but do not let us think that I am going to let them get away before the public with any talk about having not been approached about this matter. They know everything about what this matter is about. They talk about a memorandum and an all Party Conference. This applies when you do not have a two-thirds majority. That is when it applies but upon this occasion, no more than they sent us a memorandum asking for our support in taking the Appointment of the Judges out of the hands of the Public Service Commission and putting it into the hands of the Prime Minister are they entitled to ask for any memorandum on this Agreement.

As it happens, Sir, although Section 3 of the Bill which is to come before the House does speak of altering Sections 103 and 104 of the Constitution, that, we are advised is a necessary formula to support a two-thirds vote but the Articles themselves, so I am advised, will not be altered in any material way.

I will just mention this as I think some advanced explanation is needed and I will just mention, Sir, that provided only that we can accumulate the necessary majority that this particular matter will be dealt with at the next meeting of the House.

I think the Motion for Adjournment of the House has already been moved, Sir.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just wish to elucidate and clarify a point that I made. I maintain that on this matter as far as I am concerned, I do not know anything about the cohesion that was referred to. As far as I am concerned, I do not know the factors or circumstances involved in this matter.

Last week you made an approach on the same basis as you made on the Floor of the House today. On about

the same basis without the type of explanatory detail that you have given and I do not mind how many letters have been sent on any matters before this House, unless I know about it as a member of Parliament, I am unable to co-operate because I am not co-operating in the dark and if it does not matter because you will be doing it anyhow whether we support it or not, what are you asking for?

We on this Opposition are prepared to participate in debates in here so long as we are permitted in accordance with the Standing Orders. Mr. Speaker sees to that but on this particular occasion we maintain on this side that we are unaware of the details involved and if you have had any other correspondence or some sort of contact with the Leader of the Opposition, or a former Leader of the Opposition.... *(Pause)*. That is a lot of water gone under the bridge if it is Mr. F. G. Smith, Q.C. 5.40 p.m.

If you had that, that is a lot of water gone under the bridge if it is Mr. F. G. Smith, Q.C., S.C., but he is no longer the Hon. Leader of this Opposition. If you adjourn, I merely want to make this point that I believe that in matters of this sort, especially when it comes to an amendment to the Constitution, there should be particular procedures followed.

If, in 1974, certain approaches were made; you did not agree with us then and you attacked us roundly, "ROUNDLY", wrongly also because up to this point, you have done nothing to amend the Constitution to remove those amendments so we are unable, in these circumstances, to co-operate on this basis because in this matter, which has been going since 1977, we have not been involved in any meaningful way.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I think that this is the end of it as far as I am concerned. We have 17 Members, we need a two-thirds majority to have it done and it is the duty of the Acting Leader, or Leader of the Government, or the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to whip his 16 into the seats and the Opposition would not even have to co-operate if they never receive the letter from us, so all that they are concerned with is that we have the 17 seats. You, Mr. Speaker, make the 17th, but you are out of it now, you have no say in it. It is the duty of the Government to make a quorum and to have enough persons in their seats to carry out all the measures that the Government would like to have carried out, so, co-operation with you, or sending a letter to Mr. F. G. Smith — for one, I would tell you this, I am not going to ask you any favours because I am not granting you any.

I understand what Opposition and Government politics is about. I was out there. I know how you all used to treat us. Some of our Hon. Members on this side are relatively kind. I know what you all did to us over there. We could not even get a question answered. So when the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is asking you to co-operate, I am not supporting the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister on this. There are 17 seats, we must find 16 in here to pass any measure which would affect the Constitution. That is all that we are concerned with Sir, so do not get it in the back of your heads that we are doing any favour. If a letter were sent to Mr. F. G. Smith, the then Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and you cannot find it on file, or on any of your records to that effect, well, do not come and say that we treated you badly. I will discuss certain matters on a private basis with you, but surely when it comes to in here, I am taking the stand that I can take. It is as simple as that. As a matter of fact, Sir, I am going to call the shots all like now and the Elections will be called in 1980, or 1981 because you all know when it is, the 14th July or the 7th September. You all know everything and of course, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central would have received his letter by now because somebody is always telephoning him, or writing him at 2 o'clock in the morning. I do not know if he is Shadow, he is a shadow, Shadow Haynes. At 1 o'clock in the morning he is getting a telephone call from somebody in St. Vincent sending a shadow and a bullet, all sorts of nonsense that clown over there gets up and says all the time, Sir.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on the motion of the adjournment, I believe that the position of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition *(Asides)*.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have order please.

Dr. HAYNES: Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is more than fortified by the general tone and tenor of the speech of the last Hon. Member who spoke.

The only other minor point that I would like to make is that since the Hon. Member for St. Thomas is so knowledgeable of how much it costs to speak to Mr. Eric Sealy, perhaps, he can say how much it costs to walk with him to Government House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The question that the Hon. House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 27th May, 1980 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly at 5.48 p.m.