

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock on Tuesday, 28th October, 1980.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT, and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M.

Prayers were read.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN entered the Honourable Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE and Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS entered the Honourable Chamber and took their seats.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Hon. L. S. CRAIG and Dr. R. C. HAYNES entered the Honourable Chamber and took their seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 7th October, 1980.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by hon. members, let those Minutes stand confirmed. (PAUSE). Those Minutes are confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Accountant General for the Financial Year 1979–1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980–81, No. 14

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$188 621 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980–81, Part II – Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1980–81 No. 14 which form the Schedule to the Resolution; and to amend the Explanatory Note to Head 73 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – Subhead 3.

I also beg to give notice of:

A Bill to amend certain enactments in order to provide for the better administration of elections. 12.25 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend certain enactments in order to provide for the better administration of elections be now read a first time.

Mr. ODLE: I beg to second that.

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

**RULING BY MR. SPEAKER RE VALIDITY OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE ON TUES-
DAY 23RD AND FRIDAY 26TH SEP-
TEMBER, 1980.**

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I now want to give a Ruling on the question raised by the hon. member for the constituency of St. Michael South Central as to the validity of the proceedings of this Hon. House during the sitting of Tuesday 23rd and Friday 26th September, 1980.

During the first day of the sitting of this Honourable House which began on Tuesday 16th September, 1980, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as requested by me in the terms of Standing Order 5(2), took the Chair for the remainder of the sitting I had indicated to Mr. Deputy Speaker that I was scheduled to be out of Barbados on official business until sometime during the sitting which began on Tuesday 23rd September, 1980.

Mr. Deputy Speaker accordingly took the Chair for the remainder of the sitting of Tuesday 16th September, 1980, which continued on Friday 19th September, 1980, and duly adjourned this House, on the customary motion, until Tuesday 23rd September, 1980, when he would preside in the House until I attended the sitting, on which again please refer to Standing Order 5(2). Standing Order 5(2) states that the Speaker may request the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair temporarily without any formal motion, or words to that effect.

When the sitting of Tuesday 23rd September commenced I was, as was expected, absent and, as the confirmed Minutes of the Meeting show, my absence was not announced, by the Clerk at the Table, as is provided by Standing Order 5(1). There is no suggestion that the Meeting was not properly summoned. Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair in the House. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central contends that there was thereby an infringement of Standing Order 5(1) which invalidated the proceedings at the sitting which continued on Friday 26th September, 1980.

I might here remind all Honourable Members that, under Section 41(1) of the Interpretation Act, Cap. 1, it is stated that:

"sitting" in relation to a House shall mean a period during which that House is sitting continuously without adjournment and includes any period during which the House is in Committee."

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has not (1) raised a point of order under Standing Order 32(1), or (2) stated a matter of privilege under Standing Order 76, or (3) initiated a substantive motion under Standing Order 28(4) of our Standing Orders to vitiate the proceedings which he seeks to impugn. The Honourable Member does not allege any inaccuracy in the Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 23rd September, 1980. My understanding is, in the circumstances, that the Honourable Member seeks guidance on the point which he raised on Tuesday 21st October, 1980, on the motion for the confirmation of the Minutes.

Since it is agreed by this Honourable House that Standing Order 5(1) was not observed during the sitting of Tuesday 23rd September, 1980, the issue is to determine the effect of a breach of that paragraph of the Standing Order. To my mind, the matter may be resolved under paragraph 2 of that Standing Order without any need to go further. However, under Standing Order 33 of the United Kingdom House of Commons Standing Orders relative to Public Business, there are specific restrictions on the powers of a Deputy Speaker when he is presiding in the House and the absence of the Speaker has not been formally announced. But those restrictions do not prevent the Deputy Speaker from presiding in the House of Commons when the absence of the Speaker has not been announced, nor do they invalidate a sitting in such a circumstance.

12.35 p.m.

Furthermore, May's Parliamentary Practice, 19th Edition (which, please see generally at pages 233-234 and 317-318) states at page 234:

"Whenever the Speaker has found that he would be unable to be present at the meeting of the House, he has requested the Chairman of Ways and Means to take the Chair as Deputy Speaker under S.O. 105(1) and has taken the Chair himself in the course of the sitting." Our own Representation of the People Act, Cap. 12, Section 67, provides as follows:

"The House of Assembly may, in accordance with Standing Orders, elect a Speaker and Deputy Speaker to preside at any sitting of the House."

The Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, Cap. 9, Section 2, states, *inter alia*:

"Speaker" includes the Deputy Speaker and any member for the time being presiding over the House of Assembly".

Again, the Constitution provides in Section 57(3):

"Whenever the office of Speaker is vacant or the Speaker is for any reason unable to perform any function conferred upon him by subsection 1 or by Section 55 or 56, that function may be performed by the Deputy Speaker".

The provisions of Sections 55, 56 and 57 of the Constitution include the certification of Money Bills and relate in every instance to major areas of parliamentary work. There is no difficulty in determining, therefore, the true status of the Deputy Speaker.

As the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central claims that the proceedings during the sitting of Tuesday 23rd September, 1980 are "null and void" — his words on Tuesday 21st October, 1980 — I understand him to mean that all aspects of the sitting are a nullity. Consequently, he is seeking to invalidate:

(1) the first day of the sitting which was presided over by the Deputy Speaker,

(2) the second day of the sitting which was presided over by me, and

(3) presumably, the sitting of Tuesday 30th September, 1980, to which date the House was adjourned by me on Friday 26th September, 1980 (since an adjournment at the end of a sitting which was "null and void" could hardly be valid).

Such an argument would appear to be incongruous and patently absurd since it would mean that, if the Meeting was null and void from the first day because my absence had not been announced, then, even though I was present and in the Chair on Friday 26th September, the procedural issue could not have been regularised, the whole sitting being totally void.

The contention of the Honourable Member would, therefore, invalidate the passage of all the resolutions approving salary increases and of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Bill and of the Tenancies Development Bill, unquestionably major casualties of a procedural omission, a matter which, on the interpretation advanced by the Honourable Member, should have been raised as soon as possible, and certainly not later than on Tuesday 23rd September, 1980.

A conclusion which would have such devastating consequences (and in its train bring into question the subsequent proceedings of the Other Place on the legislation) must, therefore, be the result of unequivocal and pellucidly clear requirements of the Constitution or a statute or the Standing Orders. I have found no such

requirements. I am unable to espouse such an interpretation.

During the Parliament of 1971–76 the absence of Mr. Speaker Maxwell was not announced on the 11th March, 1975 when he was first absent nor on the 17th March, 1975 when the Estimates debate began, nor on the 15th April, 1975 when he was granted 6 months leave of absence from his duties as a Member and as Speaker, nor, at any sitting after his leave expired until, for the first time on the record, on Tuesday 20th January, 1976, when the House, following the vacation of his seat as the Member for the Constituency of St. Philip-North, and on the authority of the then Governor General, elected a new Speaker. I make this point because, to pursue and accept the contention of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South-Central logically, the Appropriation Act, 1975, as an example, must then not have been properly passed by this House during the sitting of 17th March, 1975, a ludicrous conclusion to contemplate or to articulate.

What emerges from the point raised by the honourable member is that, where any Standing Order is infringed during a sitting, any member may, and should, exercise his right to draw attention, under Standing Order 32(1), to the defect or error as soon as possible so that the matter, which is in this instance purely procedural and not mandatory, may be corrected in the appropriate manner during the proceedings in which the matter arises. Thereafter the opportunity is lost and cannot be regained.

The failure of Honourable Members to take a valid point of order when it is available does not invalidate subsequent proceedings. It would be strange if a breach of a Standing Order dictated otherwise. Also, failure to take a point of order may merely indicate, at the most, tacit acquiescence by both sides of the House in a procedural flaw which, on the record, is precisely what happened on Tuesday 23rd September, 1980. 12.45 p.m.

The contention of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central therefore fails on every ground. The salaries will be paid and the tenancies will be subdivided, sold and developed as determined during the last sitting of Tuesday, the 23rd day of September, 1980.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the Instant Order of the Day. Item No. 7.

ACCIDENT COMPENSATION (REFORM) ACT, 1980

Item No. 7 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill respecting the recovery of compensation for injury caused by accident, inter alia.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Commission of the Status of Women recommended in its Report at Volume I, Page 387, "that compensation for loss of consortium be no longer based on the old common law view of the husband's proprietary rights in his wife, but that legislation should equate such rights and provide that where the husband or a wife is tortuously injured through the negligence of another person, the other spouse should be allowed to recover certain reasonable expenses incurred, for example, medical expenses."

As the law of Barbados now stands Sir, if a person is being driven by her husband in a motor car and in that car is a passenger and an accident occurs because of the negligence of the husband, despite the fact that the car is comprehensively insured, it is not possible for the wife to recover damages for her injury although that injury resulted in her being an invalid for the balance of her life.

However, Sir, if the wife was injured because of the negligence of some other person, the husband is entitled to sue that other person for the period during which the wife could not render services to the husband. If the husband is injured by the other person negligibly, the wife is not, however, entitled to sue the other person for damages during the period that she had to do without the services of the husband.

This Bill seeks to get rid, therefore, of the provision where a woman because she is a woman is placed at a disadvantage in relation to enforcing her rights in circumstances similar to those that I have outlined and at the same time it seeks to make sure that not only the husband but the wife and other members of the family will have a like right to recover damages where one of their relatives has been damaged and they have been put to expenses in caring for that person and looking after him or even out of their pockets because they no longer have his or her support.

That is essentially the purpose of this Act. It is a Reforming Act. It seeks to carry out the recommendations of the Commission of the Status of Women and to go further and create these actions of which I have spoken.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken the opportunity in this Bill to also confer on common law wives and husbands, the spouses of a common law union, the right to recover damages where that other spouse has been killed and support is no longer available to the surviving party of the

common law relationship, where the person has been killed but killed negligibly, I should add.

Let me give you a graphic case, Sir, so that you will see how we are trying to reform and improve the law to benefit several people in this country. If A and B had been living together for 40 years but had not gone through a ceremony of marriage but they have children from that union and A is the only support. He is the sole breadwinner of that household and he is on a tractor working on a plantation and because of the negligence of the tractor driver he is killed. The woman with whom he has lived for 40 years, as the law of Barbados stands today, cannot recover a cent for her future support in those circumstances. The law makes no provision for her at all under the existing Fatal Accidents Act.

This is a manner which makes others who have practised in the Courts of this Island have had to contend with and more than that, many poor people in Barbados have suffered because of this existing law which obviously cannot be considered either fair or reasonable.

We undertook when we won the Government of the country to set about achieving in the laws of Barbados as far as humanly possible equality of treatment for women and we have been seeking over the past few years not only in the Report of the Commission on the Status of Women but by implementing the recommendations of that Report to put into effect the promise which we made in our Manifesto. This is one such promise. It is an important one. It is one that should have been fulfilled long before we became the Government of this country.
12.55 p.m.

The existing Law is not only unfair to married women, in the manner in which I have outlined, but people who are in steady family relationships and unions are in danger and have been in danger of losing their bread winner through the negligence of another party without any right at all, to compensation and therefore, I believe that this Bill because of what it seeks to do and because of its importance in strengthening the rights of women and men, to some extent, in these circumstances and not giving the right to the mass of women in this country who are in common law relationships and men, for that matter, to be able to recover damages, when their common law spouse has been negligently taken away from them, through no fault of their own. I believe that it is a tremendous step forward in Law Reform and in putting right, some of the wrongs which still exist in this community.

Mr. Speaker, in Clause 2 which is the Definition Section, you would notice, that we have therefore widened the term "dependant" and a dependant who can now recover damages includes not only the wife,

or husband, but a person who is a spouse, within the meaning of the Succession Act, a person who is divorced from the deceased and is able to establish that they were still dependent on him either because of a Court Order, or for some other reason; a person who is a parent of the deceased; any person who is the child of the deceased, and that includes a child born in, or out of wedlock and any person who is the brother, sister, uncle, or aunt of the deceased. You will note Sir, that that is a wide definition and it creates almost a family right and discrimination again, against persons born out of wedlock is now being removed.

Clause 3 of the Bill establishes the right of action for the recovery of compensation, in respect of tortious act resulting in injury. Clause 4 mainly restates the Law regarding contributory negligence. Clause 5 is concerned with procedure, so that the persons sued would be certain of the number of persons who are claiming against him. Clause 6 lists the persons who can bring an action. Clause 7 is a very important Clause, Sir, particularly as this Act binds the Crown. At present, Sir, if the Transport Board bus negligently knocks down a person, the action against the Transport Board and its driver must be brought within one year. The purpose of this Clause is now to give the person a longer period of time, three years within which to sue.

Clause 8 gives guidance to the court about the heads of damages and it extends the sort of damages which are involved. Clause 9, I will say a little bit more on, in Committee, Sir, but I am going to move an amendment to that Clause. Clause 10 deals with apportionment. Clause 11 abolishes the archaic rule, whereby a husband is entitled to claim compensation for loss of consortium, where his wife is injured by another, but the wife is not so entitled. We are now giving both an entitlement. Clause 12 abolishes the Common Law rule whereby a parent is entitled to claim damages for enticement, harbouring, or loss of services of his child. Instead of that, we are making a family right to claim, where there is a loss of services. Clause 13 means that this Act, unlike the existing Act, binds the Crown whether the Crown is acting through an agency, a public authority like the Transport Board, or otherwise.

I believe Sir, that the Accident Compensation Reform Bill is clearly a significant piece of social legislation and although it may be in legal language, its significance is that it will benefit the laymen and the laywomen in a meaningful way and help to reform defects in the Law, which at present discriminate against them and denies them some rights.

The fundamental significance of the Bill lies in the fact, that for the first time, in Barbados, and in the Commonwealth Caribbean, the dependants of an injured person will be entitled to recover their pecuniary loss,

consequent upon that injury. In the socio-economic conditions in Barbados, in which the extended family is a long standing reality, in my view, this Bill is very relevant and very important.

I therefore have pleasure in moving, that it be now read a second time.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 8 inclusive were called and passed.
1.05 p.m.

Clause 9 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that clause 9 stand part, I beg to move that the amendments circulated with this Bill be the amendments to clause 9.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 10 to 15 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee with amendments, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE CIVIL LIABILITY (CONTRIBUTION) ACT, 1980

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, this may be considered as reforming what is known as lawyers' law, since the concepts are usually concepts dealt with by lawyers.

The present Statute law in Barbados regarding contribution between joint parties is contained in Cap. 204 or our laws. Mr. Speaker, if A and B are driving along the road independently and they both cause damage to you rather at the same time or immediately after each other,

by their negligent act you have a right to sue them both, and the amount of damage which you may recover from them can be apportioned between them according to the amount for which the court holds them liable. That is the concept of contribution between Tortfeasors. The law in Barbados like the law in England up to 1978 is defective in many respects. England had changed its law in 1935 to remedy some of the defects and the law in Barbados has frequently changed, like in the 1953-15 Act, to remedy the similar effect, but since England had left in some other loopholes Barbados at the time left in other loopholes, but the change in 1935 may have worked reasonably well so far as it went, but it was of no assistance to persons who settled out of court, and the persons who may not be liable at all could not recover a contribution and cannot recover a contribution under the 1953 Act merely by reason of the settlement.

As a result this Bill seeks to improve the position, to close those loopholes to allow the joint Tortfeasor beyond a person liable for a joint breach of contract not to pay the full amount, and the injured party to be able at the same to recover the amount on a proportionate part from the other person liable. This Bill extends that concept to breaches of trust. That is the purpose of this Bill. I think the legal persons in the House should have no difficulty with this Bill.

I therefore move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.
1.15 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 10 inclusive were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (STATUTORY FUNCTIONS) ACT, 1980

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 stands in the name of the Hon. Attorney General to move the second reading of

a Bill to provide for the performance of certain statutory functions by the Solicitor General of Barbados.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, as a result of the fusion of the Legal Profession in Barbados in 1973, it has become necessary for us to revise our views concerning the manner in which the office of the Attorney General has operated up to date and we have therefore agreed to integrate into one office the Crown Solicitor's Department and the Solicitor General's Department, and in future the Solicitor General will remain as the principal Civil Service Officer responsible to the Attorney General for giving advice to the Government and the various Departments of Government, and also those bodies that are in a quasi-governmental relationship, but in respect of them only in relation to such issues as might affect Government policies. In short, Sir, we would only advise institutions such as the Central Bank or the Insurance Corporation on matters that may be policy issues because each of them has independently its own legal advisers, but there are certain matters of Government policy that from time to time are referred to us in the Attorney General's Chambers for advice rather than to their own independent legal advisers. Such matters will continue to come to the Solicitor General's Department.

In the Department, Sir, we will continue to keep a Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Miss Bannister who has principal responsibility although she is on the same status as the Solicitor General for the drafting of laws and legislation in general, and herself and her department will be available to this House to give guidance to you Mr. Speaker, or any members of the House or the Chairman of Committees on any matter concerning drafting of the statutes, always of course the final responsibility resting in the Attorney General. Although we are therefore abolishing the post of Crown Solicitor, we are still keeping his department with responsibility for looking after conveyances and all of the other numerous matters like matters of contract which formerly went before the Crown Solicitor's Department. That Department will now be headed under the Solicitor General by a Deputy Solicitor General — Conveyancing, and we will continue to have immediately under the Solicitor General a Deputy Solicitor General with responsibility over the other civil matters.

This provides me with an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to say that for the first time since we have an independent constitution in Barbados in 1966, legal steps have been taken to not only make it appear but to provide a separate staff by way of Civil Establishment Order for the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Prior to September 25 or 26, the date on which the salaries went through, the Director of Public Prosecutions used the staff which was provided generally for the Attorney General's Office, and I have always felt that constitutionally it should be but proper that the Director

of Public Prosecutions should have his own independent staff by way of its own independent Civil Establishment Order.
1.25 p.m.

That has been done and now you will see that we have restructured his staff in such a way that he will no longer rely on officers being assigned from the general area called the Attorney General to himself.

In addition, Sir, in relation to the Director of Public Prosecutions, we are ensuring that there is an increase in staff available to him. A lot of people in Barbados misunderstand. Some of them genuinely, others deliberately, the difference in roles between the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions, and, Mr. Speaker, you would have been aware of various discussions going on on the correct role which an Attorney General must adopt in relation to criminal matters.

In the Constitution of Barbados the Director of Public Prosecutions can say whether to institute proceedings, whether to discontinue proceedings and can give directions subject to certain limitations in the Police Act to the Commissioner of Police on the matter of investigating crimes.

The Attorney General of Barbados has no such powers. I am not a Mr. Keith Edward Walcott who in his day in this House had all of the power of an Attorney General in England. The Attorney General under the new 1966 Constitution certainly had some powers independent of his Cabinet colleagues, which, if he is a man and not a mouse, he would exercise and thank God I am in a Cabinet and in a Government with colleagues who although they might not always agree with my views have appreciated the independent role which an Attorney General has to take but in so far as criminal work is concerned, like for instance the murder case that has been a *cause celebre* in this Island an Attorney General, despite what might be said on political platforms for short term political purposes, an Attorney General has not got the powers of that nature and cannot deal with them and there is no way as long as I have the honour to be in that office that I would exercise unconstitutionally any assumed powers in order for short term political gain, no matter how much people might try to hammer me. I have said so before and I will repeat it and I want to emphasise it more strongly that Attorney Generals have had to take this stand on several occasions when they realise that they must act within the law.

My office is now in the process of writing a small brochure on the Role and Functions of an Attorney General and I hope to make this available at a Conference on Attorney Generals in Latin America and the Caribbean sometime next month in Venezuela but I hope it will be published soon because it would help to educate

some misguided people who have gone around this country misrepresenting the role of the independent Attorney General in an Independent Barbados and who prefer short term political gain and nonsense to be talked from political platforms rather than safeguarding the independent role which such a citizen must display subject to limitation under the Constitution.

There are only six or eight areas, I believe, in which an Attorney General can give a direction to the Director of Public Prosecutions. That came about because in 1974 the Democratic Labour Party changed the Constitution to give back to the Attorney General powers to direct the Director of Public Prosecutions to act or not to act in cases of piracy, breaches that may involve International relations to Barbados, I think one was slave labour, or something like that, and a few other sort of innocuous areas.

The Constitutional Commission has recommended against this and I hope that the Government will in due course accept that recommendation despite the fact that one may feel that it is necessary to have this sort of power remaining in the hands of a political person. We are a small country and if there is one thing that recent events have taught me, certainly, is the sort of political manipulation that can occur in circumstances where people are looking only for their short-term political gain to force a decision that they may want one way or another.

I have had to challenge the talk on political platforms on this issue. I expect I will get a lot more, Sir, but the Constitution demands certain courses of action and we will take this course of action according to the Constitution if I have anything to do with it at all, despite the call for my resignation by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that I resign over various cases, Sir, himself and his new cohort, but I credit the hon. member for St. Michael South Central as being a good doctor. I credit him with having no legal sense at all but when it comes to medicine he knows his position so when he calls for my resignation as Attorney General, it is simply because he does not understand so he wants to make a little bit of sport so he goes up in my constituency and says that the Attorney General is not exercising his powers and he should resign but when I get a few legal persons in his Party who ought to understand the law and have proven themselves totally idiots on this point, Sir, I really must at times try to correct them about the Constitution of Barbados and I would recommend to them not to allow what they believe as short term political pluses to lead them down the path that they do not respect the provisions of the Constitution of Barbados and the role which the Attorney General has to play.

I took the opportunity to clarify that point, Sir, and I want to repeat it. I cannot tell the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Commissioner of Police to prosecute or not prosecute someone for murder. I can tell them so but they could ignore me because in law I have no power to give them directions. I cannot give directions to the Commissioner of Police or to the Director of Public Prosecutions to arrest or bring any member of this House or any citizen before the Law Courts because I do not have that power constitutionally. The Constitution does not confer it on me. The Laws of Barbados do not confer it on me and therefore I do not have the power. I would be usurping power illegally which would be wrong according to the Constitution of this country and that is one of the reasons why I have to hammer this constantly.

If the Democratic Labour Party on the other hand want their Attorney General to act contrary to the Constitution they could wait until 2086 when they get back into power to try and do so.

1.35 p.m.

But the point remains that I cannot. I do not have that power, Sir, I really do not have it. I believe that they genuinely know it and yet, they persist particularly the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central in sitting on the platform, when he hears nonsense being talked by some of his colleagues and not getting up and saying that the Attorney General is right on this point, he has not got that sort of power and we do not want the Constitution of Barbados to be bridged. I do not hear that, not that I want anybody to defend me. I am capable of defending myself in company in this Honourable House, either verbally, or otherwise, Sir, in this Honourable House, or out of this Honourable House. The only defence which I have, Mr. Speaker, is yourself to rule when I am in and out of order. So, I am not really asking for any quarters, or any sympathies on these issues.

I just want the public to understand that the days of the Edward Keith Walcott, as Attorney-General ceased to exist when the Constitution was changed in 1966. I am not even in a position similar to my colleague the Attorney General of England, who has the final word in prosecution and who can even direct his D.P.P., although he does not do that *nol-pros* a person into a *nolle prosequi*, or indeed to prosecute a particular person. I am not even in the fortunate position of my friends in New Zealand who are in a similar situation. Our written Constitution prevents that.

This Bill then, Sir, is streamlining the Civil Service structure to try to improve an integrated legal service Sir. Let me say, Sir, that I would always be one to contend that we have to provide additional offices, in the Attorney General's Chambers, that Chambers is now

today, the biggest law office, law chambers in Barbados. It advises on more legal matters and on a wider of issues and problems, than any law firm in Barbados does. The sort of volume of matters, the complexity of the matters are as wide, as any in the United Kingdom, the United States, the U.S.S.R., or any other country. We advise from the simplest thing, as to the liability of the Crown for a negligent act of a driver of the Crown, to the most complex issues of Constitutional Law, to the most difficult issues of contracts between the Government and International Financial Institutions.

In the whole range of these issues, the Solicitor General is the principal adviser to myself and finally, I have to take the responsibility for them. We have an independent role, Mr. Speaker, which you yourself have appreciated and in this Honourable House, the Attorney General has the role as a legal adviser to the Honourable House, if the Honourable House so wishes, Sir, advice on any issue. If Hon. Members are in doubt of the functions of the Attorney General in that regard, I will refer them to an article by the Hon. Sam Silkin the former Attorney General of England and Wales in the last Labour Government which appears in the 59th Edition of the *Parliamentarian*, No. 3 of July, 1978, in which he sets out quite carefully, the functions and position of an Attorney General in England. I will warn them Sir, not to follow that article slavishly and believe that his functions there are the same, as the functions here because our Opposition differ in some respects, but it is a useful document to show his relationship to the Honourable House and the independent role which he must play, when he is acting as legal adviser to the Honourable House, Sir.

I have been lucky to have under me, Solicitor General Oliver Browne, who has served both the past Government and this Government outstandingly. He is now retired from the Service to go into private practice and I believe, that every Attorney General under whom he has served can say, that they could leave the office to him and rely implicitly on his advice and opinion and I now have Mr. Tullock, who is of the same oath. We also have a series of rather outstanding and dedicated legal persons in our office Sir, who outside of the glare of the headlights of the Law Courts are able to give the Government advice which is generally sound.

I want to say, that I am well known for putting a case for improved remuneration for the law officers of the Crown and although we have been lucky to have some regrading of one, or two posts, there are still various matters which are outstanding in the Ministry of Establishment. We are waiting on a final decision from the Hon. Minister in charge of Establishment on these questions because until we are able to remunerate the lawyers, particularly those in the middle range adequately, we are not going to keep Barbadians in the

legal service. It is too sensitive a service not to be able to maintain them and that is why we have had some regrading. Indeed, I believe that candidly, legal officers would admit, that since the last four years, they have had movement on questions, that they had been raising for 15 years and on which they could get no decision, in some instances. Therefore, the regrading of these officers is important. I am happy for the increase which has been given in some areas. We are still continuing to look at the necessity for Government to have additional counsel. We have also started training, in the office, Sir, and I am happy to say that last year, we sent two people up to Cave Hill to do the Degree in Drafting and there are another two this year and conceivably, we will go on with this programme for years to come. So that, not only persons in the legal drafting section division, but those in what was formerly the Crown Solicitor's Division would also be qualified in legal drafting.

We also are aiming to send overseas for training, some officers in the field of taxation, income tax, double taxation agreements. In fact, the whole area of Government financial management, from a legal aspect is becoming extremely important and it is necessary for us therefore, to try to create genuine specialists in this department.

Mr. Speaker, whilst I am on it, Sir, let me take an instance to show you the value of a law officer to the Crown. The Deputy Solicitor General, Mr. Davis and myself re-negotiated the contract for the expansion of the Deep Water Harbour with one of the main contractors. The contractor had been summoned and they were contending certain things. We re-negotiated that and as a result, the Government was able to get, I think it was something like 14 additional acres of land and to save itself half million U.S. dollars in expense. Were we in private practise, the fees for that would exceed the Attorney General's salary, either post 1980, or now in 1980 by three times and in one legal case alone, we would have been able to earn three times what they pay me per year to be an Hon. Minister of the Government. We negotiated a contract with the Orion Bank dealing with a loan to the Government. We did all of this. We had to negotiate hard to change conditions which the former Government would accept as standard form and which were contrary, in my view, to the sovereignty of Barbados. We negotiated successfully. It involved raising some US\$10 million. The local lawyer here for Orion Bank came in after the negotiation to make sure that the document was in order. That form of Attorney's fees was \$45,000.00. I am only giving one of the examples. My fee was being cursed on the platform by some of the people. That was my remuneration, Sir. You know, Sir, we are doing several matters which involve millions of dollars. Sometimes, we have short notice to do them and it

amazes me, that you can then hear people get up and say that you are paying Hon. Ministers..... they are drawing too much money for what they are doing.

Now, let me give you an instance, two members of the Democratic Labour Party including one who has just been chosen as a candidate appeared for five weeks, for half days in the Pele case paid by the Government and for five weeks, on an average of three half days per week their remuneration was \$25,000.00. Yet, these people have the gumption to get up and criticise an Hon. Minister of the Government who is going to be paid for doing more than they can do in five weeks, without thanks, Sir. That is part of it, Sir. The sort of thing which you get in this country. They have the gumption to get up and criticise the Hon. Minister of Government who has the total responsibility, not as heavy a duty, as the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, but a responsibility for all of the Government legal work and for the times, for instance, now we are involved in one case, in which we are seeking to recover for the Crown, \$692,000.00 in tax.

1.45 p.m.

I do not want to discuss the merits of the case, but if we succeed and the Treasury gets back \$692,000 in tax, the Attorney General and the Crown Law Officer who has been working weekends with him up there and late on evenings, get a cursing from the platform by some members of the Opposition, not decent people like the hon. member for St. Michael South, he speaks and debates issues, not personalities, but they would curse me for something like that. The lawyers on the other side would no doubt charge their clients at least 10%, \$70,000, more than my whole salary in here for a year. You see, people should understand these sorts of things.

I take mine as a classic instance, because I can equate the salary they pay for an Attorney General, whereas for instance the Minister of Education has no counterpart outside, but he works as hard if not harder than I do, just like all other Ministers do, and you will get the sort of trite, foolish criticisms as though people go up there and stick their thumbs in their mouths and do nothing. They ought to know that on weekends my officers and I work up there, weekends, nights, any time. Once the Government has business we have to get up and do it, and if there is one thing a member of the Opposition cannot say, because the hon. member sees me at times going to work too, every day by 8.15, sometimes at 7 o'clock, to go to that office and I am there sometimes till 9 o'clock working for the people to be cursed by some of the members of the Opposition as though somebody came in here begging for a few dollars to rob the public Treasury. That is the sort of cheap politics that they are reduced to. I do not believe any one of them over there has any bigger ability in their profession than I certainly had in mine in my day, and I know the

value. I do not want to discuss the hon. members' earnings, but I do not think that it is a principle for you to give the public that sort of approach, and that is why I am using this opportunity to say it.

A Minister is in a completely different position, they are other Members of Parliament, because each one of us had to give up our practice. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central got in here and said that he could give away his salary. I gave away mine when I was on the other side, but I was earning. Let him be a Minister of Government that he cannot go and practise — although I do not believe that they did that all the time, not the hon. member in all fairness to him — let him be a Minister of Government where he has to fulfil his obligations to his family and to depend on his salary only, and I will want to hear his voice speaking, Sir. I know that he is solid. You hear the bar is solid sometimes, Sir, but he is solid otherwise, or he can rely on his dividends and what not, but each member cannot necessarily do so and therefore you cannot put it on himself or myself only, each member cannot necessarily do so and therefore one has to have the position where if you are expecting Ministers to work in this way and to give a lead — and my office is a classic example of this — then they must be paid properly. Just as I argue for paying the lawyers in the Attorney General's Office adequately, and they are entitled to be paid adequately, Sir, that is the point I am making and I do not want to stray too far from this Bill, I am saying that I am looking forward to adequate remuneration for the lawyers in the Department, because the salaries of lawyers in the Government Service today are not in keeping with what the profession can earn outside, and unless we can give conditions of service that would remunerate with the lesser standards outside we will not be able to keep them, so if you cannot give them the same salary you must at least give them some other compensating factors in order to keep them there. Better conditions for training, they must be able to get certain necessary allowances and their pensions must be pitted at an area that they cannot lose eventually. I believe that those principles apply as much to them as they apply to the Ministers of Government.

This is a simple Bill, Sir, I am sorry I have gone on so long on it, and I beg to move that it be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 2 o'clock. This sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised that there are no Replies to Questions ready. That brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Private Members' Business.

Item No. 1 under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to continue consideration on the passing of a Resolution taking note of the report of the Commissioner of Enquiry on Gambling and calling upon Government to end the operation of one-arm bandit machines in Barbados.

When the time for Private Members' Business expired, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central was addressing the Chair.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, there is one final point I wanted to make in answer to the statements of the introducer of this Resolution, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member would give way for a moment. (*Mr. SPEAKER consulted with the Clerk at the Table.*)

The hon. member may proceed.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I was trying to conclude last time, but I did not quite. I was dealing with one point the hon. member made in relation to the amount of money that it is alleged passes in this activity. There is

some confusion in the mind of the hon. member obviously, because I notice that in this House he said \$18 million was the turnover. Subsequently I saw in another place purporting to be under his signature that the amount is \$80 million, and I would just like to point out, Sir, in answer to this point that if you multiply 365 by 542 by 404, it is fairly obvious that such a calculation has no pretensions of accuracy. I defy anyone to prove that a one-arm bandit situated in St. Lucy, and I know there is one down there, or at Lodge Road in Christ Church, or the ones in St. Andrew would make the same turnover as one situated in a hotel in Barbados. It is like asking me, Mr. Speaker, to say that there are 100 doctors practising in Barbados 365 days in a year, and that each one can see 30 patients a day and therefore one arrives at a gross income of doctors. Obviously there are varying degrees of earnings from particular machines having regard to their situations.

I also state categorically that it is untrue to say that one-arm bandits are open to the public for 365 days a year. I have made a careful check in my own constituency, and there are probably 15 to 20 in my constituency and on a check not one of them was open on Sundays. I have also asked some of the agencies that are under my control about this, and in the vast majority of cases they are not available on Sundays. So that to arrive at the true figure of the turnover of one-arm bandits necessitates a much more detailed examination than a superficial view of the hon. member.

I should also point out, Sir, that the income tax authorities in this country are charged by Statute to carry out the most rigorous examination of all forms of activity which are taxable, and I would advise the hon. member that if he has information which he thinks will be of use to the tax authorities, that as a private citizen, and indeed as a legislator, it is his duty to inform the relevant authorities. As I conclude, I should like to underscore the point that no politician sits in the Licensing Committee. The responsibility for the enforcement, the regulation of this piece of legislation in relation to one-arm bandits, in relation to instant cricket money games, in relation to bingo, in relation to all forms of activity within the Gambling Act in Barbados rest with a Committee which is staffed by senior public servants. They are open to suggestions by any member of the public. If there are any allegations of impropriety, it is the public duty to communicate with this authority, and I am confident that this authority will carry out its duties in the manner in which the Statutory provisions make clear to them, and it is because of this objective body for regulatory purposes that I believe the Commissioners felt confident that all of the wild allegations of illegal activity were not substantiated.

I should also like to say, Sir, that one can also upon examination of the report find absolutely no

suggestion in the report supporting the view that one-arm bandits in Barbados have led to a rise in criminal activity. These allegations were the subject of the most exhaustive examination. I believe the Social Welfare Officer was specifically questioned by the Committee on this, and the Committee concluded that there was absolutely nothing to substantiate this. I myself have also had access to the statistics from the crime prevention panel in Barbados, I have had several meetings with the Commissioner of Police in my capacity as Minister of Tourism, and there is absolutely no suggestion at all from any of the statistics in any of the types of crime that any increase in crime that there has been in Barbados has been motivated by the need to get money to be able to play one-arm bandits. So that these allegations are easy to make but exceedingly difficult to prove, and I prefer to err with the facts as have been carefully been investigated by an independent committee than with the imagination of the hon. member.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that this Resolution is being discussed in this Honourable Chamber at this time. I would venture to suggest that never in the history of Barbados has the moral conscience of this society been challenged in the way it has been challenged in recent times. I am suggesting that the whole idea of the operations of the one-arm bandits is one such issue which is confronting the society.

Now there has been a lot said about one-arm bandits. We have heard one-arm bandits being debated from the political platforms, we have heard statements coming from the pulpits in the churches, community groups have discussed the moral, social, economic and political implications of the one-arm bandit operations, the trade union, certainly the Barbados Workers' Union has had its say on what it conceives to be the social and economic implications of the one-armed bandits.
2.55 p.m.

The Barbados Youth Council has also commented on the one-armed bandits and the foregone conclusion of the various groups that have expressed opinions on the one-armed bandit operations in Barbados is that the one-armed bandit operations seriously affect in a very negative way the moral, economic and social fibre of this society.

We have heard and certainly evidence can be produced to demonstrate the kind of effect which those persons who play the one-armed bandits and are bread-winners in the family, that is, persons on whom families rely for their financial and material sustenance the kind of effect which the playing of one-armed bandits has had on their family life in breaking it up in areas.

We have also had situations where workers have been taken to Court for withholding money belonging to their employers and when the matter has been investigated as, for example, I know of two bus conductors, one went to Court and was found guilty or misappropriating money belonging to the Transport Board and she said that she lost all of it in the playing of one-armed bandits and so, Sir, I think that these are matters which we have to be aware of.

Pensioners have also fallen victims of the operation of the one-armed bandits in that they have been enticed into playing and indeed throwing away their pensions in this kind of operation.

There is no doubt also and indeed evidence has been produced to substantiate the charge that children even although the law as I understand it prohibits persons under the age of 18 from the playing of one-armed bandits, there is evidence to suggest that children far under the age of 18 have been engaged in playing of the one-armed bandits so that I think that you have to examine this Resolution in the context of these observations and indeed the whole implications with the playing of these one-armed bandits in Barbados and what they would mean for the society.

Perhaps it would be good, Mr. Speaker, just to suggest a definition for a bandit and last week I checked the Oxford Concise Dictionary and that dictionary describes a bandit as an outlaw, or a robber, or a murderer, or a gangster. Sir, we are talking in terms of these machines in these terms as being gangsters, robbers, performing the kind of activities that gangsters would do. They are actually people who play the bandits.

I want, Mr. Speaker, to substantiate this charge which I make by referring to a book which has been published on Gambling and a book which I am sure that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is very much aware of because I have had the privilege of hearing him quote from it in this Chamber from time to time and it is a fully, revised, expanded, updated Edition of John Scarne's Complete Guide To Gambling and the flyleaf of that book, Mr. Speaker, says as follows, and I quote:—

"As Gambling Consultant to several Governments and many of the World's top casinos Scarne knows the world of gambling from the inside and has an access to its inner most secret. The gambling knowledge he has acquired in 40 years of study and close contact with big time gamblers and casino operators is all here in the most authoritative comprehensive book on gambling ever written."

Now this John Scarne was interviewed by the Gambling Commission which was set up in Barbados and reference was made to his opinion on page 155 of this

Report which has been made public and No. 24 of the observations of those Commissioners who favoured the banning of the machines is as follows:—

"John Scarne — an international authority on gambling — both in his *New Complete Guide to Gambling* and in a personal interview with the Commission thinks that gaming machines exercise a harmful influence on individuals. He tactfully suggested that they were not suitable for a one-crop developing economy like Barbados."

Now the same authority in giving his advice to slot players or to one-armed bandit players says as follows in his book, *New Complete Guide to Gambling*, Page 80, this new updated book on gambling and it states as follows and I quote:—

"As a Gambling Consultant, I see a great many gamblers every day. The biggest gambling fool I have ever encountered is the slot machine degenerate who feeds the machines for hours at a time day in and day out in the belief that he can make a killing.

Of the thousands upon thousands of slot players I have seen here and in other countries, I cannot recall one who ever quit a small winner over a long period of playing time, slot sheets excluded, but I can recall easily the names of a dozen slot degenerates who lost fortunes vainly trying to beat the slot.

At a Caribbean Casino I once overheard a woman slot player making an old familiar slot player's complaint to the casino host, Allan Cantor. Mr. Cantor I just dropped \$20 in that quarter machine and only got four quarters back. Don't these slot machines ever pay off' and his reply was classic. "Lady they sure do. They pay the casinos' rent, their light bill, all the casinos' employees salaries and including half a million dollars a year in profits. Sure they do pay off."

And Scarne, this is my last piece of advice to the degenerate slot player who thinks he can beat the one-armed bandit consists of four little words, "It can't be done."

3.05 p.m.

Now, I think that when we get that kind of authoritative analysis of slot machine or one armed bandits playing in Barbados, or in any country and particularly in a developing country, one has to be very careful and certainly, I think that any reasonable person would sympathise with the position which has been put by those persons who have expressed some horror and indeed, some shock and indeed, some concern about the

insidious way the one armed bandit has found its way into the whole as it were culture of Barbadian way of life. I think that we ought to be very concerned about this.

The charge has been made and I think that it has been substantiated, certainly by Scarne, observations that the one-armed bandits are rigged. I recall that when this charge was made earlier on, some two or so years ago, maybe three years ago, by the Barbados Workers' Union in one of its statements, that some one-armed bandits operators got one of their lawyers and I think that it was the hon. member for St. Philip North who wrote the usual, what can be described as lawyers' trite to the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union asking for an apology at having slandered the one-armed bandits operators and calling for payment of a certain sum of money, within a particular time failing which, he would be taken to court and sued. Of course, that threat was suitably ignored and nothing more has been heard of it. But, I think that it would be interesting for the challenge to be taken up because I think that it can be established fairly clearly, without a shadow of a doubt, that the machines are rigged and the people are really ripped off and taken for a ride having been led to believe that they can win on the one-armed bandits.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, I have heard the hon. member for St. Joseph, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works claiming that the takings of the machines are declining and yet, we do not hear him produce any kind of information to demonstrate this. I believe that if he, or anybody is in any position to say that the takings of the one-armed bandits are on the decline, we should be supplied in this Honourable Chamber with the kind of information which would be convincing. For example, what were the takings of the one-armed bandits over a particular period, let us say, 1977, and then on a particular monthly basis. Let us see what the position is, so that we can really verify this for ourselves. But, I believe that on that particular occasion, that he was certainly talking through his hat and certainly, he demonstrated that he was a supporter of the one-armed bandit operations.

Any concerned Barbadian, Mr. Speaker, must express a point of view on the one-armed bandit. I believe that all of us would have encountered persons who have lost hundreds of dollars, money which they can ill afford, they have literally thrown it away into the one-armed bandits, with the hope that they would be able to get more money out of this chance which they have been taking and the whole psychology of the one-armed bandit operation, I think has an effect and plays on the psychology and on the mind of those persons who have become addicted to the one-armed bandit machines and could indeed have the effect of

luring people, who might not be strong enough to resist the pull of the one-armed bandit, to the machines because if you go into one of these places where the machines are set up, even the way in which the place is laid out with the machine blinking lights and of various colours, I am satisfied that not only were technicians and computer scientists involved in this, but I believe that they had the advice of psychologists and psychiatrists in the whole set up and arrangement of the one-armed bandit machines because one could see the kind of play.

The whole aim is to affect the mind and as it were weaken the mind, break down the resistance of an individual, so that he would go, or she would go and play the machines because it is so encouraging, there is so much allurements for the potential player and I think that we have got to protect people from themselves. I believe that this should be one of the objectives of the Government to this particular exercise and I would suggest Mr. Speaker, that not only should the Government take serious note of the Report and the observations which have been made in the Commission's Report, but certainly of the points which have been made by the Opposition and of concerned persons in the society and do something about it.

We feel that the one-armed bandits do nothing to enhance the social, economic and cultural life of Barbados. It does nothing. There is nothing positive about the operations of the one-armed bandits. All of the contributions which the one-armed bandits can make are of a negative nature and we feel Mr. Speaker, that we could find something better to do, than to be still involved in having one-armed bandits operating in this country and it is for this reason that I will support the intentions of this Resolution, which I suggest are intended to restore some kind of dignity to the moral fibre of the society.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject of the one-armed bandits is a highly emotive one and I wish to deal with it most, at the emotive level and at the technical level. In the Honourable House, the tone of the debate has been rather at the technical level and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that it would be hard to quarrel with the tone of speeches which we have heard in here. Certainly, I think that the Hon. Member for St. Lucy has made an excellent contribution to the debate, however mistakenly are his views, they are his views and I am sure that they are honestly held.

The hon. Member for St. Michael South Central made some good points but the unfortunate thing about the one-armed bandits is that in the Honourable House of Assembly, where remarks can be dealt with on the Floor, one type of debate is indulged, but on political platforms, in the other places, a very different picture is presented and when I think that the Caribbean Broadcasting

Corporation has carried reports of political meetings at which wild, and most unsubstantiated things are said and that the persons who said those things at political meetings are afraid to come into the Honourable House, I wonder if that does not tell us something not about the character of the one-armed bandits, but about the character of the person making these statements.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this debate is about the Commission on Gambling. I have heard a minority report read out in here and given every conceivable way. I have heard it said how one of the Commissioners, Mr. Basil Forbes was against the one-armed bandits. Now, I say as a fact, that Mr. Basil Forbes, in public has said that he would support casino gambling in Barbados. It will be found in the records of the Advocate newspaper and yet, he is one of the people who we are now told is against the one-armed bandits. I just drew an example of that Sir, I am not being critical of the gentleman.

There are certain ways of approaching the Commission's Report and reports. There is an honest way and a dishonest way and the honest way is to present a balanced picture. I recall that the Hon. Member for St. James had to point out in all the recital of what churches were against gambling and against the one-armed bandits. The Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central made no mention of the fact that the Report pointed out that the Anglican churches and the Roman Catholic churches are perhaps the two biggest denominations in Barbados, certainly, the Anglican is the biggest are not against gambling and indeed, there is nothing in the Bible against gambling.

3.15 p.m.

I challenge any Minister on earth to tell me otherwise. It is a matter of a church's view, the Bible indeed gives sanction to the casting of lots for the purpose of dividing property on debt. You will find something like 17 references in the Bible — I have an old Prudence concordance which even though it is 300 years old does not prevent it from being accurate — and I went to the trouble to check the references to the casting of lots.

Now, I say this not to say that the Bible is in favour of gambling, but to say that there can be two opinions. There are certain churches which have specifically directed their attention to the question of gambling. Certain fundamentalist churches are against it, certain rather more catholic churches set out conditions under which the faithful may gamble, and I believe those are set out in the report, and the faithful are enjoined not to use money for gambling that should be used for family support and so on, but gambling is recognised by the Anglican and Catholic Churches as a form of recreation, and, Mr. Speaker, while paying full respect to the speech of the hon. member for St.

Lucy, the fact that you can have these opinions about the bandits, it is all in the end a matter of taste.

Now, since the House is asked to take note of the Report of the Commission, I think that we should take note, and I think that the Commission has done an extremely good job in analysing gambling in Barbados, and in due course I intend to move an amendment to this Resolution seeking to congratulate the Commission on its careful study and its careful analysis, but I am not going to go over every single paragraph in it. It recommended abolishing Instant Money, it made certain recommendations. They have all been forwarded to the Betting and Gaming Committee for its attention. In due course that Committee, which is headed by the Comptroller of Customs, contains the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, contains the Solicitor General, contains the Senior Assistant Secretary for Revenue in the Ministry of Finance, and I think also it contains a representative of the Welfare Department; that Committee will make its recommendations to Government and Government will decide how far it can implement them.

Steps have already been taken to restrict the expansion of the one-armed bandits, the gambling machines, into small shops along the lines set out by the Commission, and a census of the machines has been called for by the Ministry of Finance in order to determine how many machines, so to speak, are available in relation to the number of licences which have been issued, because many more premise licences have been issued in Barbados than are machines available. Hotels have applied for permission to have the machines but they have not got the machines, and there may be others, but I believe that indeed following the Commission's report there may even be an arcade which is allowed to but has not got machines and therefore cannot open, so this is being done.

To that extent the work on the recommendations of the Commission is being followed. The recommendations are also being followed in that the Commission found, and it was a Commission with more than one priest on it and other persons connected with churches, the Commission found that the effects were not disruptive of the social life of the country, that they were not harmful and that they should be allowed to continue under certain conditions, and the Government intends to follow that recommendation. Let there be no doubt about that.

Now, I turn to a number of wild and unsubstantiated statements made about the operation of gambling machines in Barbados. I do not know whether the hon. member means a figure of 18 or whether he means 80 million, and I do not indeed want to get into the technicalities of it, a large sheet of paper was received

in the Ministry of Finance apparently from persons connected with the machines. I have retained these papers because I am going to send them to the Commission as soon as this debate is over. I was sent a cable from the Atlantic Maritime Services who sell the Bally machines, it is signed by the Vice President of Operations. I never asked for it, Mr. Speaker, it just was sent quite voluntarily.

Perhaps I will say something about the system, because the hon. member for St. Michael South West in conversation with the hon. member for St. Michael South Central can recall saying how you can talk about rigging machines if you do not have standards. What are they rigging against? There is no control on what the machines should pay out, so how can you speak about rigging when the operators decide to pay out what they want, and that part of the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South West which accords with recommendations of the Commission is a part which I regard as sensible, that a standard must be set.

Now, the people who supply the machines say that the machines which were sent to Barbados that they know of, that they pay out the following percentages, depending on the number of spools and symbols: 87.83%, 78.03%, 81.60%, and apparently there is a machine that pays out 66.37%. There is another one that pays out 79%.

Now, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, however well known he may be for careful diagnoses in another sphere, has never been known as a person who hesitates to say something even though it is manifestly absurd. I will just suggest to the hon. member that if he believes as a matter of practice that anybody who operates the machines only pays out 10%, then he really should not be talking about this subject at all. It is a matter of common sense that unless money comes out of the machine from time to time people will not put their money in, and like many persons who play the machines who do not understand mathematics, the hon. member perhaps is failing to grasp that the essence of a one-armed bandit is that it will take all your money, not 90%, you must lose all. Do not fool yourself, whether the pay out is 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, you will inevitably lose all your money, you must lose it once you go on playing, and I said so when I introduced the legislation, but it is nothing to do with the pay out ratio, it is that if the machine pays out 80% and you put in \$5, at the end of the \$5 on average you will have \$4. If you then go and put back in the \$4 you are going to have \$3.20. If you put that \$3.20 in you are going to have \$2.50, you will progressively lose, and the percentage determines only the speed at which you lose.

3.25 p.m.

The hon. member understands what I mean. You will progressively lose and the percentage determines only the speed at which you lose. Now clearly you can win a jackpot and put the money in your pocket. Equally clearly you can put in two coins, win \$5.00 and put the money in your pocket and stop. In other words, it is up to the player, not the machine. The machine is there to take all the player's money, and it is up to the player how much he is prepared to win or lose. The machines do not sent and call anybody; they do not reach out in Marhill Street and drag you in. When you get in there the machine does not have an arm to go in your pocket. It is up to you how you play the machine.

I myself wonder if there is any machine anywhere in the world that pays out ten per cent. I have once heard it said that in America the Bally Company and the people that control the use of machines do have very strict rules and they have percentages. Certainly I know this is true in the State of Nevada relating to locations that the least a machine must pay out is just under 60% and only machines in the Airport waiting rooms and drug stores and so on are allowed to pay out as little as that. I am not into all these things, but what I believe is that the English system which is that the machine must have printed on it how much it pays out and should also say how many coins it took in and how many it paid out over a certain period is a wise system. It was a system we wanted. We were advised by the then Government Electrical Inspector that he could not enforce it, but it is a system towards which we are working now so that we can know exactly what is what where that is concerned.

Now as far as the \$80 million is concerned, I will have to deal with the \$80 million, Mr. Speaker, anybody who could believe that what is described as the poor people of Barbados could lose \$80 million in a year in one-armed bandits really must have a definition of "poor" which is at variance with any definition of "poor" ever known on earth before. How many players of one-arm bandits are there in Barbados? How many can there be? The hon. member does not believe the majority of people play them, but I think the Commission found that it was something like 8 per cent. Suppose there are 20,000 people that play the one-arm bandits, are we then to believe that there are 20,000 people in Barbados losing \$4,000 a year on the one-arm bandits? What absolute ridiculous nonsense unworthy of an adult to repeat that there are 20,000 poor people in Barbados with \$80 a week to lose on one-arm bandits? Absolute stark nonsense repeated for the sake of scandal; nonsense.

If one really analyses the run of things, one realises that when \$5.00 is taken to a machine, the \$5.00 goes in, then \$4.00, then \$3.00, then \$2.00, and so the machine is going to record \$11 or \$12, but it is the same \$5 that has been played over and over and over again and every time it goes in it is added over and over and over again. So if anybody looks at a machine and says this

machine played \$542 or whatever it is, you have to distinguish between whether people came and stopped and came back or whether the same money has turned over. Now if anything like this was true, if there would be anything like \$542 being won by machines daily, I would just point out to the hon. member that if you multiplied \$542 by 404, he will find out that that would mean you have to have 880,000 quarters going into the machines every day. Remember that figure. An amount of 880,000 quarters would be required to produce this. Now you would expect that if the one-arm bandits were attracting that much money — remember again the whole amount of money in circulation in Barbados, actual cash in circulation, I wonder if it is \$80 million.

I will just make a check and see what the actual cash in circulation is, but you will expect that a great number of quarters would be needed in the Island to keep the one-arm bandits going; so I will ask the Central Bank for any figures which they have to show if there has been any unusual demand for quarters since the one-arm bandits have come into operation. Now the total amount of money in circulation in Barbados is less than \$100 million. In May it was \$94 million, last year it fell as low as \$71 million, went as high as \$93 million. That is the whole amount of cash actually in circulation at any given moment in Barbados. In 1974 it was \$40 million and in that year 3,552,000 quarters were imported into the island.

Now 1978 was the first year in which the one-arm bandits were in full operation. Far from showing an increase in the number of quarters there was a decrease where 2.4 million quarters were imported into Barbados. This year we have imported 3.9 million quarters. I do not think any was imported last year and the number of quarters actually in circulation in Barbados is just over 9 million. There are in circulation this month to a total value of \$2,276,081 if you want the exact figure, and far from the number of quarters coming into Barbados increasing disproportionately in relation to other coins, and the notes have expanded much more quickly than quarters, the amount of coins in circulation in Barbados hardly varies at all. Now where are these 800,000 quarters daily that are required to support the figures of the hon. member to come from? Is it suggested that somebody is making false quarters now to play the one-arm bandits, that somebody is coining several thousand quarters in order not to make him a liar? There is some limit, Sir. \$540 a day would actually mean, I have even worked this out, 34 tons of quarters a week; it would mean 76,000 pounds of quarters to support the figures of the hon. member, and this is the sort of thing to which we have to be treated in the House of Assembly in a debate such as this.

I respect the view of those who are against gambling and who are against particular forms of gambling, Mr.

Scarne and Basil Forbes both feel that casino games roulette and others are a more desirable form of gambling than one-arm bandits. That is their view and I respect it. My view is otherwise. I do not believe that Barbados is ready for casino gambling. I do not think that the type of tourism we have it would be desirable or necessary. What I do know is that the licensing fees from the one-arm bandits bring in, I think this year, it would be considerably more than death duties bring in. There are a major source of revenue to the Government. I also know that very careful attention is paid to the accounts of the operators by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. I know that the properties of the persons who operate these machines are very carefully scrutinised and their means examined.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central often quotes one of the operators. Well he would know him very well; he was his tenant. The hon. member has even gone so far as to quote this gentleman as saying that he had to leave Barbados because members of the Barbados Labour Party kept asking him for money. 3.35 p.m.

The hon. member could have asked the gentleman for the truth and he would have been told that he tried to give the Barbados Labour Party money and that it was returned to him and we refused the money, several thousand dollars. He would have been told that, if he wanted to be honest. I personally have very little opinion of that gentleman and I am very glad to see him out of the island. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central knows him well.

I was informed by someone that he was present in Nelson Street when the gentleman, the hon. member and a number of others were supervising the preparation of the hon. member's premises in Nelson Street to receive the man's one-armed bandits and I asked the person who told me for an affidavit and he said "I am not giving you any affidavit. I am not a well man and when I go into the Hospital I do not want Richie to kill me."

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think the hon. member has, perhaps, unwittingly misled the House in conveying a suggestion that I was present in Nelson Street when a property was being prepared for the one-armed bandits to be put in. I can inform him that this is not true and I am sure that if so, probably he is acting on bad information.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I was told that the room in which the bandits were to be placed contained a printing press which had some connection with the Democratic Labour Party. I was told that the hon. member was there, a Mr. Wright, a Mr. Shirley Smith, and a Mr. Miller. I cannot remember everybody's names who were there supervising the removal of the printing press

and agreeing with Mr. Wright where the bandit was to be placed and if the hon. member wishes to say that that is a lie, I believe Mr. Leroy Miller, Mr. Shirley Smith and Mr. Wright will be better able to judge than us in here whether he is telling the truth or not. If he cares and if it is a lie he can safely say so. If it is not a lie and he wishes to say it is a lie.....

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have said that the hon. member was perhaps acting on bad information and misinforming the House but if he wants me to say it is a lie, I will say it is a lie and there is no question about that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Leroy Miller, Mr. Shirley Smith and others will now know when they were there and saw the machines being moved about in your presence, they will now know how to regard other statements made by the hon. member. They would either know it is true or it is not true. I cannot say that the hon. member is not telling the truth.

I have with my own eyes seen, in Quaker's Road in Carrington's Village, Mr. Martindale, one of the licensees for one-armed bandits putting up a political platform for the hon. member and I passed and spoke to him. I do not mean I said, "Hello Castro" but I raised my hand as I drove past. I have seen that with my own eyes. Nobody can deny that. I saw Castro putting up the hon. member's political platform. (ASIDES — I do not know him) You say you do not know him? Now the hon. member.....

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member was not present so I would not embarrass him by asking him if he said he does not know Castro.

As far as the money going out of the Island is concerned, Sir, the Commission found no evidence of this nor indeed did the Exchange Control Authorities have such evidence. It is not for me to put a case for anybody but I have also been supplied with a sheet indicating in respect of — I do not know the name or how many people were there. It would be one of the Companies.

The Company had invested its money in Barbados and one of the one-armed bandit Companies owned by Dotsie Weekes Customs Service, that they invested their money in that. They are opening a Watch Factory which will give employment and they have opened an Electronic Element. I do not know if they are digital watches, and one other has invested in a Furniture business and there are other lines of investment as well. I think the purpose of saying this is to indicate that

money — (ASIDES). Well, they say they are 100% owners. I do not know anything about it. It is just what was supplied to me. It is just information which was supplied to me. You could see the sheet of paper if you like.

The purpose of this evidently is to indicate that the monies being made from the machines are being re-invested in perhaps rather more productive enterprises because it is not possible to put any more money into the one-armed bandits. The investment in the one-armed bandits now is at an end. You can only replace them.

I heard the hon. member saying something about laundering money. Does a Doctor launder money when he spends it on a Company in the Cayman Islands and he sends it to the Cayman Islands to escape the attention of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and then asks his lawyer if he can get it brought back in without it being registered as foreign exchange because he does not want anybody to know that it went out of the Island in the first place. Do you call that laundering too? Is that laundering, Mr. Speaker? I hear these expressions about laundering. It is the only occasion with which we are familiar at Exchange Control where a man wanted to bring money into the Island but did not want the Central Bank to register it as foreign exchange because normally when people bring money in they want permission to take it out again therefore they register the money but on this occasion the lawyer applied to the Exchange Control, he made inquiries and said he wanted to bring in money but he did not want a note made of it and would that be alright, laundering.

I, myself, have some evidence of all kinds of people in Barbados who have taken money out of the country without Exchange Control's permission, professional persons and persons in all walks of life. I am sure no hon. member of this House of Assembly has done it without permission. It would be a very wrong thing to have money in a Cayman Islands' Company if you are a member of the House but at least, I can say that the Royal Commission has examined all of this and found nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to move an amendment to the Resolution. I beg to move that all the words following "House", the first line in the Resolution be deleted and the following words be substituted:—

"Be It Resolved that this Honourable House congratulate the Commission of Enquiry on the careful study and analysis carried out on Gambling in Barbados, and,

Be It Further Resolved that this Honourable House deplores the many wild and unsubstantiated

statements about the operation of gambling machines in the Island."

3.45 p.m.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House congratulates the Government on the systems of control of gambling which it has introduced."

I will give it in due course. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was one other point which I wanted to deal with in the Hon. Member's speech Sir. It escapes me, when I come to reply, perhaps I have a chance to deal with that.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore beg to move that the Resolution be amended in the terms which I have recited.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that and in so doing, Mr. Speaker, I reserve my right to speak later.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the amendment which is before this....(ASIDES)....to speak on the amendment and I trust that a copy of it could be made available because while one has the general sense of the amendment, it would be nicer to have the actual words before you.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that this debate so far has been useful in several regards. It has shown very clearly, that the Democratic Labour Party has taken a very firm stand against the operations of the one-armed bandits, in this country and that the Barbados Labour Party, through its main spokesman, the Hon. Member for St. Thomas, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister ably supported by the Deputy Prime Minister of this country and two other Hon. Ministers, that they have made it clear, that they support the operation of the one-armed bandits in this country and that they intend that such operations should continue irrespective of what harm they to the social, economic and spiritual fabric of this society.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: No, Sir. We must be careful how we put things. I object to that reflex on the motive. He says that we have made it clear that the bandits will continue irrespective of what harm they do. That is improper and should be withdrawn.

We have made it clear, that we are supporting the Report of the Commission on Gambling. He cannot say that we are supporting the bandits no matter what harm they do. The Commission has said that they do not do harm. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I was amazed....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has asked that you withdraw the remark.

Dr. HAYNES: Sir, I was waiting for your ruling. I withdraw it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You withdraw.

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, I will withdraw the remark, but I would like to say, that it is quite clear, that the Government has no intention of banning the one-armed bandits from Barbados and for allowing their operation to continue in Barbados.

Now, we, on this side, Mr. Speaker, are not in any doubt about the serious economic and social problems which the operation of these bandits in Barbados have caused this country. Now, one has heard statements to the effect, that all gambling is the same. If you take a purely moral position, Mr. Speaker, this is certainly so from a moralist point of view, however, Mr. Speaker, there is a clear distinction between the traditional and innocent forms of gambling which existed in Barbados and the introduction of the one-armed bandits because no form of gambling in Barbados ever had this kind of social and economic impact in the society.

We, Mr. Speaker, in this generation would have inherited many entrenched ills in the society. It is our task, Mr. Speaker, to try to eradicate what we can and to mitigate what we cannot eradicate because no task, Mr. Speaker, of us to import evils into society and then proceed to legalise them as though we do not have any responsibility, as Legislators, for the moral fabric of this society.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I stand by the contention that the amount of money involved is not less than \$80 million a year.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it eight nought million?

Dr. HAYNES: Eight nought, eighty.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. Am I hearing as right as you are hearing him, Sir? The Hon. Member said eight zero million dollars? On the last occasion, he said eighteen. I will challenge him on that, that he said \$18 million and he wrote a letter to the press saying eight zero. I will challenge him, that if this does not appear in Hansard, as one eight to resign from your seat. You said one eight.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, my figure position was \$80 million. I think that it was, as far as, I saw misreported in the press as 18. Eighty million dollars is what I am talking about.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, if the Hon. Member would give way, Sir. I believe that the Hon. Member is capable of getting his speech from the Hansard

Reporters. I am sure that Hansard could not report him as one eight and the Advocate also make the mistake as 18. If Hansard is going to reveal 80, I am going to stand by the Hon. Member. But, I am sure that I heard distinctly \$18 million.

Dr. HAYNES: To continue, Mr. Speaker, the arguments which I have heard have been so weak in trying to defeat my position, on the amount of money actually involved and coming from no less persons than the Hon. Member for Christ Church South Central and the Hon. Member for St. Thomas really alarms me. The Hon. Member for Christ Church South Central bases as his argument, that a one-armed bandit in St. Lucy might not be earning as much money as, a one armed-bandit in St. Michael.

What one is talking about, Mr. Speaker, is the average earnings of all 404, if that is the figure, one-armed bandits in Barbados. One one-armed bandit may take in one dollar in a day, another one may take in five thousand dollars. So, it is the average intake that I am talking about and the question of the number of days. The fact is that there have been arcades in this country, where as many as, 40,000 coins have gone into one-armed bandits, during a given period of a Saturday.
3.55 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is equally wrong to talk about measuring the number of quarters that have to be available in terms of cents by taking the amount that will be used in a given year. The fact is there is a fundamental weakness in that argument, that the coins are changed over into dollar bills the following day, and to talk about an increase or a decrease in the number of coins is not particularly relevant, although we know, Mr. Speaker, that there has been a shortage from time to time of quarters in circulation in Barbados. That is information that I have had, and they have had to increase the number of quarters imported into the country, and that this was possibly contributed to the one-arm bandit operation.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. There must be some rule in the House to stop somebody from giving information that is entirely false and unsubstantiated to the House. I mean, it is a reflection on me, I have given the quotations, and how can the hon. member say that we have had to import more when I can show that the first full year of operation we have had to import a million less?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I must have misunderstood the hon. member, but I have the figure he gave for 1979 as \$3.2 million or so, which represented an increase on 1978. I may have heard it wrong, but if I am reflecting on him in any way I am only reacting to the figures

he gave the House a little while ago which represented an increase of a million dollars or so.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to continue. To go to the Income Tax Department to try to find out how much money goes into the one-arm bandits is a total waste of time. The hon. member knows that, and everybody in this country knows that. To go to the banks, Mr. Speaker, to find out the incidence of loss of foreign exchange as a consequence of the operation of the one-arm bandits in this country is also a waste of time, because it is not through normal banking channels that such losses would occur. The hon. member must know that. I am not saying that he is fully *au fait* with who is taking the money out of the country or in what form it is taken out, but he must know that there are ways and means of doing so, and that the place to look for the kind of information could hardly be the banks. That is the type of conclusion that you will find in the Report of the Gambling Commission, because they went the wrong places looking for information, and I was surprised. I believe that even whilst that Commission was going on I think four people were dismissed from one of the commercial banks here in Barbados for illegal dealings in foreign exchange. Some of the very banks that they approached have told them that their procedures were so perfect, yet they fired about three or four people, and the charge against them was that they were having illegal dealings in foreign exchange. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Selling it to doctors). I do not know who they were selling it to, they certainly did not sell any to me, but at the same time while that Commission was sitting that actually took place in Barbados, and yet the banks were saying that there was no way of getting around to that situation.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must not misrepresent what the Commission said. The Commission said it found no evidence that the one-arm bandit people were moving money out of Barbados, it did not say that it did not find that doctors and businessmen were taking it out, it was a Commission on bandits, not doctors.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, to continue. The argument that there is no politician on the Licensing Committee will not carry any weight with anyone, particularly now I am even firmer in my belief that the Barbados Labour Party, Mr. Speaker, not necessarily the Government, is very much involved in this operation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Kindly explain, involved in what operation?

Dr. HAYNES: In the operation of the one-arm bandits.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Barbados Labour Party is in law a

members' club, like the Democratic Labour Party. The Chairman of that party is a member of this House. If the Hon. Member says the Barbados Labour Party is involved in the operation of the one-arm bandits, he has to be reflecting on the members of the Barbados Labour Party in the House, and particularly on the Chairman. What does he mean? Apart from that, it is not even true, and I respectfully submit it is a reflection.

Dr. HAYNES: To continue, Mr. Speaker. The question of investigating criminality associated with the one-arm bandit operation and to go to the Social Welfare Officer to ask for a supply of information from the Social Welfare Officer would seem to me to be the wrong place to go. Only a very small number of people who may have fallen into trouble as a consequence of their involvement with one-arm bandit gambling either would find themselves in the Social Welfare Office, or those persons might be brought to the attention of the Social Welfare Officer by their families. Probably less than one or two percent. As a matter of fact, I believe that in the Report itself there was a reference to the fact that there was a suggestion that the one-arm bandit operators were getting at the police, I think in one of the minority sections of the Report.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are saying that the Report suggest that one-arm bandits were getting at the police?

Dr. HAYNES: Fundamental justice. Let me give you the exact quotation. It is one of the findings in the Report here. I have already read it in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would be glad if you would read it again.

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Speaker. For example, here it says that evidence that the unlicensed machines were being operated thereby evading the licence fee.
4.05 p.m.

There was a suggestion that information was leaked. For example here, Sir; the main links between the gambling machines and crime etc. in countries where they operate; the corruption that has already begun in Barbados; customs officials suspended for complicity in the illegal importation of the machines; police raids on premises where machines were being played illegally, unsuccessful because of information leaks in the Police Department. That is the particular thing that I am referring to and that is within the same report which is the subject of this debate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are the main points of defence as far as I can see that the hon. member for St. Thomas was trying to put up; the volume of money involved, protection of your foreign currency, and then he tried to make the point about re-investment in Barbados.

Well I do not wish to get involved in that because I do not know much about that area. However, I sense, Mr. Speaker, that there is some genuine concern about the question of the pay out ratios of these machines.

Now the figures quoted here were 87.8%, 78.03%, 81.6% and 66.3%. I have those figures as supplied by Bally Company. I did not need to hear about the telegram, but there is also I think one missing of 79%, and it would appear that the percentage not only depends on the type of machine, but seems to be related to the number of coins going in during a particular period of time. That particular point I am not clear on, but the quotations of the systems that I have seen presented by Bally would suggest that the pay out may vary with the extent to which the machine is played, that is, the number of coins going into the machine.

My contention, Mr. Speaker, is that these machines, even if they are supplied with a pay out ratio of 87.8% that they are rigged locally and that 87.3%.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard you during the course of this same debate discuss that aspect of the matter. There is no need for you to repeat yourself there. If you have new information, we are willing to hear it.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am responding to a very valid point made by the Hon. Prime Minister that the company that supplies the machines apparently fixes a certain pay out when they export the machines to Barbados. What I am saying is that the pay out may not necessarily obtain during the period of the operations of the machines in Barbados, and if the hon. member is really serious about at least looking more carefully at the recommendations of the Royal Commission in the United Kingdom whereby a device can be attached to these machines which will register not only the number of coins going in but the number of coins coming out and that those machines cannot be tampered with either by the operators or anyone else, then at least there would be some protection for the player. In other words, get the piece of equipment and then have a properly qualified inspectorate so that at least if you bring the machines inside here, if you legalise them, then show some further responsibility in protecting the public from the type of racket that has been let loose on them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Thomas did not deal with another crucial aspect of this operation, that is, the supply of these machines. Are these machines genuinely bought and there is no further connection with the supplier? Are they bought on a hire purchase basis? Does the Bally Company ever sever connections with a machine which they have purported to have sold, or when the time comes they come to collect their percentage? Because if so, they would not want it in Barbadian currency.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the kinds of points I want to make. If the Government wishes to continue one-arm bandit operations in Barbados, we are absolutely opposed to them, but I can only beg them to recognise.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Please take your seat.

I was at pains after hearing the interruption by the hon. member for St. James, the Hon. Minister for Housing and the Environment to check that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central had told this House in the course of the debate on this one-arm bandit issue that it was \$18 million involved. What is remarkable is that I have just got the debate to which reference was made by the Hon. Minister, and I would not have the Clerk read it for you, I will read it myself. (Dr. HAYNES: It is a mistake.) I support the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that he said Hansard has made a mistake. Do you know why I support the Hon. Minister because Hansard records him as saying \$18 million twice. (*Asides*) Order, Please. Hansard records him as saying \$18 million twice. In other words, on two occasions. He says "I do not believe it is \$200 million, but I would settle for an estimate of about \$18 million in Barbados. There is a lot of money involved in this one-arm bandit business, about \$18 million in this country."

I will not have any hon. member either on the floor of this House or anywhere else as a matter of fact I would suggest that he be prosecuted for the protection of the Hansard Reporters. If he makes a statement in here and it is recorded not once but twice by Hansard as he makes it in here and then he tries to come back and go all about the place to make it appear as if the Hansard Reporters are not people to be relied upon, it is a serious accusation, and I take the opportunity to warn the hon. member for St. Michael South Central on this occasion. This is my purpose for sending for the copy of Hansard because I do not want other hon. members to accuse you falsely, and I will not have you or any other member accusing the Hansard Reporters falsely. It is as serious as that.
4.15 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I would be most grateful.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I will tell you this. I want no more on it except an apology. No other comment except an apology for your accusation against the Hansard Reporters. That is the only comment I want to hear on the matter.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, may I ask your permission. Would it be possible to hear a recording of my voice on that day, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is rudeness on your part. You will apologise and nothing further on this matter. You will apologise for your accusation against the Hansard Reporters or else I will not hear you further on this debate. It is as serious as this. You have to stop this.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, if, Sir, that is recorded by Hansard, by the Reporters in the House, if it is your ruling that their recording takes precedence over my request to hear, just to listen here, then I will apologise to the House and follow your ruling in this matter, Mr. Speaker, I would be most grateful, I am just asking your indulgence, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am calling on you to apologise.

Dr. HAYNES: I have apologised already.

Mr. SPEAKER: Nothing further. Continue your debate, please.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that there is any point in continuing this debate. Thank you very much.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it would be very timely if you would address the Press and ask them how they can get the wrong information along with the hon. member, especially the *Advocate*, because certain Reporters of the *Advocate* say they only report important people when they speak in Parliament but of course, I wonder if they would report this apology and this correction today. We will wait tomorrow and see what the *Advocate* Newspaper has to say.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a brief contribution on the Resolution that is before us and I would like to start by.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that you want to speak on the amendment.

Mr. SANDIFORD: That is the Resolution before us, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to set out my position first of all as far as this question of gambling is concerned so that when I speak on the matter there can be no doubt at all as to where I speak from.

First of all from time to time I may buy a sweep-stake ticket put out by the Barbados Turf Club. I may purchase from the Barbados Cricket Association one of their instant money tickets, the cost of which I believe has just gone up by 100%. I would play the Football Pools from time to time. I do not recall playing the one-armed bandits. I have never played those machines at all. I believe on occasion unwittingly I went into an arcade just off the Champs Elysees in Paris but I did not put any coins into the machine nor have I ever

been fortunate enough to be near my friend, the hon. member for St. James, when he was enjoying himself with these machines and if any beautiful ladies were near around he would take a bundle of coins to give them to play as well. I have never been so fortunate, but I do not take a hyper-moral position on the business of gambling.

At the same time I am positive that no one-armed bandit or no other form of gambling in this country would take away my salary because I believe I have a little control over any amount of money I may lay out as far as gambling is concerned, so when I speak on this issue it is not from a hyper-moral position. It is from a position that in this country as legislators and as leaders in this country we must consider what are the effects of the different forms of gambling on the lives and well-being of our citizens and I have heard several stories, a lot of them heart rending of people who have lost their week's wages and do not know where to turn. This is largely in relation to the one-armed bandits.

Only about four weeks or so ago I heard directly such a story and I believe it is incumbent upon us, if there is organised gambling in this country and if the one-armed bandits represent a major form of gambling for us as legislators to ensure that a level of protection is offered to the gaming public and I wish to call upon the Government if it is their policy as it is to continue the operation of the one-armed bandits. I am calling upon the Government to ensure that there is a range of protection for the public who indulge in this kind of activity.

I would like to see established a clear statement that a certain percentage of the takings of these one-armed bandits should be paid back out in prize tokens or prize money or however else it may be paid out.

This is not the first time that I am making this call. I made it when this matter was debated in 1977, I believe it was, when this House was looking at the Betting and Gaming Act, I believe it was called, on the 21st June, 1977. I pressed the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance on that occasion to establish some means of determining or ensuring and I am quoting from Hansard on that occasion:

4.25 p.m.

"that a certain percentage of the takings of the coins that these machines absorb or imbibe, or whatever word is used about these bandits — that a certain amount of this money goes back out in prize money or prize tokens."

That is what I said in 1977. That is what I was pressing the Government to do on that occasion, but on

that occasion, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Finance replied in part and I am quoting:

"We have had to follow the well-known authority Scarne on gambling and leave it to competition."

In other words, he was indicating on that occasion, that they could not do anything about ensuring that a percentage of the intake of the one-armed bandits be paid out in prize money, that should be left to competition. Of course, we are hearing now, a slightly different story today. Today, we are hearing that perhaps something can be done about it. So, I do not wait for any particular Resolution, or such on this. I was asking for this position from 1977 and I am asking also for another safeguard and guarantee for the gaming public and that is, that a strong team of inspectors should be set up, in order to oversee the activities and operations of these machines. It is one thing for us to pass Legislation, it is one thing to say leave it to competition, but I believe, that unless we pass legislation and put some teeth into the legislation and in a sense, try to protect people from the very worse aspects of their nature sometimes because we give in to temptation from time to time and I believe that such a regime of protection is required, as far as, gambling is concerned in this country, particularly, I am talking about the variety known as the one-armed bandits. They are very attractive and they use the skills of the pop artists, all of these blinking lights and these different sounds you hear, made very luring, very bright and very attractive and we have got to offer some measure of protection.

Those are the two points I wish to make on this, Mr. Speaker. That is the policy of the Government and if that is their policy, within that framework, I am saying, that the Government is not doing enough to offer protection to the gaming public in this country, against the worse effects of the operations of the one-armed bandits and I believe that these two measures would offer some protection. What percentage of payout? There should be a percentage of payout.

There are not many companies which produce these machines. There are only a limited number of companies, as I understand it, which produce these machines and if the Government is in correspondence with the Bally Company which has substantial interest, not only in Miami, but in Nevada I believe in Atlantic City, New Jersey and elsewhere, it may be that something could be done, in this particular regard. What the Democratic Labour Party will do, in terms of policy on these matters is in the womb of time, but within the extant policy of the Government as it is, I am calling for those two measures.

Mr. Speaker, that is my contribution to the issue.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to what was said. The only point which I would deal with a little bit is that the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central said, that the Democratic Labour Party took a firm stand against the one-armed bandits and then he quoted some parts of the Commission's Report saying about a leak in the Police Department. I should say, Sir, it is not a pleasant thing to say, but, since it has been mentioned, I should say, that such investigations as I have carried out do not reveal that the leak on the occasion of a raid, came from the Police. They reveal that they came from a former Cabinet Minister in the Democratic Labour Party Government, not a member of the Honourable House at present and I do not say that lightly. It is not particularly pleasant to say it, but so many accusations have been made that although I have tried very hard to bring the curtain down on the past, many things were done when the one-armed bandits came to this country in the first place. Many things were done on which I am well-informed. There were many connections between Members of the Democratic Labour Party and the machines operating illegally. Several candidates of the Democratic Labour Party in one Bye-election and in the General Election undoubtedly had close connections with the illegal operation of the machines and I know more than that. I am just saying Sir, that such evidence as is available to the Government suggests that it is a Cabinet Minister and not any member of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Indeed, Sir, the friend of the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central sought to throw the Government out of the track, by making available a cheque which he had given to a police officer, in the hope that this would divert attention from who the true source of the leak was and that cheque, anyway, I do not want to go any further into it, than that. But, the Hon. Member for St. Michael South Central, I believe knows that I know a lot, I do not make wild statements. I know what used to go on in the old days, and if I do not talk about it, that reflects discretion and taste, rather than ignorance.

The Government is not supporting machines if they do harm. The Government appointed a Royal Commission to find out if the machines do harm, or not. The Commission investigated carefully. The Hon. Member reads a lot of things, he does not read others. He did not read the evidence that said that the links between organised crime and gambling are always much less, where the gambling is made legal. You did not read that, that will be found on page 122, or so. The Commission investigated the connections with crime. They investigated the amount of money being taken by machines and they found it to be between \$15 million and \$20 million and I think really, when the Hon. Member said \$18 million, I must tell the truth, Sir, I assumed that the Hon. Member perhaps has access to figures, that I did not even have access to because they accord closely with the Com-

mission's figures. But the Commission investigated that. It investigated the taking of the money out of the country.

The Hon. Member spoke about the Social Welfare Officer and dealing with only a small number of cases. I do not want to repeat what has been said in the Honourable House on earlier occasions, but the Hon. member will surely recall, but, maybe, he was not in the Honourable House then, will surely recall that the Social Welfare Officers checked something like 14,000 cases of family distress and in only 36 of those cases was gambling given as the cause of the family's lack of money and as it has always been in Barbados, the form of gambling which was giving the trouble was the throwing of dice.
4.35 p.m.

All of this has been said in here before. Murders have been committed through dice, murders have been committed in dice games at dances and political party headquarters. It is not anything unusual. A murder was committed not so long ago in St. James through cards. Hon. members perhaps will recall, and I do not want to name the person, but the Palm Beach murder was committed by two boys who had been playing dice in Brittons Hill, not one-armed bandits, dice. Dice games have always been at the centre of violent and drunken behaviour in Barbados. The Social Welfare Officer, even though clearly prejudiced against the one-armed bandits, were unable in the many thousands of cases that they dealt with before the Commission, to identify any social harm that the bandits as a specialised form of activity were causing. But I do not want to go into all these matters, Sir, because in my respectful opinion the one-armed bandits have been running in Barbados for a number of years, the country has not collapsed people are not starving, we are buying more food than ever, we are buying more furniture than ever, we are buying more appliances, we are building more houses, we are wearing more clothes, we are buying more motor cars, and next year I am letting in £4 million more in motor cars, because we think that we are in a position to expand a little bit.

We have not seen the bandits reduce the population to any state of moral anarchy, the record for crime in the seventies was still 1975 when the bandits were illegal rather than 1978 or 1979 when the bandits were legal. They provide work and they provide a lot of Government revenue, a lot, and I would only say this, Sir, that I am glad and I much appreciate the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South, and I am glad for the positive points made in the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

The matter of the ownership of the machines has been referred to the Gambling Commission and they will investigate very carefully, but they have always insisted that the machines must be bought outright for

cash. If in fact some difficulties are being experienced, the Commission is dealing with it.

I agree entirely with the proposal of the hon. member for St. Michael South that an Inspectorate should be set up. The first figure given to us when we started to work towards it was that it would mean 17 inspectors. It might very well mean more, but I agree with the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who said in effect that the counters of the machines should be selected in such a way as to be made available to the inspectors so that the Government can count how many coins go in and how many coins come back out. I myself am told that the operators might not like this, but the Commission itself in fact does ask for the number of employees every time they get an application. They ask whether the premises are suitable. There is a lot of small regulation going on, Sir, for example we have a rule that the bandits must not be visible from the road in arcades and hotels, but there is one hotel where although glass is supposed to be there that you cannot see through, you can still catch sight of them. I believe that that matter is being dealt with.

We have stopped them from taking advertisements. The police, the Comptroller of Customs, everybody has an input into the way it is carried on, and I have said on another occasion that we should actually be proud that the dangers adverted to by so many people have not as far as we can see materialised in Barbados. We do not find arcades to be the resorts of criminals, I do not find that the people who run the machines, not even the ones in Nelson Street, which is the place where it is difficult to run an arcade without having criminals enter it, we do not even find there that there is evidence of criminal activity attached to the machines. In short, the good sense of Barbadians has allowed them to absorb the one-armed bandits into the general recreational structure of the island, and the steps proposed by the hon. member, the necessity of protecting the pay out and the necessity of an Inspectorate to make sure the rules are being observed, we think are the main things that are now needed.

The hon. member spoke of protection of the gambler. You have to protect two sets of people, you have to protect the public, those who may wish to gamble, those who are against gambling, and so on, the general public, you have to protect those who gamble. There are protective measures already in place, we may need some more, and the suggestion made as to the necessity for enforcing the pay out and the giving of information on the pay out, I think that these are necessary and I welcome the suggestions.

I only wish that all debates on the one-armed bandits could be conducted on a basis that

fundamentally most Barbadians are decent people, and that that includes politicians, and that basically we are not as politicians any more corrupt than anybody else, and that therefore a little credence could be given to the careful efforts which the Government has taken to ensure that one-armed bandits and all forms of gambling in this country are carried on in sanitised conditions where crime, corruption and so on are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. members have been kind enough to let me squeeze out three or four minutes over Private Members' Time and I am very agreeable to that. I beg to move that the amendment do now pass.

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

The question that the words proposed to be left out stand part was put and resolved in the negative without division.

The question that those words be there inserted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
4.45 p.m.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider a number of Resolutions.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 10

Head 15 - Cabinet Office, was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the addendum sets out the reason for this. We have tried our very best to hold expenditure on this matter, but this year really it just absolutely has not been possible. Hotel accommodation has gone up particularly in the United

States and London and although we have not allowed any increase in the daily stipend, it is still like \$40US for meals and \$35US for subsistence which bears very hard, I must say on people who have to go abroad on Government business. I do not know about the civil servants, but the nature of travel undertaken by the Prime Minister is such that there really is no way that the \$40US a day under present day conditions can provide meals. Breakfast in American hotels now is \$8US and it really is not possible.

Anyhow we have set our faces against increasing the allowances, but notwithstanding this we have been using the same allowances despite inflation abroad for a long time. Mr. Chairman, it would raise your hair on end to know the things that have happened to Ministers who have had to travel and the bills they have been called on to meet, but despite all this we cannot manage with the vote and we have to prepare during this financial year for next year's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. We have to send a secretariat abroad on a number of matters and we therefore have to ask for a supplementary.

I beg to move that Head 15 — Cabinet Office, stand part.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, in seconding this Resolution, I am particularly happy to hear the Prime Minister has brought rather foremost to Parliament the problems which a number of Parliamentarians suffer, because there are times when members of the Opposition do travel on CPA business. The hon. member for St. Philip South travelled on CPA business and he I have no doubt would find it very difficult to exist on the pittance which is given when you go abroad.

I am glad to hear the Prime Minister say it in here because I have been critical of him before and I am going to say it now that he must understand that his Ministers, colleagues and members of the Opposition should be treated in a way when they go abroad in keeping with their office. I am not prepared when I go abroad to go and buy a hamburger from Kentucky and a cup of coffee and sit down on a bench or walk about with a tin of corned beef in my bag and some bread so as to make sure that I can have a proper meal. I am not at home, neither am I talking on my private business.

When I travel on Government business I expect to be given the best. There is nothing I think more depressing than to know you are at a conference when a man from St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Lucia and they are sitting first class, or the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union are going first class and you have me in economy class squeezing up myself with all the bags falling down over my head, and you as Prime Minister of Barbados who look after 250,000 people and

having a salary which I do not believe is in keeping with your office, and you hear people on the platform at nights filling the air with a lot of nonsense about the Prime Minister's salary and his allowances when the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union is looking after 30,000 people and the Assistant Secretary is looking after half dozen at the College, and the Prime Minister looking after a quarter million people is said to be getting too much money. Well I want to say, Sir, that my salary is what I take home in my pocket, and it is a known fact that the salary I take home is about \$500 a week. I have to pay subscriptions to the Barbados Labour Party for its administrative costs; I have to pay \$1,400 a month in income tax; I have to pay national insurance; I have to pay towards my pension, so what I take home I have to live off.

Now listen, Sir; I have to pay either a mortgage or rent of \$500 a week, I have to buy clothes for my wife and myself, I have to paint my car when it is to be painted, or when I have to buy one I have to find the down payment and pay the instalments when the month comes. I want to deal with this salaries question where every minute I hear that they are going to pay back salaries and they are going to reduce them.
4.55 p.m.

I am sorry that the former Minister of Finance is not in here. If I go to a dance and I say give me a flask of rum, the first I hear, "give me a cold beer, I do not drink rum." Or I will hear, "let me drink a stout, the Minister is in town" so what I would normally pay if I were not a Minister, Sir, or a member of Parliament it would cost me almost two or three times as much.

I have to buy food for my family, tyres for my car, pay my electricity bill, water rates. If I go to Church I cannot put in 25¢ in the bag, it is \$25.00. If I pass and stop the rasta man will ask me to get some nuts or a corn, if I do not buy them I cannot get a vote. If I driving my car down the road and I pass people at the bus stop and I do not give them a lift, I am a bad man and they mash up the seats in my car and I have to pay for the upholstery and every night I hear speeches about salaries.

I take home \$500 to \$550. That is what I carry home. I have to protect my family, pay for a watchman at my house, have proper guards around it, buy deodorant, insecticide and all of these things, Sir, all of these things I have to buy, Sir. Whenever you hear these open their mouths all you can hear all the time is the Prime Minister's salary and you have a complete idiot out at the Barbados Workers' Union, least of all him, who flew from Geneva to Washington by the Concorde. Get up and deny that. You always defending him. He flew from Geneva to London and took the Concorde from London to Washington and had the gall to say in 1976, I have to get

the best things. I am the George Neilly of the Caribbean and the Prime Minister of a country a country who can stand its own against any Caribbean country today, prosperous and they are at nights talking about the Prime Minister's salary being \$100,000.00 a year and with \$100,000 and if he takes out tax that is something.

I am not going to wear any canvas shoes. I am not going to wear any long drawers, Sir. I must wear the best and therefore if you are the leader of a country you must set the pattern and therefore I cannot agree with the Prime Minister's attitude in paying small salaries and as a matter of fact paying salaries and then being criticized on the platforms by people who need the money because they know exactly what is the position, Sir.

I am supporting this Resolution but I am saying on the floor of this House now that anytime I have to go on Government Business I must have a proper hotel suite. I must be sent first-class and I must have proper allowances for the purpose of conducting the Government's business. When I am going on my private business I can go anyhow, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I am supporting this Resolution but I think I have to make my position quite clear. It is time that we stop all of this nonsense about politicians should not be paid. He must be a hog pen going to run for the House and when he comes in here he would not draw his money. Can you imagine that? I have never heard such nonsense and from responsible people on the other side knowing the problems that we face here.

All of these difficulties have come about because of the oil prices and you have all of this nonsense written in the *Advocate* by a man who I consider responsible and whom I have a great respect for as a Trade Unionist and backed up with a lot of nonsense by the hon. member for St. Lucy that they are going to give back their salaries and put it back to 1978.

I beg to support this Resolution, Sir.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to support the need for an increase in this vote by a Supplementary now. I have had to travel recently to Australia and earlier in the year in June to Norway and Norway was a trip that was financed by the Party. It had nothing to do with the Government at all but I was given the same rates for allowances and so on as Civil Servants and Ministers and whatever Ministers get and I had to relate a factual story to the Prime Minister that for the last night in Norway I had to drink two bowls of soup and eat bread and butter because I was broke, Sir.

I do not think that we in these parts, especially those who do not travel very frequently to Metropolitan countries, have any concern of the level of

inflation in these countries. You cannot buy anything anymore. I believe it is prohibited. You have to shop in America if you want to buy a few shirts or something like that but what I am concerned about in this Resolution is that even though it is recognised that there is a need to do something about the allowances because they are barely able to pay the hotel and buy the food that no effort is being made at this stage. Perhaps in next year's Estimates we will have a more realistic presentation and certainly it seems to me that the time has come when the allowances for travelling have to be increased to take into account overseas inflationary pressures.

In Australia the same thing happened. In Australia I had to subsidise my allowance out of my own pocket. It worked out to about \$7 U.S. a day. I had taken some money because of the experience I had in Norway and I did not want to suffer again but I was in a precarious situation and I feel extremely sorry for a number of Civil Servants who have to go on these Conferences or whatever and I know that they are hard-pressed in meeting two ends when they have to stay at overseas hotels and eat at overseas restaurants.

I believe a lot of this vote is utilised by civil servants. I hope the impression is not being given that this vote is entirely utilised and consumed by Ministers but certainly civil servants and it is necessary to look at their positions because as I said they are the greatest users of this vote and the increasing pressures abroad to meet the cost of living in places like England, Norway, or wherever — I would not say New York because food is still cheap in New York — but certainly England because the things there are very high and we must try at all times to ensure that the people who represent the country of Barbados from whatever side, Opposition or Government, are not meant to appear to be less than full representatives of the country of Barbados.

The question that Head 15 subhead 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 — CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, as all hon. members are aware, for a long period of time it was part of the terms and conditions of work of a number of Government workers in various departments at Seawell Airport, now the Grantley Adams International Airport, that the Government provides transportation from Bridgetown to the Airport for these workers. 5.05 p.m.

During the course of the Estimates Committee Meeting last year, it was discovered, that each Department with workers, by way of public tender was paying out considerable sums of money for this service and we had a situation in which Customs, Defence and Security and the Civil Aviation Division all had different contracts which were awarded by the Tenders Committee.

The Hon. Minister of Finance requested that the Civil Aviation Division do a study as to whether it would not be possible to have a larger vehicle to carry out this service, at specific periods of time in the day for the transport of these workers. This study showed, that with the exception of one body of workers namely, the Air Traffic Controllers, that it would be possible for a time schedule to be worked out which would be suitable for all of the rest of the workers who had been transported.

Obviously, it is necessary to consolidate under one Head in one division in Government, the total sum required. Accordingly, the Civil Aviation and Tourism Division Airport Management Services Sub-head Three has to be supplemented in order to cater for this centralised service. I want to make it clear, that the only group of workers whose time of work does not fit in with this service is the Air Traffic Controllers because of the I.C.A.O. Regulations and their hours of work. Separate arrangements will continue to be made for the Air Traffic Controllers, but all of the Customs staff, the Immigration, the Defence and Security and the balance of the Civil Aviation, that is, the cleaners and people of that kind, they will fit conveniently into a repeated chartered bus service and it works out at a much cheaper rate, than using the small 20 seating buses to deal with the individual things.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution stand part.

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

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments about this expenditure. I am not saying that it should come into effect immediately, but I think that Government would have to take a very serious look at this situation. For instance, there are people working in the Public Service who live in St. Philip and have to find their own transport to Bridgetown. There are people who live in St. Lucy and work for the Government and have to find their own transport to Bridgetown, if they work in Bridgetown. There are people who even live in St. Michael who have to find their own transport to Speightstown. But for some unknown reason, the airport has been singled out as the only place where workers are transported and provided transport from Bridgetown to the Airport. Some of these workers comes from St. George, so instead of going across

country, to the Airport, they go into Bridgetown to take a vehicle which the Government provides to the airport.

Now, I understand, Mr. Chairman, that all of us operate on the basis that the Airport, when it was put down, was miles from Bridgetown and everybody says, that when you go to the airport, that you are almost going off the earth or something. But, today, transport from one point to the other is very simple and I see no reason why a person living in St. John should go into Bridgetown to be provided with transport from Bridgetown to the airport and a person living in St. Philip who works in the Customs has to drive his own car, or get a taxi, or a lift, or something into Bridgetown. But, a Customs Officer in Bridgetown is given transportation to the airport and for this reason, Mr. Chairman, I am just mentioning it. No change can be made at this time, but there are people who live in Christ Church, like Silver Sands who are provided transport to the Airport, but other people who are living at the Airport are not provided any transport to go into Bridgetown. Something is very, very strange about it. It does not add up to me and I would only suggest that Government give this some very serious consideration for the future.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to know, the proposal here is that the Barbados Transport Board undertake a charter service, in order to take workers to and from the airport, on an average of seven trips daily. The impression being conveyed here is that this would definitely be cheaper, or more efficient, or both, than transportation through private concessionaires. I wonder if the Hon. Minister can tell us what is the private concessionaire that is presently undertaking this particular charter, at the moment and what is the cost? I want to know, I want to know too, whether the Barbados Transport Board is equipped and geared to provide this particular service. I want to know because when we look at the commuting public, in the bus stands of this country and at the bus stops of this country, we see a lot of passengers waiting for transport, but are finding difficulty in getting to and from work, to and from recreation and other places. So, I want to know whether the Barbados Transport Board, which apparently, at this particular point, seems to be unable — I get this impression (ASIDES) — that it seems to be unable to provide an adequate service for the commuters of this country, whether they can be in a position to take on additional work, by means of charter.

I take it, that this is during the day and not during the night, or early morning when some may get overturned. (ASIDES). Daily means nightly, is it at night? I am asking whether the Transport Board is in a position to take on this additional workload when, to

all appearances, they are having some difficulty in moving the school children to and from educational institutions, moving the working public to and from the work place and also moving those persons who may wish to travel on social or recreational purposes? I say nothing about the people of Silver Sands, or the people of Welchman Hall, or the people of St. Lucy. There are others who can speak for them. But, I think that this Honourable House is entitled to get that type of information and I am seeking some information in this particular regard. (ASIDES).

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I really did not intend to join this debate, but I think that the point which has been made by the hon. member for St. Michael South is a point which is worthy of consideration.
5.15 p.m.

I do not think that we are objecting to the change in the arrangements where provisions is made for the Transport Board to basically take on a charter, but what we are really asking is whether or not the Transport Board is capable of handling this charter, because it is clear from the people who mass at the bus poles at the peak hours in the mornings and in the evenings in St. Lucy, St. Peter and all around Barbados — I am talking of people who are travelling to work and who are travelling from work, I am speaking of the difficulties which are experienced by the school children getting to school and getting back, I am speaking of difficulties, Mr. Chairman, of people, for example, in areas which are not at the beginning of a bus route but who are on the route — and all these matters have been raised in here already, areas like the same Checker Hall about which I heard exchanges across the Chamber that the Barbados Labour Party had been into Checker Hall on Sunday night and that there were about 20 buses in a very short space of time there. What the hon. members must be aware of is that commuters in Checker Hall have been planning, and are planning, to march on the Transport Board to ventilate grievances which they are having as far as getting buses to get them to work and back are concerned. (*Aside*). I am speaking about petitions which have been sent to the Transport Board from people in Pie Corner and other areas in St. Lucy complaining about the rotten service which they are getting, because, Mr. Chairman, the problems which they are experiencing in getting to work and getting back home are tremendous, and no amount of attempts to soft-soap the situation is going to make any difference, because they are the people who are travelling and who have got to rely on the bus service, and therefore I think they will know.

One has only got to go in the bus stands of this country on evenings to see what the situation is on evenings, and one has only got to be in the situation to

see the people who are massing at the bus stands on mornings, and indeed to hear the complaints which are levelled by people who get to work late as a result of what is obviously a very serious shortage of buses in this country, and I think that that is something which we should be looking at, and indeed if we are going to be able to deal with the problem of transportation, this is one of the issues, so that what we are interested in finding out is whether or not the Transport Board, faced with the kind of problems which we have outlined on this side, has the capacity, indeed the capability, of taking on this charter.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I will reply to the questions asked by the hon. member. The three departments had various contractors, and as the hon. member would be aware, the question of contractors for services is dealt with by the Tenders Committee after advertising, and certainly I do not have the ones in relation to Defence and Security, because there was no contract in relation to Defence and Security, that is a new service which only arose since November last year when the airport was first opened, when a Mr. Harper was one of the contractors in respect of one of the services. A Mr. Smith used to do the contract in respect of this. I understand that as a result of the utilisation of certain vehicles which hitherto were illegal but are now perfectly legal since rationality has been brought to the ground transportation in Barbados, that little interest is now displayed in quoting for this business. None of the coach operators, including the gentleman, are particularly interested in this business, because the period of time when the vehicle was needed is the period of time when now they can legally carry out other activities such as providing island tours and things of that kind, so it is not a question of hardship in relation to operators. As a matter of fact, the departments report that increasingly they were getting less and less interest in the tendering. Apparently there are greener pastures at the airport, and now that there is no longer a single monopoly in relation to transportation at the airport they prefer to use their equipment and their investment in a more profitable manner.

Now, the times. It is 7.15 from Bridgetown to the airport, and from the airport to Bridgetown 8.15. The second one is 14.15 from Bridgetown and 15.15 from the airport, and the last one is 21.15 and 22.15 from the airport.

Hon. members raised the question of the capacity of the Transport Board to deal with this. I want to point out that the Transport Board has a lot of equipment, but some of this equipment is suitable for this type of service but not suitable to do the strain that is created by having to do a Transport Board route. It might sound peculiar, but there are some of the older ones that can do a specific route, but if you were to put them on a regular route they cannot do it, and that is the equipment that is

being used, because it breaks down if you put it on a regular run, but if you just get it to go from one place to another it can do it, and they are being paid for it. We hope that they will use that money to help to finance other buses.

Hon. members have raised the question about the bus fares. I think it is well known that the Government is as committed to providing the best transportation service in the Caribbean area, and we have the best now, but it has not reached the standard that we in Barbados would like. I am amazed to hear that we have 216 buses on the roads of Barbados and that Jamaica and other countries do not have that amount. I was just in Trinidad this weekend and I understand that they had 600 vehicles. Now, Sir, the position is that the Government has ordered, the Letter of Credit was issued and the Minister of Communications can confirm it, we have done everything in our power from this side to send the money abroad to be able to get 30 buses for this year. The money has left Barbados, the Letter of Credit has been opened for 30 new buses to add to the fleet.
5.25 p.m.

Thirty more buses as I understand it will be coming in. They do not ship all thirty at one time, but this Parliament has voted money for them and during the course of the financial year they will come in, and we hope next year to be able to do that again. There is no country in the world that can completely re-equip its fleet over the course of the year. You cannot get any bus builder any part of the world to devote so much equipment to any one country. It has to be done over a five years period, and our record over our five year period is an honourable one. I am sure we have brought in more than 150 new buses, far more than you have ever brought in in the whole of your fifteen years. We have brought in 150 new buses so far. The actual figures are 130 new buses and thirty are on order which will be in before our term of office expires, which is 160 buses. That is a very good rate.

In addition to that, we will be coming down with a Bill soon to bring rationality and legislation to a certain number of minibuses. The Prime Minister has announced this already, and I am sure that the hon. member over there is proud of the fact that many of his constituents are now legally providing a supplementary service. In any event it is the policy of Government that we are going to carry the jobs to the people, and I am sure the hon. member over there from St. Lucy in particular will be very pleased to know that we hope in the course of the next five years to provide job opportunities in Speightstown and near Half Moon Fort. I think the industrial estate area is in Colleton, so that they do not have to travel up to Bridgetown. These are the facts.

I beg to move that Head 36 – Civil Aviation and Tourism Division, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, before the Resolution is passed, it seems to be a habit of the hon. member for St. Lucy every time he gets an opportunity to talk about the bus service in St. Lucy, and it is regrettable for some unknown reason that the Transport Board has always responded to the needs of St. Lucy which now has the best bus service there is in the Island. I do not really understand what is this problem or what is this constant quarrel about when it comes to the bus service.

When this party came into power in 1976 the bus service was in a chaotic position. The King Report which was prepared by and for the Democratic Labour Party showed that at that time well over 60% of the buses in the Transport Board had well gone past their recognised useful service to the country. There are buses at the Transport Board well over 22 years old and the expected life of those buses was calculated at 16 years. There is one brand of bus bought in the reign of the Democratic Labour Party that has failed completely and the engineers in this country have recommended that they be written off at ten years old. We have constant claims going back and forth from the Transport Board to the parent company about these buses.

Now this Government as the Deputy Prime Minister has said set about from early in 1977 to rationalise the Transport Board service. We ordered new buses, completely built buses, and we ordered chasses. Now at this given moment we have on order 30 new buses to come into Barbados. We can only do all that is within our power in this country to make sure that we put our side right. A sum of \$2.7 million was voted in the annual Estimates for the Transport Board. We have ordered the buses. The bus bodies that were costing us \$50,000 before have now gone to \$62,000. Leyland has said that they will ship the chasses according to production, and we have agreed with the shipping agents who said that as fast as they can put them there, they will bring them. We cannot manufacture buses. We can only depend on the manufacturers to send them in.

Now the hon. member is saying that we cannot move people going to work, school children and people for social activities. Mr. Chairman, let me deal with the people who are going to work first. When we came into office, at 6.30 p.m. and 7 o'clock people were in the bus stands in this country trying to get home after having left work at 4.00 and 4.30 p.m. Go into any bus stand in Barbados today and within one hour of closure of work the bus stands are literally empty. Go out and you will see it. (A VOICE: Not true.) Tell me where you can find

them, and if you want to let us go in the bus stand, I can. You know that it is true. I go in the bus stand on evenings and I watch. The only way you will find people in the bus stand is if we have a break down from one of the old buses that the Transport Board should have changed back in 1972 that they kept running. Read the King Report and hear what King said.

Let us talk about the school children. We devote in this administration 77 buses to move school children daily. They never devoted that amount of buses. We have a problem, Mr. Chairman. Although we have special school buses, we have a number of school children who will not travel by the school buses. They still go into the bus stand and as all young people and school children they like the hustle and bustle of the bus stand so that next day probably they can get in the school and tell their friends how they got on the bus in front of somebody else; but there is no Government that can legislate for them. If the school children feel that they want to ride home late, it is left to the school teachers and their parents to determine how they travel. We have been able to provide 77 buses a day morning and evening to move school children to their various schools and I am satisfied that the Government is doing its duty. I am satisfied at a reduced price to carry them to and from school.

When it comes to social services, Mr. Chairman, we provide a service for pensioners to travel. We ask them, and I stand by it, to travel outside the rush period because we want to accommodate the workers first. Do you know what we have discovered, and the hon. member for St. Lucy should know this? There are old people, senior citizens — and I am not vex with them, I am proud about it — but the only thing I would ask of them is to have a little bit more discretion, because they leave home on mornings, they meet their friends at the bus stop in town, they change, they ride to Sam Lord's Castle and ride back and go up and down when the day comes because they are enjoying it f-r-e-e, totally free. Well, Mr. Chairman, if those old people in the bus stands want to butt up with the other people, that is their business, none of mine. It is like the people who draw pensions by cheque. You send the cheques to their houses, they know they can cash the cheques at a village shop, but they go down to the Post Office and stand up in the sun, and then you hear somebody saying something about those poor old people out there in the sun, not a shade over their head; but when you ask the same old people why they are standing out there, they tell you it is the only place they can find somebody to talk to; so they go to meet their old colleagues outside the pension office with a cheque in their hands. We cannot stop the old people from travelling but I guarantee anybody that with the number of buses we are putting out, between 210 and 222 buses a day on the road and running full to capacity, the Transport Board is carrying out its duty to the travelling public of this country.

5.35 p.m.

We have reached a situation and the King Report says that the Transport Board will carry 40 million people in the year 1984. We are carrying over 40 million people now. You know why? The policies of the Barbados Labour Party have been such that 13,000 more people have been at work than was at work under the Democratic Labour Party and therefore we are moving more people and more children going to school and we are coping with the situation and the tourists are using the buses now. The school children are using the buses and, therefore, Mr. Chairman, despite what the Opposition might say, the travelling public out there is satisfied that the Transport Board is doing a good job so I do not know what they are saying.

We have started a complete renewal plant programme. We have ordered 30 buses for this year and we are going to put in the Estimates for next year for another 30 buses because we hope to review the Transport Board completely.

Now I come to a very crucial point when it comes to buses in this country. Back in the 1970's there was a Report in the Transport Board that the Transport Board should seek out the Manufacturer who would build buses specifically for the specification of the roads in this country. Buses used to be built 7ft. wide. Because of international pressures and long distance routes in major developed countries the Manufacturers started to build buses at 7ft. 6ins. They went from 7ft. 6ins to 8ft.

Now you read the newspapers and you hear everybody talking about these wide buses on our narrow roads but nobody in the then Government, nobody in the then Transport Board, looked at it to see or read the Report to understand what was happening. We continued to order buses all of a straight production line and we brought buses to Barbados which now have about 8ft. to 6ft. width on our roads.

Now as far as I am concerned, I have said straight and plain to the Transport Board that we must write our own specifications and we must say to Manufacturers, and there are no may-be's about it, Mr. Chairman. You have the British, you have the Italians, you have the Germans and you have everybody down in your necks trying to sell you buses and as long as the area is there that you have International competition to sell your Government buses, you can demand what you want and I have said that you must go back to the 7ft. 6ins. buses if you want to go back to the narrow bus to be accommodated on the road structure of this country and they will talk.

I am the most surprised, amazed, and sad man when I hear two buses hit head on. There are certain roads in this country that when two buses are travelling

one has got to stop down in the gutter or reverse because they cannot pass. It is either that you do a complete road reconstruction programme that is going to cost you millions of dollars or we are going to order the buses of a certain specification that can safely pass each other without the head-on accidents that are going on today.

They sat down in a Government for 15 years before they even renewed the buses. They took them at long hand and do not let me call the names or do not let me say how you bought the last set of buses because they were bought without an agreement, without a Spare Parts Agreement, and the Transport Board has suffered up to this day. There are certain buses in the Transport Board that anytime they breakdown you have to leave them down for 9 months to get parts for them and these were bought under the regime of the Democratic Labour Party and then the Democratic Labour Party would like to come in here and criticise this Government saying that the buses do not run because we took up the mess of the Democratic Labour Party and tried to clean it up.

I have said in this country and in this Parliament over and over again that everybody seems to believe that the Barbados Labour Party has in a bunch of magicians and we can take a wand and correct the errors of 15 years. You cannot do it. The way the Government process has gone through you have to take your time. (ASIDES). I do not understand that hon. member. He is so worried about four years. You have 44 more years over there. Do not worry your head. Get accustomed to it.

Mr. Chairman, he would know nothing about the bus business. He was never in the bus business. He was in the school business and I believe that if he had looked at the school business in relation to the buses we would not have this sorry situation where every morning you have to take a bus and send children from St. Philip down to the Garrison Secondary School. You have to take up children from Bridgetown and send them off to Princess Margaret School at Six Cross Roads. This is what we are faced with in this country. This is what we are faced with unless we now sit down and let me say this now, Mr. Chairman, and I have said it before and I will say it again, the Chamber of Commerce must also sit down with the Trade Union because the hon. member for St. Lucy likes to talk about people and buses. He likes to talk about people not getting home but I would like him and his Institution to sit down with the Chamber of Commerce and determine whether it would not be in the interest of the working population in this country to have business houses in Bridgetown, the consumer oriented business, to sit down and decide to open at 9 a.m. or 9.30 a.m. and let the factories that have to open on three

shifts to open and spread the movement of people throughout this country. That is what I have been asking for a long time.

You have schools beginning at 8.30 a.m. You have factories beginning at 8.00 or 8.30 a.m., and you have Broad Street opening at 8.00 and 8.30 a.m. Now tell me something, Mr. Chairman, what is wrong. What is wrong with saving man hours in this country because I tell you, if you sit down and begin to work out the man hours that are lost in this country, it is an astronomical amount. If you work in Bridgetown, in Broad Street and you want to go and buy your groceries, had it not been for JB's and Carlton Supermarkets, you would have to beg for an hour and run out so that you are robbing your employer of an hour and if you work in a Supermarket and you want a piece of cloth you have to beg for an hour and run out to get that piece of cloth.

Now what is wrong with the shifting of working hours and letting some people going to work at 9 a.m., some people going to work at 7.30 a.m., and let us have a proper system of work and transportation in this country. Factories are saying to give three shifts but the big constraining factor is because the workers are saying we cannot get into town to shop, the stores are going to be closed and all of these kind of things and I want the hon. member for St. Lucy instead of coming in here with propaganda politics to ask his Institution to sit down and look at the working hours in this country.

I hear his big boss, the magaffy King, one time magaffy King, saying he is going to look at Gas Stations. He says there is need for a 24-hours service in this country in Gas Stations. I want to hear him pronounce now for the working people three shifts and getting home early. I want to hear him pronounce on this now. 5.45 p.m.

As soon as you start to pronounce, you have to look at the economics of the game. The Transport Board, whether in Barbados, or whether it was Kuwait where they have all the oil money could not, with any sense, buy enough buses to carry home all the working people within one hour of finishing work because they would have dead stock on their hands for the balance of the day and you, when you are going to pronounce now, you really have to look at the economics of this game. We have done what we consider is necessary and correct. I want the hon. member for St. Lucy; I want his institution to sit down and next time he opens his mouth on transport, stop talking about buses waiting down the road. I was in St. Peter Sunday night, Mr. Chairman, the buses passed through St. Peter to get to St. Lucy. I was amazed, every time I looked down another bus, another bus, another bus down to Connell Town, Animal Flower Cave, Sunday night. (ASIDES).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Friday night you passed me in Speightstown and you had to stop because they were six buses in a row going down to St. Lucy. You. Six buses in a row going down to St. Lucy and two minutes after, I passed you, the by-pass bus was in front of seven buses coming up. You know that too and if he had gone down in the Lower Green bus stand, Mr. Chairman, down there was empty not one passenger standing up down there.

I will tell you something now, you go at the airport a Saturday evening. There will be more people waiting at the airport to get into Bridgetown at six o'clock an evening, than there are in any bus stand trying to get home. So, they cannot talk about the bus service in this country. We have trained drivers, we have trained conductors, we have lifted it out of the pit out of the murk and brought it up to a standard which can be recognised and appreciated. We have got the best bus service in the Caribbean and I pledge that we will have a better service, within the next year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

The question that Head 36 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 43.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 10

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Subhead 7 – Lands and Surveys Department

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary is seeking the sum of fourteen thousand dollars on Head 43(7) is to meet the cost of increase in expenditure for supplies and also for the maintenance and repairs of vital equipment Sir, for the Lands and Surveys. There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that due to the increased cost in a number of these things, it is necessary to seek this supplementary.

I beg to move that Head 43 stand part.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 43.....

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that this supplementary Resolution should be allowed to

go through like this. They are asking for a supplementary here, in the sum of \$14,800.00 and the Addendum is very scant, it does not tell us anything. In fact, I would like to read it. It says that the supplementary is required:

“to meet the cost of unavoidable increases in expenditure on supplies and on the maintenance and repairs of vital equipment.”

Now, this vital equipment, I would like to know what this vital equipment is. What is the equipment for which the money is required and what are these unavoidable increases? I wonder if the Hon. Minister could give us some information on this matter.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, Yes. I am happy to give the hon. member the information. He is of the impression, that I have not got the file and I do not know what it is about. But, I will give him the answer to suit. It is equipment used by the surveyors. I am not a technical man and therefore, I do not know the technical terms, but it is for the equipment which they use to carry out their duties as a surveyor, surveying the lands in the various areas for the Government of Barbados, Sir. I hope that satisfies him. I do not know the names of the tripods and chain links, I do not know these names. I am not a technical man. I know, that it is vital equipment which is used for the purpose of carrying out the survey, when acquisitions are to be done, by the Department of Lands and Surveys, Sir.

The question that Head 43 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81, No. 12

HEAD 16 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE – SUBHEAD 1

Item Number 1(b) was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to grant the sum of \$18,000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980-81 Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980-81, No. 12 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the Estimates were prepared, the quotes for providing usual entertainment and things of that kind at Independence celebrations were assumed to be on the same level as previous years, indications are that it is unrealistic to expect that this will be so. Accordingly, the opportunity is taken to supplement this vote because we do not wish to incur expenditure, without parliamentary authority and I move that Head 16 stand part.

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

The question that Head 16 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 11
HEAD 79 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

Item 1(c) was called – to move the passing of the Resolution to grant the sum of \$2,775,600 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980-81 Part II – Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980-81, No. 11, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

5.55 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this falls within the Ministry of Education and the appropriation sought here is the first of a series of appropriations which will be necessary if we are to equip ourselves in a modest manner for carrying out our obligations, having accepted that responsibility, of the hosting of CARIFESTA.

The full details of this matter will be outlined by the Minister of Education in due course, and I am sure that he anticipates and that he has come prepared to answer a few questions from the other side. I know that these questions will be motivated by a genuine concern to ensure that Barbados equips itself in a manner which will reflect credit, because I believe that the other side are equally as anxious as we are to ensure that when this Festival is over nothing but the fulness of praise will fall on Barbados as a nation.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think that there are a number of questions which need to be asked, and certainly answers provided, because it is a large sum of money which to all intents and purposes this Hon. House is being asked to vote.

The Deputy Prime Minister in introducing this Resolution has mentioned that this is the first of a series of appropriations which will be necessary for Barbados to equip itself to mount this CARIFESTA extravaganza. I think that we must stop and take stock of this whole question, and it seems to me that the original concept of CARIFESTA was one which was designed to provide an opportunity for artists in the Caribbean to come together and present their works, and hopefully to develop the cultural awareness of the

Caribbean people. It seems now that CARIFESTA is developing more or less into a national showpiece, and I think that this is one of the criticisms which were levelled at the CARIFESTA presentation in Jamaica, and one of the criticisms which were also levelled at the CARIFESTA presentation in Cuba.

It would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that we have to be able to determine a number of things, because as I said, it is going to be a considerable amount of money which will be spent by this country on hosting CARIFESTA. Now, we would like to know, for example, what will be the spin-off effects in hosting CARIFESTA, as far as the furtherance and as far as the development of the arts in Barbados are concerned. Can we be given any indication about any permanent structures which will remain and which will be used for the continued development of the arts in this country? I think that we are agreed, generally speaking, that there is need in Barbados for a well planned, well laid out and well constructed and well sited centre for the performing arts in Barbados, and I believe that the Minister will certainly be giving at least I hope that the Minister will be in a position to give us, some indication as to what will be happening in this particular area. I understand, for example, that right now there are lots of bulldozers and people working seven days a week throughout the day and night trying to get the CARIFESTA village ready for the occasion, and one of the criticisms which I have heard levelled on the whole preparations as far as Barbados is concerned for the hosting of the CARIFESTA activities is that one is not sure, people who are in the arts are not really sure about what is going on, there has not been much information coming out, and the criticism has also been levelled that it would seem as if they were starting too late, because this involves a lot of preparation, and the hope was that certainly the preparation would have begun much earlier.

It would also seem to us, Mr. Chairman, that while we are talking on the question of arts and the question of CARIFESTA that we should look into the upgrading of existing theatres in this country where the performing arts take place. For example, in Queen's Park and at Combermere School hall, and there must be some provision, particularly for the proper management of Queen's Park. Complaints which come from a group of artists that perform there suggest that the Parks and Beaches Commission, which has the responsibility for managing the Queen's Park Theatre, does not give the kind of feeling and the kind of encouragement to the artists who seek to use those premises for various performances, so that it would seem that there must be some kind of policy designed to make it easier and to seek out the problems which are raised, problems relating to rental and the availability of the Queen's Park Theatre both for practice and for performances.

So that we would like to know whether in the final analysis there will be left any permanent infrastructure, any permanent building which will enable us to say that certainly we in the long run will have gained, at least the artists will have gained something from our having put on the whole CARIFESTA extravaganza. I think, as I said, the original concept was to provide an opportunity for artists in the Caribbean not only to come together and present their works but also to present a cultural awareness in the Caribbean. I think that in Barbados the whole question of cultural awareness is still lacking behind areas like Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, to mention some of the places, and this CARIFESTA would provide a wonderful opportunity if properly planned for us to really develop the kind of awareness we are hoping for and certainly that there would be a commitment on the part of the Government to provide a permanent site for the performing arts in this country.

6.05 p.m.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts commonly known as CARIFESTA will be held in Barbados from 19th July until 3rd August next year. There have been three previous CARIFESTAS; the first one was in Guyana in 1972, and then there was the one in Jamaica in 1976, there was the one in Cuba and now Barbados is hosting the fourth one come next year.

Now I want to answer a number of questions raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy because I think there are of some significance against the background on which we are working. As originally conceived CARIFESTA was intended, Sir, to be a festival of regional inspiration, to be educational in character, and must be the type of activity that would bring a certain form of entertainment value on a scale and in a fashion that is suitable for the people of this region. The Festival set out a number of aims and objects, the most important of which was to expose the people of the region to each other's culture through creative activity, thus deepening their knowledge and awareness of the native aspirations of the peoples of the region. Other aims were to force through cultural participation closer relations between the people of the Caribbean, and it also sought to use the festival to demonstrate the arts and culture as a unifying force of the people of this whole Caribbean region.

Now we in Barbados, based on what we have seen in previous festivals, have set our target on the basis of 2,000 performers and technicians and so on invited. We have invited 32 countries. We have invited all the countries of the Caribbean, English speaking, French speaking, Dutch speaking, Spanish speaking and indeed the mainland countries that are washed by the Caribbean, Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rico and the like.

Now I feel that the type of festival that is required in Barbados must be a small and intimate festival that accords with the limited amount of facilities we have and the size of our country. We are not going to do anything that is too ambitious with our resources. A very interesting question has been raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy. He wants to know what will be left of CARIFESTA. We are coming with this Resolution to get funds to work on venues, on centres. I have already given a list of the proposed venues, for the festival and it includes Combermere, as the hon. member has just referred, Queens Park Theatre, Queens Park Steel Shed and a host of other places, and the Democratic Labour Party Headquarters in George Street. We do not have to have any quarrel about the national nature of the festival. The only spokesman for the Opposition has made a speech that is full of the national character of this festival.

I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, what will be left to answer the hon. member for St. Lucy of this festival. The cultural policy of the Government in Barbados was not based on any hosting of CARIFESTA. The cultural policy was articulated in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party in the 1976 general elections, and it was based on the understanding that the people in this country were not only in need of material things, but they also need to have a development of the cultural and aesthetic to bring about a certain quality of life so vital to a coherent development of a personality or a nation, and we set out our policy very clearly in our manifesto, and in pursuance of that policy the government set up in 1977 a National Arts and Culture Council, and people from all branches of the arts were put together to work in an advisory capacity with the Minister of Culture to help him devise plans and policies for the development of culture in Barbados.

Further, Mr. Chairman, when the Government took over in 1976 there was something less than \$50,000 a year that was being spent by Government for culture and the arts in Barbados. I am talking about subventions of a few hundred dollars here, there and so on, but since then there has been the development of a real division of culture in the Ministry of Education and Culture. It has been staffed by professional officers, by people with experience and expertise in the arts, cultural affairs officers, assistant cultural affairs officers, and they have been doing a great deal of work to build up the type of consciousness necessary to help people develop in the areas in which we would like to see them develop.

We have started, and we do not hear about these things too often — I do not know why the Press does not pursue them, for the first time the teaching of dance and movement in the primary schools in Barbados as part of the curriculum in some primary schools. We have got dance

teachers in the schools and we do work not only in the school hours but out of school hours with primary school children. We have also during the last three years provided for Barbados at least ten dance teachers either on a fairly substantial temporary period, two years and so on and those who come in work with the groups in Barbados, the Barbados Dance Theatre and the other dance groups in Barbados to do workshops on short periods so that there is a picking up at a very tremendous rate of acceleration the addition in the primary schools in particular and in the secondary schools for dance and movement.

We have also kept up our programme of the teaching of drama and music in the schools. Indeed we have had for the first time last year and the year before teachers in the primary and secondary schools in Barbados involved in workshops to give them the basics for the concept of theatre in education, a concept that brings home in more dramatic learning fashion some of the experiences that the teachers try to put through to their children in the class room.

The hon. member wants to know what will be left. Let me move back to that. We are going to spend a substantial amount of money cleaning up and renovating the Empire Theatre and we intend for the future to use the Empire Theatre as the need arises for seasonal cultural pursuits whether it is Season of Dance or a season of dramatic presentations and so on. We intend to use it for the future as the need arises, so we are going to spend some money to renovate, clean up and get that right for CARIFESTA. We are going to use Combermere which has been the main venue for cultural activity of a dramatic nature for the past many years in Barbados. We are going to do a lot of work on the Combermere Hall. We are going to make it better suited for the needs, and that is going to be a permanent contribution we are going to make to the theatre stock in Barbados, and I intend in this very venture, the money for which we are now seeking, to put into Combermere on a permanent basis theatre equipment. We are not going to be moving around all the time. We are going to put in permanently equipment of sound and lights and so on that would be there and would be made available. Although we intend to leave the general management of the school auditorium as a theatre centre with the Governing Body of the school, it will be available for all groups in Barbados who are interested in that type of activity.

We are doing some work on the Queen's Park theatre, and we are doing some on the steel shed, and we are also bringing in equipment and placing them in many of these places on a permanent basis, and we will devise after CARIFESTA a programme for the schools, particularly the ones in the St. Michael area that will

be able to use these facilities provided on a continuing and permanent basis.

Now the hon. member will remember that in 1977 there was the world festival of Black Arts in Lagos in Nigeria called FESTAT, and the aims of FESTAT were roughly parallel to the aims of CARIFESTA in the Caribbean.

6.15 p.m.

It was decided at the conclusion of FESTAT that they would encourage among the black countries of the World, or the black people of the World continuous interaction between the Artists, in every region where black people were on the globe and that FESTAT and the black countries and the black Artists in the World would give of their expertise and experience to the development of indigenous cultural expression in all black areas in the World so we do have the support not only World support, but we have strong support from black groups and black Artists in all the National and International groupings in the effort that we are making with the production of CARIFESTA next year.

Now the hon. member also raised the question of a National showpiece. He said that CARIFESTA started as one thing and it has now become the National Showpiece and he seemed to be saying it almost as if it were a criticism that there is something wrong in having a National Showpiece. I hope that is not what the hon. member intended because indeed CARIFESTA, while we are pursuing the expressed aims and objectives of hosting CARIFESTA with all that it involves, we do expect and we do intend to make it a National Showpiece and if that is the criticism well God help us but it is certainly my intention to pursue that.

I want, Mr. Chairman, because I do not think I need to go over this again because perhaps the only reason that I have to go over these things is because the information and the publicity are key factors to the success of CARIFESTA. The people have to be told over and over again what we are doing. We have to prick their consciences and their consciousness. We must try to involve all the people of Barbados, they and us, involve all the people of Barbados in making CARIFESTA 1981 the type of Festival of which all of us in this country can be proud.

Now I want, Mr. Speaker, to say very quickly that the money that we are spending on permanent structures will remain long after CARIFESTA and I want to mention the names, (1) Queen's Park Theatre, (2) The Steel Shed, (3) The Empire Theatre, (4) Combermere and an open air centre somewhere in the Church Area/Queen's Park Compound because the new Auditorium of the Central Bank which will be built at Church Village not

for CARIFESTA, as it would not be ready for CARIFESTA and we are making no plans for it, will form the centre of massive cultural activity in that part of Bridgetown so this is the sort of thing we are doing over there, Sir.

We have other plans. Government believes that you cannot localise cultural activities. In short, the people in St. Andrew or St. Philip or St. John are as much entitled to facilities, equipment, personnel, resources generally in their own districts, as other areas to bring them into the main stream of cultural activities in this country so what we are proposing to do, Mr. Chairman, is for CARIFESTA itself to have activities throughout Barbados and we are giving ourselves a clear idea of what is involved by the way in which we are organising and structuring NIFCA, the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts for 1980.

We are going to spread it out all over the Island. It will involve a great deal of organisation and we feel that if we can give ourselves opportunities to turn our machinery on, come the end of November, that we would be in a good position to see where our strength are, where our weakness are and that we will be able to improve our logistics in planning for CARIFESTA next year. It is because of the very size of the undertaking. There is of necessity a complexed network of programming and infra-structural activity.

The question was raised over and over again as to where do we host the 2,000 odd people. We will be making plans for some development down at West Terrace. Now if I may first address the question of common services. We intend to put a common services building down there, temporary or permanent, that will make provision for things like rehearsal rooms, general mess rooms, Hospital, Post Office, Exhibition rooms, book shops and the whole range of services that will be required by the group of Artists as a group.

We also intend to do some housing, not enough to house all the participants at West Terrace but we do have plans for some of the people down there. I cannot go into the exact figures at this time but we have a number of plans, contingency plans, and contingency, contingency plans, and I am confident, totally confident, Mr. Chairman, that in that part of Barbados, the North Western part of St. Michael and St. James area, that we will be providing accommodation for all active participants in CARIFESTA.

There will be no spin-off benefits. Now we have had a logo competition for CARIFESTA and I believe it has been published in the Press already who is the winner of the logo but I have not yet myself seen the logo in the Press. I have spoken to a member of the media only today and I was given the assurance that we will have in

the next day or two the logo made public and we expect that the logo will be used very widely, local and overseas as part of our CARIFESTA promotion.

We have had on-going plans and discussions with the Board of Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture has been in touch with the Tourist Board in Germany, Toronto, Montreal, New York and London and they are feeding it on a regular basis, all of the information as it comes to hand so that it can be publicised as widely as possible in North America and Europe. We have had letters, telegrams, requests and information for people and groups from many countries all over the World expressing an interest in (1) participation and (2) visiting the Island for the CARIFESTA exercise.

6.25 p.m.

It will mean, that there will be many thousands of people coming into Barbados and I am informed by a Trinidad travel agency, that there had already been over eight thousand Trinidadians who have gone into travel agencies in Trinidad and tried to make bookings, or made bookings to come for the period of CARIFESTA and that is just for one country. The spin off benefits of the large numbers of visitors to Barbados are obvious and I do not think that the Hon. Member for St. Lucy would really want me to articulate and detail them for him, but there will be large numbers of visitors, from all over the world, who will be coming into Barbados for the period of this Festival.

I also want to let Hon. Members know Mr. Chairman, that we have the support, in terms of financial and resource commitment by UNESCO, the Organisation of American States, the International Cultures Exchange and the Governments of five big industrialised countries who have given us undertaking of support, in various forms. So that, we feel Sir, that we are on to what I consider a good thing.

The question was raised, by a few misguided people Sir, that CARIFESTA has been used by Governments in the past, in the region for political ends, that is an argument Sir, that escapes me. I do not quite understand what political ends there are in hosting a festival for two weeks, but maybe, I am a little bit naive in these things, I do not know. It could be. I certainly can give the clear word Mr. Chairman, that certainly the Government of Barbados, in undertaking to host CARIFESTA next year was not at all moved, or motivated by any partisan, political considerations. I say that Sir, for what it is worth and people will believe what they want to believe, but that is what I say and I am saying it because I was intimately involved with it, from the very beginning and at every stage.

Mr. Speaker, if I may just suggest one other thing, in respect of this whole business of CARIFESTA. Over the next few months, the artists in Barbados, artists Sir, with an "s" at the end, I cannot always pronounce it well, Sir, but an "s" at the end, they will have the first opportunity ever, in the history of this country, to play a major role in devising and executing a big area of national, cultural activity funded and supported by the Government and the people of Barbados. Now, this can do a number of things, but what I feel honestly that it will do Sir, is to bring home finally, to the people of Barbados, that the artist is an important person in this community, who has a contribution to make to the national life of this country. We spent a long time Sir, many years, in which the artists were relegated to a position of marginality on society, where they were people who were of no particular importance and whatever they did was something that you paid very little thought to.

Now, the artists, Sir are the recorders in graphic form, in theatrical form, in dramatic form, the very essence of the soul of a nation. Our writers, Sir are the ones who record for posterity, what the people of a particular period thought and felt, how they reacted, what was the nature of life and those things. The painter, the sculptor, the artist, these are people who have messages Sir not only for Barbados, but for the world. They speak in a language which they understand and which other people understand, although a lot of us do not understand. There are some of us Sir, who are philistines and they do not always understand, but they speak a language and give a message, a clear, undisguised message of how they feel about the society they are living in, at a particular period in time and these people Sir, are sensitive human beings. They are people who quite often need to be flattered, you need to flatter them and humour them, from time to time, Sir. You can write that all down to the eccentricity of people in the arts. I am not saying that about all artists, Sir, but some of them freely admit that they are eccentric, that you need to be eccentric to be a true artist because the artist does not travel on the same rails, as the rest of the community and sometimes, they have to go off the rails to be able to look at the society. Now, all these are the sort of things, Mr. Speaker, which I believe are vitally important, in the development of our national life.

We spend so much time in this country talking about materialism how much money you work for, how many salary increases you get, houses, physical and capital developments and I am not complaining about that Sir because all that is vital to the good life and I support it. But, I feel very strongly and my Government feels very strongly Sir, that people need a little bit more than that. They need a development of the spiritual and the aesthetic. If you go to Combermere Hall Sir during NIFCA and you see the hundreds of people, from all

walks of life and all age groups, who are thoroughly absorbed in with what is happening on the stage at Combermere School Sir, or if you look at the Season of Dance at the Combermere School and you see the people of all walks of life and age groups who again are very vitally involved in what is happening on a stage there, Sir, then you realise Sir, that there is something and a special need which is crying out to be catered to in this country.

We have had to learn a lot Sir, from the things which have gone wrong in the developed countries. We are in a beautiful position Sir because we can sit back and watch where they went wrong; all the weaknesses which are now showing up in their societies and benefit and learn from them. It is only a fool who does not learn from the experiences not only of himself, Sir, but the experiences of others. We have seen in industrialised countries Sir, the over concern with material development and they sacrifice the type of aesthetic, cultural development, the embellishment of the soul, as the poet puts it Sir, the sweetness and light as Matthew Arnold puts it. The Hon. Member for St. Michael South should know of these things. He does. Matthew Arnold wrote a book way back. He was a churchman, a man who wrote Culture and Anarchy Sir and what he did in Culture and Anarchy, was to put in far more eloquent terms, what I am trying to say now, Sir, that if you are going to be the money grabbers and the people in the market place, the swindlers and the people who are concerned only about the material side of their life and there was no groping after a satisfaction of the sweetness and light, then you are going to have a society, in which there is pure anarchy.

We, in Barbados, are trying to benefit from the experience of others and plug this hole before it is too late Sir. I remember last year, Sir, there was a certain teacher Sir, they are very insulting these days. One time we used to respect authority, but this dear lady wrote a letter in the newspaper and she said the Government is spending \$300,000.00 on Crop Over and Kadooment, people jumping up in the streets, they could take this money and give to scholarships and something like that. Well, in a way, I sympathise with her. You could take all the money and give scholarships, you do not even have to pave the roads give everybody scholarships. But, the type of integrated development, human development, in any society requires that you cater to a whole range of needs in the society. You give scholarships, that is necessary, you build houses, that is necessary, you give a national Health Service, to cater to the health needs because that is necessary. But they are all important and it is supine of anybody to put out any argument, that you should spend all your money in one area and neglect another. We are trying, Mr. Chairman, to look after an area of national neglect.

6.35 p.m.

I remember, Sir, that in early 1977 when I took a look at what was happening in the Ministry, I told the Prime Minister that first of all if we were serious about culture we would have had to name the Ministry Culture. That is the psychological difference. Do not say Ministry of Education and then put a little piece down in the back and say that is the Culture thing, where you have three old chairs, a Clerk, a Typist and somebody writing on files, forget about that. First of all, if you want to develop culture, put the name Culture in the title of the Ministry, and he proceeded to do it, and I am submitting, Sir, that that has made a significant difference to the point of view of both the artists and the public, and we will move on and we will continue Mr. Chairman, involving the broad stretch of people in this country in this type of activity.

I remember shortly after the last election the now Leader of the Opposition spoke in an interview on CBC and he made reference to the thousands of young unemployed people in the island who, if he had given them \$20 apiece or something like that to vote for the Barbados Labour Party they might have voted for the DLP. I believe, Sir, that that is a difference in vision, because the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition saw it again in these purely shallow and narrow terms that a 20 dollar bill to unemployed young people in the country might have made a difference in how they voted.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never made such a statement, I made a statement to the effect that there were a lot of unemployed young people who had left school, that people at the end of their working lives were given pensions and therefore people at the beginning of their working lives could be given some spending power as well. I also connected that programme with a programme for training and getting these young people for three or four hours a day into various areas of activity so that they could feel that they were working for money.

The hon. member talks about giving people a 20 dollar bill. The level of the hon. member — I was going to say he was a culture vulture, which is not an offensive term — but from the tone of his speech, it was very good up to that point, so I would like him to keep it at that level and at least to be accurate when he is quoting me, Sir.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member for St. John feels that I have misrepresented what he said. That is my clear recollection, Sir, I clearly remember that, but I will not get into any argument about it. As to the reference about a culture vulture, the hon. member has a way — he did it twice last week and he thinks he can do it all the time. If he thinks he can do it with other people on

this side he cannot do it with me — but the hon. member has a way of softening up people and then delivering the blow. He is very good at doing that, but it does not work with me.

I remember only too well the hon. member for St. John said at Ellerton Corner in the General Election of 1971 that he was born at a plantation in St. Lucy and ask Louis Tull where he was born. I remember very well the hon. member saying that, I was in the crowd, nobody reported that to me.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I have never made any such statement. The only statement I have made in reference to plantations is that I was born in the middle of a sugar cane field, and I can show him a picture of the house. I have never made any such reference to the hon. member, as you know, Sir, so let us keep the debate at the level it was going on. I was about to compliment him, but I cannot compliment him any more.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, when I was going to school I used to study Greek, Sir, and one of the things I picked up early was to beware of the Greeks when they bring gifts, and I am always a little bit nervous when I get any compliment from the hon. member for St. John, so if he intended complimenting me, Sir, I am very glad that he did not, he makes me a little nervous when he thinks I have done something well. Let him keep those commendations for the members on his side, I think they need them very badly. I do not know why the hon. member needs to get so crusty about these things, Sir, because I clearly remember. There are some things that are said about me that I do not forget, Sir, because the clear implication of that... (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never said anything like that). The hon. member in that same speech said that I worked in his Law Chambers in James Street and never paid him a cent rent, and that I joined the Democratic Labour Party and told him.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir, I never knew the hon. member then, how could I make such a statement? I did not even know that he was qualified as a lawyer when I went into the Government, so how could I possibly make such a statement? The first time I ever heard of the hon. member was when he was a candidate for the election, so how could I make a statement like that? It was probably my misfortune that I never heard of him before, but I am not criticising the hon. member. How could I possibly make such a statement?

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I will not bother to pursue all that, because anything I say the hon. member will deny. I understand there is to be a public meeting at the same corner of Ellerton two Sunday

nights from now and I will say it in front of those people. However, I will not pursue that now.

The first point that the hon. member made was that there were a number of unemployed young people and they needed something useful to do. I agree with the hon. member, and it is precisely because I agree with him and I feel the same way that I feel that their creative abilities can be used to good purpose by introducing the type of cultural policies in this country that we in this Government have sought to devise in the last three or four years. It is precisely because I believe that young people who are now coming out of school and are unemployed need to use their robust energy to good advantage for their own development that I believe that I would tie that energy to the pole of cultural activity in this country.

We, Sir, for instance started in 1977 a summer vacation workshop for the children in the summer who had nothing to do, and we figured that if they were idle we would have problems of one sort or another, so we thought that we would start a summer vacation workshop, and we started a summer vacation workshop in 1977 at Harrison College that attracted 77 children, and it is an annual thing, and this past summer we had well over 1200 children involved in activities oriented to the arts. We have things like drama, music, dance, batik, handicraft and a whole range of things, and it really warms your heart when you go around the country in the summer and see these children involved in this type of activity and what is the end product — and this is even more important — of that type of activity.

6.45 p.m.

It was never my intention, Mr. Chairman, to make any attack on the other side in respect of this matter. There are times where it is better to pursue a certain line of attack than another. All I wanted to do, Sir, was to make the type of statement that would better inform the public as to what we are trying to do in this whole CARIFESTA exercise. One think that it is not; it is not a two week period of merry-making and dancing. If it were only a two week period of merry-making I do not believe that I would spend all the long hours I spend involved in the planning of it. I would probably have used those hours for my constituency, but it is because I believe in the fundamental importance of the type of activity in which we are getting involved and the long range and overall benefit that it would work to our society as a whole that I feel happy, Sir, in being vitally involved in it.

There is continuous talk in this country about certain schisms in the society, divisions in the society. I think the in-word now is polarisation, and everybody is mouthing the word without any understanding of

what is the cause of the polarisation and indeed if it exists. I believe, Sir, that there must be a healing factor; that is my job. My job is to provide a healing balm for all those divisions and hostility and bitterness that they tell me is existing in this society. I have two important areas to deal with, education and culture, and I believe that separately and jointly they can so attune the people of this country to the rare high calling of all of us in making Barbados to continue to be, because it already is, this gem in this part of the world. What did Shakespeare say? The hon. member for St. Michael South has gone, but he said in Richard II "this precious pearl set in a silvery sea". The King was talking about England, but those days are long since gone in respect of that particular country. That fits more naturally into this Island of ours, and it is my duty in the Ministry of Education and Culture to use those two prongs of Governmental activity and policy to provide the healing balm for all the problems and the ills and divisions in the society, and to assist this country to move forward in the development of every single person who lives on this spot. I have the greatest pleasure in supporting this Resolution to provide these facilities for cultural development in Barbados.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, my contribution will be very brief. The first thing I wish to say is that the amount of money which we are being asked to vote now is likely to be the first tranche in an expenditure in respect of CARIFESTA which the Government has undertaken and to which we are committed, but I hope that the Minister who has just sat down is not going to delude himself or try to delude us into feeling that we are going to get away with an expenditure only in the vicinity of \$1 million or \$1½ million in respect of CARIFESTA. I expect to see in the Estimates next year a considerable amount of money in respect of CARIFESTA, and I hope that the economy of Barbados can afford it, and I hope that when CARIFESTA takes place that the people who are put in charge of the activities do not consider it another kind of Crop Over Festival in which people are molested on the streets, people who take part in the bands and that kind of thing.

I personally want to state categorically that I do not approve of the parade of human flesh that is described as beauty contests or queen shows and that kind of thing. I think it is a very humiliating thing for a human to be asked to parade in front of an assortment of leering people. I am an admirer of the pulchritude of human form, but I do not think that young women should be subjected to the kind of ignominy both before, during and after these contests that we know, due to the character of the promoters sometimes, they are subject to. I hope that the people who are responsible for promoting CARIFESTA do not allow our contribution to Caribbean culture to degenerate to that level.

I know there will be a lot of pressure on them to popularise the cultural activities and probably have a CARIFESTA queen and that kind of thing. I am not going to support that at all. I do not think that any public money should be spent for unlawful occasions of that nature. That is my personal view and as a citizen of Barbados I am entitled to express that personal view. I am glad to hear the Minister say it is his view as well. Two great minds think alike. I was just about to quote some Greek for him, but he may be a bit rusty; (*Asides.*) I am not surprised that the hon. member for St. James would not agree with us. He is a kind of promoter himself, I believe. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I saw you kissing a beauty queen at Colleton.)

Now what I wish to say is that the Minister mentioned various places. I wish first to give an undertaking that the George Street Auditorium is not the Democratic Labour Party Auditorium. I want to get that straight. It is true that I was the contractor, the costing accountant, the clerk of works, the critic and the mortar mixer, the steamroller driver and a lot of things in respect of that building, but I have made a stipulation that it should not be named after any political figure, because we want to make it available to the public of Barbados on a non-partisan basis, and it has to be named and registered as "the Auditorium - George Street".

I was written when I was General Secretary of the Party by the Government asking whether the place could be made available, and I wrote back and said I had been directed to inform the Ministry that we would be pleased to discuss the arrangements for the use of the Auditorium. It appears to me from the listing that the Minister gave that we appear to be centralising the activities a bit too much, and it appears to me that it would be a wonderful opportunity to bring Farley Hill - the Minister spoke about his Shakespearean talents - as a setting for something like *Midsummer's Night Dream* or *The Tempest* would be a fantastic setting.

I have spoken to people in the theatre in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America who I know are people in the theatre business who are very interested in making some kind of contribution to make Farley Hill something like the time-borne festival where we can invite people from all over the world. I throw that suggestion out not as something originating with me to get any credit for, but I think that we are tending to centralise our activities a bit too much and the large numbers of people that we will have if we can deploy some of both the visitors and the artists to other parts of the island including St. John, Sir, and possibly St. George; I say possibly St. George because St. George lacks certain maritime aspects which we in the other parishes outside of St. Thomas have, which would be amenable to the visitors.

6.55 p.m.

I do not know if you want to put the motion. I am not necessarily finished, yet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 7.00 p.m. This Sitting stands suspended until 8.00 p.m. this evening. 7.00 p.m.

On Resumption -

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the Chairman had reported progress and asked for leave to sit again. The House now reverts to Committee stage.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. John.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Before the suspension we were dealing with the different aspects of the festival of which we have all spoken. A very outstanding West Indian writer some time ago said that we should be paying a lot more attention to the granting of Scholarships and devoting more attention to the training of young people rather than the kind of sporadic expenditure every two or three years on public demonstrations. Perhaps there is some kind of accommodation for both points of view.

As far as I remember we had a festival in Guyana. There was one in Cuba which caused the Russians a lot of money I understand, but Cuba is a country which has a very distinguished and a very long cultural heritage.

We, in Barbados, because of our peculiar connections with the Metropolitan countries which used to be responsible for controlling our affairs have found ourselves in a kind of cultural realm but despite all of that, despite the complete detribalisation from our heritage which was deliberately fostered and carried out, there is residing in this country still a tremendous amount of talent amongst young people which has to their courage and which needs to be fostered.

I personally cannot support the view and I do not think the Minister himself believes anything that he has

said to be fair gain would lead me to accept that he believes that a festival of this nature or the construction of buildings is going to solve the cultural problems of Barbados or the lack of a cultural climate would turn the cultural desert into a blooming garden of cultural activity but what the West Indian writer I referred to and I prefer not to call his name was referring to when he made a statement sometime ago was the sort of West Indian propensity for outward demonstration without giving any thought to the discipline that he is apt to have for a proper public demonstration of the talents which we have. One illustration in another field which probably would demonstrate what he was driving at is dealing with athletes.

8.05 p.m.

I would never advocate that Barbados should take on Olympic Games. What I would like to see in the Olympic Games, to save us from the embarrassment which we have had this year of 1980 is that there should be 10 or 12 centres for Olympic Games. Barbados could take on cycling, or wrestling in the same year that the Games are held. In the same year that the United States staged the Winter Olympic Games, the United States could afford to say that they are not taking part in the Olympic Games in Moscow because they already had the Winter Olympic Games and, as a matter of fact, I have been speaking to some Olympic officials in this country and outside of it and suggesting that we write to Lord Killigallan the President of the Association suggesting that we would save a lot of embarrassment, since they only come every four years. You have about 12 different centres for different activities because the Games are in such short period, that no one person can see even 20% of the things which go on.

But I come back to the point. I do not think, that Barbados should take on Olympic Games because here in Barbados, we have not developed the discipline of training, we have not, in our educational system devoted sufficient time to the development of athletic skills. Similarly, despite what the Hon. Minister has said, I am satisfied that we have not got the personnel, in the educational system. I am not saying that we do not have any personnel at all, I am saying that we do not have a sufficiently large body of well-trained people in the educational system that we need to promote the development of the arts such as dancing, theatre, drama and matters of that kind because in these particular areas, you have to get children when they are young and if CARIFESTA serves only to bring home to the people of Barbados, when we see what the other people can do, that we have been, as the Hon. Minister has adverted to, devoting too much attention to bread and butter matters.

We are now moving into the stage, I believe, or we have moved into the stage, in Barbados, where survival is not the major preoccupation of the inhabitants of this country. Before, we were concerned with survival. After people have conquered that basic requirement of survival in living, then, you can turn to the disposal of your leisure hours. This is a kind of philosophical debate, the tone was set by the Hon. Minister. I am going to conclude now and unless we know how to use our leisure time and in a creative way, unless we train people to have the discipline to use their leisure time in a creative way, we are going to get a generation of limers, people who stand around the street corner in Broad Street and molest young women and middle aged women and married women when they go on their lawful occupation trying to shop for their families. That is what we will produce and that is what I was probably trying to say four years ago, when the Hon. Minister misquoted me, on the philosophical level, to which I was trying to raise the political discussion at that time.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I will not be very long on this particular matter. Barbados is about to host the CARIFESTA and I, for one recognised that this is a national effort and certainly would wish this Festival to be a success and I hope that the Ministry of Culture could pull all the necessary resources together, in order to make it a success.

We, on this Side, are proud of the part which we have played in the genesis of CARIFESTA because the whole idea originated and was developed in the period prior to 1976. The Hon. Minister has spoken, certainly the earlier part of his address, I think he could be seen, there was nothing partisan in that and I think that it was the kind of statement which all of the people in this country could subscribe to. It is true that there were a few errors which we would like to correct and to set the record straight. I regret that I have to set him right on a few occasions, but I am certain that he will understand the spirit in which a former Hon. Minister of Education speaks to a present Hon. Minister of Education. He did make a reference to Matthew Arnold being a cleric, or a priest and I can find no evidence of that and I would not say that it is an inaccuracy, I am certain that it is a slip. Thomas Arnold was the headmaster of Rugby and Matthew Arnold was the son of Thomas Arnold. So, that part about religious the cleric part, priest, there is no evidence that I can find to substantiate that and therefore, I will have to say that it is a little slip, a small inaccuracy, on the part of the Hon. Minister.

However, his reference to the phrase "sweetness and light" which is a beautiful phrase, he was quite right. It does come from Culture and Anarchy, which is among the prose works of Matthew Arnold. The uninitiate might

believe, that it was Matthew Arnold who used that phrase first of all, but I think that it was Deane Swift and the last time that I made reference to Deane Swift, the Hon. Minister, the Hon. Member for St. George South did get up to correct me, to tell me that there was no Deane Swift.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, if the Hon. Member would give way. I did not say that there was no Deane Swift, I said that the author of Gulliver's Travels was Jonathan Swift. That is what I said. Can you dispute that?

Mr. SANDIFORD: I think that in the battle of the books by Deane Jonathan Swift, the phrase "sweetness and light" was used.

But, to be serious, this whole matter of CARIFESTA is a National Festival. I myself was a bit taken aback by some of the comments which were apparently made by persons attending the Festival in Cuba, in which there seemed to have been some criticisms of the Cuban arrangements and I was taken aback because I knew, that at some stage, we would have to host that Festival and the eyes of everyone would be upon us. I hope that we do not get too smug in these matters because what we criticise today, we can find ourselves doing tomorrow and might be the centre of criticism.

I do wish the Hon. Minister, his staff and all of the people of Barbados including the artists who might be involved in this particular festival, I do wish that they are about to pull all of these resources together and ensure that the festival is a success.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this stand part of the Resolution Sir.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 79, Subhead 27 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The question that Head 79, subhead 29 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
8.15 p.m.

The question that Head 79, SubHead 13, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 81 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, there is not a great deal I would want to add to the Addendum. In respect of the pulverisation plant it is really simply a matter of funds being brought forward from one financial

year to the next. The period when the plant was being commissioned happened to coincide with the end of one financial year and the beginning of another when it is always very difficult to anticipate within a week or two, and the amount of \$620,000 as set out in the Addendum represents those items which have really run from the last financial year into this. In fact what happened was that the pulverisation plant was completed at the beginning of April but was officially opened in June.

In respect of SubHead 8, we are talking here almost exclusively of a cesspool emptier which is a very necessary item in an island like Barbados where there are still a number of dry pits which have to be cleaned, and this was ordered in the last financial year, and for reasons over which we have absolutely no control it did not arrive until well into this financial year, so the funds provided lapsed, and we are simply bringing forward now to this financial year the cost of the cesspool emptier. The cesspool emptier will go a long way to relieving old age pensioners especially who have no way of emptying their pits, and I hope that this will be the last cesspool emptier ever to be imported into Barbados specifically for this reason.

We will continue to need cesspool emptiers for people who live in certain areas and have to have septic tanks, but when the sewerage plant goes into operation this will no longer be necessary, but I hope that as we move more quickly into a situation where we want to see every home in Barbados with a water borne system that that particular task of the cesspool emptier will no longer be necessary. We hope this will come before the end of this century.

In respect of SubHead 9, I think it should be common knowledge by now, Mr. Chairman, that we are constructing a new central headquarters for the Sanitation Services. The premises which we formerly occupied at St. Cecilia in Passage Road and at Church Village we have to vacate in order to make way for the St. Cecilia Housing construction and to make way for the Central Bank construction project at Church Village. It is hoped that the headquarters of the South and the Central areas will now be combined at Wildey. That building is very well up to date and it is hoped that that can make completion by the end of this year and that in fact the Sanitation Service Authority will move into its new premises during January of 1981.

We have run into certain revised costs in respect of particularly architects and consultants and in respect of consumption tax with regard to the contract. This contract was awarded before the consumption tax came into existence and so we have had to make accommodation for it.

These are in my view, Mr. Chairman, very routine kinds of financial matters, and I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 13

Head 79 – Ministry of Education and Culture – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the text book scheme in the Government Secondary Schools has been in operation for a few years. We find in the Ministry that the cost of text books raised phenomenally over the last two years and we had in this year's estimates the sum of \$2 million under this particular Head for school text books, but we have found that a number of developments during this year have made it necessary for us to seek this supplementary provision. We find that, for instance, when the text book scheme was started in 1975 that they were assumed to have a life span of about four to five years. However, Boards of Survey have examined these books and we realise that they do not in fact by and large have a life span of four or five years. It has a lot to do with the manufacture of these books, the type of material they use to bind them, and so on. They also use a number of soft backs which have a very short life span.

The examinations of the CXC require a wider variety of reading material for examinations than the former Cambridge examinations, so we are buying many more books and we also have to take into consideration that the value of the pound sterling at the beginning of the year was hovering somewhere around the region of \$4.20 Bds. currency and that recently it has been hovering around \$5.00 Bds. currency. This had serious implications for the cost of the books, and we are therefore seeking this supplementary provision to meet the shortfall from the figure in the annual Estimates because of the rising costs based on the considerations I just mentioned.

I beg to move that this stand part of the Resolution.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.
8.25 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Just one query here. Would the Minister state whether he is proposing to extend this text-book loan scheme to tertiary level institutions like the Polytechnic?

Hon. L. R. TULL: That sounds like a Parliamentary Question, but nonetheless I will give the assurance that

the Ministry of Education is taking a very close look at the need for textbooks and other educational materials in all the educational institutions in Barbados, and to the extent to which it can extend the programme it will do so.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 9

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution became necessary as a result of the repeal of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Bank Act. At the time that the Act was repealed in January this year, part of the functions of that Bank came within the Ministry of Agriculture and no provision was made for travelling on behalf of the officers who would normally have to do the collecting functions. Some of the functions went over to the Barbados National Bank and the other functions remained within the Ministry, and the travelling officers were, I think, receiving their travelling from the general vote of travelling in the Ministry of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. This Resolution seeks to supplement the vote in order to make provision for that travelling.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of five Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 4th November, 1980, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

8.35 p.m.