
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th January, 1981.

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, C.B.E., J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); 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. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; and Mr. L. L. SISNETT.

Prayers were read.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, the 13th January, 1981.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

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

Mr. SANDIFORD and Mr. JOHNSON entered the Chamber and took their seats.

PAPERS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the National Sports Council Regulations, 1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:—

Resolution to approve amendments to Head 74, Subhead 31, in the Capital Estimates 1980–81 as set out in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:—

Resolution to grant the sum of \$3,123,842 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980–1981, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980–81, No. 32, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to approve amendments to the Schedule to Resolution No. 90/1979 of 21st December, 1979, regarding the vesting of land at Wildey in the Caribbean Development Bank.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 52 asked by the hon. member for St. Philip South is now ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Item No. 2.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 2.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FITTS VILLAGE, ST. JAMES

Item No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Fitts Village, St. James for the provision of an Open Window to the Sea.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution which I seek to pilot through Parliament is to acquire a portion of land which is set out in the Addendum for Government to create what is now so branded about as a Window to the Sea.

The Government, Sir, is treating this particular area not just as an open area, Sir, but making provisions for a Fish Market, facilities such as a Band Stand and other facilities that will be needed for public use, Sir.

As I mentioned to you, Mr. Speaker, the Addendum sets out quite clearly the amount of money, the area of land and I do not propose, Sir, at this point in time, to say anything else in piloting this Resolution since the Opposition had intimated last Tuesday at our last meeting that they had quite a bit to say about it, Sir.

I now await any replies, questions or comments from the Opposition bench. I think they always have something to say on public platforms and find themselves joining in the marches which are of no concern to them on any Trade Union matters, Sir. I am quite sure I saw the hon. member for St. Michael South yesterday. I know he is a worker like me and I am quite sure I saw him in the march.

I will expect, Sir, to hear from that side whatever comments they have to make which relates to this piece of land which we are acquiring at Fitts Village in St. James. I am looking forward to a very interesting debate.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, before you put the question, I know it is customary for you to enquire if any other hon. members would like to make contributions because I surely want to reply so I am sure if they do not make a contribution that my colleagues over here would make one so that I can give the reply which I have for them. I know it is customary for you to ask if any hon. members wish to make contributions so I am still awaiting your guidance, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member is inviting me to put the question again. The question is that this Resolution.....

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a few comments on this particular Resolution.
12.30 p.m.

I am indeed happy to join in supporting the Resolution and in particular to support the Honourable Minister of Housing, who has been a driving force behind the idea of seeing that there is visibility to the sea, as well as, access to the public beaches in Barbados. This Resolution goes a long way in showing and underlining the fact, that this Government realises, that not only access to beaches is maintained, not only that the beaches should be accessible to all Barbadians, but also to show, that Government in its plans, its overall development plans realises, that there should be open windows to the sea.

The Government has already, on a number of occasions, re-emphasised its interest in seeing that the coastal areas are not only accessible to the public at large, in particular Barbadians, but that there is a development plan for the entire coastal areas, around this country. This particular Resolution supports the view of the Government and despite what some advocates may claim, that it is only now, that the Government is aware of what is called, or may be called open windows, that the Government, all along, has been advocating, or pursuing a policy to have open windows.

What must be said, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government has got plans and long and far reaching plans for the development of this country and the public beaches, as well as, public places of this country and whatever plans the Government pursues, it is mindful of public access. I make this point, Mr. Speaker, Sir because in some areas, in the Opposition areas, Mr.

Speaker, it has been said and one has certainly overheard it being said, that the Government is pursuing a policy, which would deny Barbadians access to certain public beaches. This has not been the case. In all of our development plans, as recent as, the one for the Heywoods in St. Peter, your constituency, Mr. Speaker, the Government has considered at all times, in that plan, the access, or the accessibility to certain areas and in particular, the beach front, when developing that particular project and plan. Contrary to what some people are thinking, that with a development of that particular area and project, the project would be denied access to certain projects. I want to give the lie to that because in the plan and those who have seen and have had the opportunity to study and see the plan would realise, that public access to the beach is still retained.

There has been a school of thought which feels, that the Government has been somewhat pressurised in taking decisions to facilitate open windows. This is not so, Mr. Speaker, and it must be pointed out, time and time again, that the Government has always considered the beaches to be public, the beaches to be part and parcel of the heritage of all Barbadians and at no time have I known the Government to take a view, which will not uphold this particular idea and concept. We have at all times, when applications are made for the building of certain hotels considered and considered seriously, indeed, the fact that, Barbadians should still have access, wherever possible and we have seen criticisms in the press, some people expressing the concern, that the Government is pursuing a policy, giving and granting permission to people to build hotels on certain places, on the beach, so that access to the beaches would be denied to Barbadians. This cannot be so, but what we must consider, Mr. Speaker, is, that whereas the public has got the right to have access to the beaches, we must also respect the fundamental rights of some property owners.

In all of our policies, in all of our plans, we have carefully looked, with a view to seeing, that there is no encroachment on certain public accesses and any prohibition to access to these public beaches.

Now, in welcoming this particular Resolution, one must also say, that the Government surely has plans and is looking at other areas, with a view, to establishing and to seeing, that continued public access and visibility to all beaches, in particular, the coastal area is maintained.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time is coming, when we may have to look seriously at inviting hoteliers and potential hoteliers to build inward and not continue to look at the building of hotels, on the beachfront. It is not uncommon, in some countries, that do not have

beachfront, or even access to the sea for hotels to be cited inland and one would hope, that more applications and some applications are forthcoming, from potential hoteliers, who are looking at building hotels inward, from the public seafront. This will be a tremendous boost and would be in keeping with what is currently taking place in other countries, that thrive on tourism because some of us are of the feeling, that a hotel can only be located on the beachfront and I am saying, that this is not the case, that there are several good hotels, hotels with first class facilities, which are located not on the beachfront, but inward, from the beachfront.
12.40 p.m.

I am inviting this sort of idea to be taken up very seriously by potential hoteliers so that in the long run we will not have any groups of people or organisations claiming or even drawing it to the attention of the Government that there is a need to initiate legislation or even control of buildings on the seafront.

There is at the moment some very dangerous trends, Mr. Speaker, along the beaches, and I do hope as I express my concern about this particular situation that everything will be done by the authorities concerned to put an end to what one considers a very dangerous practice. That practice is one which sees people driving vehicles along the beaches, which in my considered view is rather dangerous. There are a number of Suzukis and other vehicles that are suited to this sort of movement along the beaches that are taking advantage of this, and I am drawing it to the attention of the authorities that this sort of behaviour by people should be seriously looked at, and if possible those people should be reprimanded for such very dangerous behaviour.

As the Resolution stands it speaks for itself. It shows the Government's awareness of the open windows and the concern of all Barbadians and the alertness of the Government, the response of the Government to such concerns of those people and organisations.

I want to congratulate the Minister for bringing such a Resolution which, as far as I know, is one of the very first of its kind to come before this Hon. Chamber, and I do hope and I know that the Minister will do everything in his power to ensure that access to the beaches as well as the open windows are maintained as a policy of this present Government.

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be rather short. I would like very much to commend the Hon. Minister who brought this Resolution before the House. I certainly do agree with my colleague on my right in all that he has said.

The question of open windows to the sea is one which has caused some bit of concern in the populace at

large for various reasons, but I am sure even you, Mr. Speaker, will appreciate the need for such especially in the parish which you have the honour to represent, namely St. Peter.

Mr. SPEAKER: And it not being St. George.

Mr. ODLE: That is right, Sir. St. George, we all know, has no contact with the sea, and while we up there are not going to be other than congratulatory in getting windows to the sea, we nonetheless would put in a plea not for open windows to the sea, but for open spaces on the land where the people of Bel Air and Sweet Vale would have an area to play baseball, volleyball and lawn tennis, and I am sure you will agree with me, Sir, that in those areas of St. Peter which you have the honour to represent where these facilities are not done, you too would appreciate a Resolution of that sort.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish very briefly to say that the Minister's Resolution is in keeping with the policy which he personally has advocated for several years and also is in keeping with the consistent policy of the Barbados Labour Party.

One thing that I have discovered in politics is that people have very, very short memories, Sir, and I could possibly illustrate this by two points very quickly. The first illustration comes from windows to the sea. The Rockley beach, which is now called Accra, perhaps the best beach and the most popular beach in the Caribbean and in our island, was first acquired in the early fifties by the Barbados Labour Party Government under the then Grantley Adams, who later became Sir Grantley Adams, and it was acquired specifically to maintain an open window to the sea and to ensure that all the people of Barbados, and particularly those who were not fortunate to own properties on the sea coast, would have access and free bathing to the sea.

People do not often recall the long concern, the long commitment, the long tradition, the foresightedness of the Barbados Labour Party from its inception when it had the privilege to be the then Government of this country, with less resources than the Government has today, but providing from as long as then for future generations, and there are very few Barbadians who have not at some stage either passed by Rockley or been on the beach or used the facilities of the Rockley beach.

It is necessary to stress this point, because I think consistently the Labour Party Government through the fifties and the early sixties when we unfortunately for this country lost the reins of Government, we set about to ensure that these types of facilities were consistently provided in keeping with our desire to maintain our

national heritage, to provide avenues of recreation and to ensure an equitable development of tourism and other resources in this country.

In the Hastings area as well the Labour Party has consistently taken steps to maintain and update the open window at Hastings, and I want to assure the constituents of the Hastings area that the Minister and the Parks and Beaches Commission have commissioned the resources of an architect to reconstruct the Hastings bandstand and to upgrade all of the facilities provided in that area. A little further along the coastline is Worthing as well. This Minister has used existing Government lands for providing a third window in that area to the sea between the Stream and the area near to Sandy Beach. If anyone goes along there now, Sir, they will see construction taking place.

I have cited those three areas, and there are possibly two other areas on that stretch of coastline that I understand he is giving consideration to as a further window to the sea.

I think I would, however, like to issue to the public at large in their enthusiasm a word of caution, and it is this. The Government cannot out of existing or forecast future resources of the country purchase every available bit of land which comes on the market on the sea coast. This is impossible, Sir. The Treasury could not afford it, and I think it would be in some respects a short-sighted policy.

12.50 p.m.

The second point I want to make to them also about the windows to the Sea Project is that even to deny development planning for existing areas would be a very costly affair, because if the Government says to a person who has a residential use of the seacoast that that person can no longer continue the residential use, the Government as well has to compensate the person for the projected and future potential and developmental loss of that land; so these areas are areas of caution that the public should be aware of.

When it comes to the East Coast, Sir, the Government has set out to demarcate an area between Archers Bay in St. Lucy and Ragged Point in St. Philip as a reserved area for environmental purposes, and the Government will be limiting the construction of any houses and any other thing which would block the views as well as the use of that coastline, and a National Park will be established in that area. We have had technical assistance from overseas countries, Britain for one in planning this development, and I look forward to Barbadians in the future safeguarding the East Coast which is perhaps one of the most beautiful sites in the Caribbean and certainly in our country. Very few people probably take a few hours to go to the East Coast and relax and enjoy some

of the scenic beauty that is provided in that part of the country.

Obviously when it comes to your coast, Sir, the north-west coast, adequate steps will be taken as well and have been and are being taken to preserve the beauty and the other environmental assets of that coast line; so whilst you can expect some restricted building to go on, some controlled building, you will probably find in the future that more and more avenues to the sea will be clearly available to the public, and I hope that this will not only allay the fears of the public but will allow Barbadians to approach this whole question in an objective and sensible view having regard to our former historical development, the need to preserve the future in perpetuity and at the same time the need to respect the private rights of individuals.

I wish in talking about windows to the sea and in the whole environment to underscore one further point and it is this: I believe that in the Graeme Hall swamp and in the surrounding areas we have a natural reserve that ought to be seriously preserved for the future, and I know that it is Government's intention to do so. It comes within my constituency, Sir, and I want to assure the Ministers responsible, the Minister of Tourism, the Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment and the Minister of Health as well as the Minister of Communications that we will be prepared in that area to give every assistance even by forming a voluntary Committee to work hand in hand with the Parks and Beaches Commission and the Ministry of the Environment to ensure that Graeme Hall becomes one of the natural beauties of this area.

I know the Minister had done quite a lot in the short term in which he has been Minister in charge of this Ministry to update the environmental aspects of life in Barbados and to conserve the natural resources of our Island whether it be the flora of Barbados or the fauna of Barbados. We have been looking at various international conventions which will strengthen the Government's enforcement powers in this regard, a convention on flora and fauna, wild birds, wild life for instance, and how to preserve this. I know of the measures which he has taken on the West Coast in relation to the Folkestone Underwater Park and that area for instance whether it be a resource at sea. I know the emphasis that the Government is placing on the caves, and I was pleased to hear my colleague the visiting Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Nicholas Ridley who was able to visit the caves on a preview say that it is one of the best sites or one of the most outstanding sites in the world that he has ever seen either in film, in photograph or in reality, and that it should be a natural attraction for people overseas to visit as well as a permanent asset for Barbadians to enjoy. There are several other such caves. Sir, but as I said, people have short memories, they do not often remember

that this party which cannot and ought not to be stopped and will not be stopped has been at the forefront of preserving the environment, and this shortage of memory would let us forget various things from time to time.

I hope that on this occasion speaking as representative for the constituency in which the Rockley Accra Beach comes that I have used the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to refresh the memory of members of this House and members of the Press who sometimes do not look back at their old papers. For instance, Mr. Speaker, had they looked at their old papers for July 4, 1976, before the change of Government, the Nation Newspaper for that date, Sunday, 4th July, 1976, they would see the statement "Hands off bandits" where the former Government stopped the Police from going after the bandits, for instance. So occasionally I have to remind the Press to look back at those statements in this regard, and so on this occasion I ask them to look back as well to the emphasis which we placed on windows to the sea.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution that is before us relates to the acquisition of an area of land in St. James. It is an area of land well known to me because I myself have made use of the excellent facilities there touching on the sea and for sea-bathing and other purposes, and I know that the Minister who has introduced this Resolution knows the area very well, because I believe that as a lad, as a young man or as a younger man, I am not certain how he would like to be described, showing the first signs of manhood on his unshaven cheeks roamed that area down there and sometimes he got into a little difficulty, but he knows the area very well.

The point I wish to make about this is that no one in this country would question the need for the development of recreational areas by the sea. You yourself, Mr. Speaker, know the value of being ensconced on very valuable beach property and you know the pleasures that one gets from the sea and from the sand; so no one will question a policy, certainly the Democratic Labour Party is not questioning the policy of developing or acquiring and developing areas of land for recreational purposes by the sea.

The Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs has taken us back into history and we reminding us of the details concerning the acquisition of Rockley Beach and the development of other recreational areas. The point I wish to make therefore is that no one questions the policy of developing recreational areas for the use of Barbadians and for the use of those who visit our shores alike.

1.00 p.m.

At the same time, no one questions the need in this country as far as policy is concerned of developing areas

for industrial purposes to provide more employment and a better, deeper and richer economic base for the people of this country but what we have here appears to be a clear case of a clash between two policies being pursued by Government. One is the policy in relation to the development of recreational areas in this country and secondly, a policy in relation to the development of touristic and industrial sites in this country and I must say that in this particular instance, it does appear as though the Government has been dragged, kicked and screaming now about this particular piece of land. That is how it appears.

In other words, the general average citizen in this country would get the impression that the Government apparently had no intention of acquiring this particular area but it appeared as though actions of concerned citizens and those interested in the conservation of certain areas for recreational purposes, it appears that it was only when that type of interest group developed its position that the Government responded.

The Government appears in this instance to have been merely a response Government and not acting in terms of being out in the forefront taking the lead but it seems as though they were merely responding after certain pressures were placed upon Government and I believe that the Minister or those who speak from the Government side on this matter owe it to this Chamber and to the public at large to explain why the ungracious squabble took place in relation to a Company or some body of persons in developing the area as a site for an Hotel and the obvious disagreement between that group and the Government over how the matter should be handled.

I think the Government owes an explanation to the people of this country to clear that up because concerns have been expressed that after matters have reached a certain stage in terms of the development whether it is for touristic or industrial purposes and thus the whole thing is somehow or another stymied and prevented from reaching a conclusion especially by some interested persons and it seems to have left a bad taste in the mouths of some of those who were interested in this particular development.

Now I would like to refresh some memories as well because, as I indicated, the development of access to the beaches, acquiring new sites and developing those new sites or developing existing sites is not a matter that I think any one Government in this country should jump to and pat itself on the back as though it needs that type of pat on the back.

On every occasion we are hearing now "Don't stop this Party." (ASIDES). I cannot stop that Party but the electorate of this country will deal with that particular problem and I say continue your selection. "Don't stop this

Party" and we tell the electorate, "Don't stop that Party from losing the Election. Do not stop that Party. Don't stop them from losing the Election."

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to follow what is being said but it is a bit difficult.

The point I am making is this. Rockley Beach was mentioned but I think we have to bear in mind that the previous administration demonstrated its interest in providing adequate recreational facilities for the people of this country and for visitors who come to our country by the development of such areas as Dover Beach, also in the parish of Christ Church. I believe that it is in the constituency now of the member for Christ Church South Central. That was a development that we carried out there to improve the facilities down there.

We provided access at certain areas in Prospect, as far as I can recall, some access to the beach and also beautified the area at Sandy Lane in St. James which is now very well used, actually the Parks and Beaches Commission developed that area as one of access to the beach.

I am going North. We drew up plans for the development of Heywoods in the constituency of St. Peter and we will not forget and I am certain you will not forget, Mr. Speaker, that this was supposed to be one of the infelicities. That particular development down there was supposed to be one of the infelicities of the past administration under which Sir Herbert Duffus was brought to this country to demonstrate infelicities in developing that particular area.

Well, he examined and he found that there was nothing infelicitous about that particular beach and lo and behold some few weeks ago there was some ceremony I think in the Northern parish in which this beach was opened with a lot of fanfare but no mention that it was a Project conceived and set out by the Democratic Labour Party which was and is still interested in the general and overall development of this country.

We go a little further. It was a part and still is part of the proposals for the development of recreational areas in this country to develop the Archer's Bay area.
1.10 p.m.

We must not forget, that the biggest window to the sea, that we have on the east coast of this developed window to the sea, if you want to call it window, it is more like a door to me, than a window, a small window, it is a door, that area was also developed, under the Democratic Labour Party. (ASIDES) We developed that area down there and if we go right around, we can

come around to Bath, also in the constituency of St. John, particular facilities developed down there to make it a good recreational area. (ASIDES) We do not have to go back to a document of 1944 to claim paternity for these projects. We say, that the Democratic Labour Party developed some of these projects.

We are not saying, that we were the beginning and the end of all recreational development in this country. We are saying, that we had a plan for that type of development and we are saying in this particular instance relating to the acquisition of land in St. James, that it appears, as though the Government did not know what to do was uncertain of what actions to take and that there appears to have been some clash between actions being taken for development, as far as, hotel.....(ASIDES) this is the area at St. James, that I am talking about, at Paynes Bay, St. James but the area at Fitts Village, there is nothing at all about this. We do not have any quarrel with this, it is part of our particular development, in keeping part of the natural development of this country, which has been going on and being developed, by successive Governments. So, that is the only point we wish to make out.

The Honourable Member will know, that Oistins itself had built into it, as well, the overall plan....(ASIDES) taking into account the needs of residents for these recreational areas.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention, my colleague the Honourable Member for St. Philip South is also reminding me of it and I say it, that areas, such as the Crane, St. Philip are crying out for development, as well as for conservation action. Considerable erosion is taking place at that particular site and others and I hope, that the Government would make some type of statement on that, instead of patting themselves too much on the back would get up and say what they are doing for certain recreational areas, which are quickly losing their capacity to continue, as recreational areas.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not intend to join in the debate because I think, that it is fairly clear now, that all Honourable Members, on both sides, support the principle of the importance of providing adequate recreational facilities on beaches in Barbados, so that, not only Barbadians, but visitors to Barbados are able to enjoy some of the blessings of nature, in the form of good sea bathing and white sand.

The history of access to beaches in Barbados is a very long one. Any one who has taken the time to study it would recognise, that from the time there was a Government in Barbados, certainly in the last 60 years, attention was paid to this matter. The Hastings Rocks in Barbados was a public area, that was purchased, by the

then Government, Rockley Beach in the 1940's, 1946, or 1947, I believe it is, or early 1950's was purchased by the Labour Party Government. The last Government, I believe purchased one, or two areas. I know, that the Bath recreational facility was certainly created, I am not so sure whether that was an act of Government policy, or an act of particular constituent policy, by the then sitting member, but, nevertheless, to be charitable today, Sir, the Bath facility was certainly improved by the previous Government.

So that, when we hear now these "Johnny come latelies" those people who talk about the importance of this, I think, that we should all recall, the history of this matter. We should also recognise, that it is totally impossible, in the year 1981 to reverse a trend, which was legal and carried out previously. It is impossible for all the land between the road and the sea in Barbados to be flat. That is a total impossibility. The compensation payments that would be necessary would be beyond the resources of any Government in Barbados. Faced with that situation, it therefore becomes necessary for Government to have a specific and defined policy, in relation to this matter.

For the last four and a half years, I have been responsible for the Ministry of Tourism in Barbados. I know for a fact, that the Research Department of the Ministry of Tourism, together with the Tourist Board, together with the Ministry of Planning, when it was under the Attorney General's portfolio, now that it is under the portfolio of the present Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands have been working on preparing a map, which delineates each and every access point in Barbados, whether the access is by private right of way, or by public right of way. I know also, that specific areas have been earmarked for compulsory acquisition, in order to improve the existing access. I know also, that the present Fiscal Development Plan is being revised, a series of proposals are under consideration to ensure, that there is an enhancement of existing accesses, the creation of new ones and that the plan contains a balance between necessary economic development and the provision of proper recreational facilities.
1.20 p.m.

So that when I hear about leaving a dirty taste in people's mouths, I want to say this, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Barbados operates under a Constitution which permits compulsory acquisition by Government of any piece of land in Barbados if the Legislature deems it to be in the public interest. It also permits land to be controlled by Town and Country Planning, and it does provide mechanisms for the private owners to challenge the decision of Town and Country Planning. So that there is nothing to leave any dirty taste in anybody's mouth in respect of the land at Paynes Bay. It is a fact that one of the owners of the land at Paynes Bay had Town

Planning permission. It is also a fact that that Town Planning permission had conditions. It is a matter of law for the Town Planner to serve a notice of intention to revoke permission if he is satisfied there have been breaches. It is also a matter of law that any person who is served with such notice has certain rights, so that it is not a question of any arbitrary action, it is a question of the Government agency responsible exercising certain powers upon the occurrence of certain events, and I will go no further, because the matter may well be in accordance with the law not exhausted yet, so I do not have to go any further in relation to that.

I also want to point out that in that same area of St. James there are bits and pieces of land which are owned by the Government. I may say, Sir, that Barbadians have to be exceedingly thankful to all previous Governments for in the past acquiring areas of land for fishing facilities, because those very fishing facilities that were acquired in the past can now be expanded and made into very modern recreational facilities and be used in conjunction with fishing and tourism development, so that I was a little dumbfounded when the hon. member for St. Michael South spoke on this matter. For nine-tenths of his speech he was speaking as though the particular piece of land we were dealing with was the land at Paynes Bay. Only in the last part of his speech did he recognise that the land was not at Paynes Bay at all, the land is at Fitts Village.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, you are not entitled by the Rules to correct him, but I know that you know, and you have a great familiarity with this particular site, because I well recall in a previous Session in here you, Mr. Speaker, in your then capacity as member for St. Peter and sitting on the opposite side, made strong representation to the hon. members on that side who were then on this side to create an access in that area, and I well recall the reply. The reply was that they were going to acquire a little piece between Swiss Chalet and the other place, that they did acquire it, they cemented it and put it in steps so that you could go down. If you go down under Prospect Hill or whatever it is, it was acquired, that is a fact. The Speaker initiated it and I well recall that you, sitting on the other side, said that that was a track, you wanted a bigger area. I remember that. This piece of land is the piece of land when you go down the hill, you pass there with the big sandbox tree, that wide open area there. This is the piece of land. I remember it, the question of access in that area was one that concerned members for a long period of time, and it is because of the fact that there is a cliff side there. If you live anywhere from Prospect down, you have virtually to jump off the cliff to be able to get into the sea.

Now, this is the first piece of flat land between Batts Rock and lower St. James by where Mr. Coppin

lives. This area of land is situated in there, by Jordan's supermarket, and it is an ideal place for development, so the hon. member for St. Michael South must not think that anybody pressured us into acquiring this, nobody pressured us. The people who think that they are exercising pressure have their sights lower down, they are nothing to do with the people above. The Speaker, when he was a member on the opposite side, raised this question. Nothing to do with them at all. You must remember your history on these things.

Our policy is that along the whole of the St. James coast, like along the Christ Church coast, there has been sufficient building now that we have to go out and look for accesses, because Rockley beach has become very crowded and we have to expand it, it must be expanded. Now there are only two ways of expending, either go out and acquire or you do beach works, groynes, and improve existing beaches.

Now, I want to talk a little bit on that too. The coastline in Barbados is one of our national assets. We have to expend money on retaining the conditions which make the coastline and a preservation of the coastline. We have to do that. A start has been made in this direction, a study has been commissioned from Kendal Point in Christ Church to St. Lawrence Church. That was an integral part of the planning of the Oistins development. Those groynes are in. If you pass by Welches in Christ Church you will notice a beach is being created there. If you go down by Dover, by Dr. Trieloff's hotel, all in there groynes have gone right down there. Part of the Oistins Development Plan will preserve and enhance beach accesses in the whole of that area. Part and parcel of a plan by the Organisation of American States in conjunction with the previous Government involved a study from St. Lawrence Church to the Hilton Hotel. Let me tell the hon. member that, he might not know, but it is a fact. When we came into power we said we agreed with that but we wanted it extended to the Deep Water Harbour, so that that segment has also been studied by a man called Professor Zeigler, the same guy who advised the Hilton Hotel over a course of seven years in relation to the beaches there, so that the whole of the south coast, from St. Lawrence Church, from Kendal Point right down to the Pierhead has been studied.

Now, having done the study, the next thing you have to do is to commission the engineers to do the engineering work, and then you have to have the money to do the work. We in the course of this term of office have started with some of the works right down to St. Lawrence Church.

1.30 p.m.

In the next term of office we will be doing the balance. (*Asides*) What the hon. member wants to say is that if we do not do it, they will do it? Well it will still

be done. (*Asides*) All politicians have to live on hopes; you know that too. The position is this, Mr. Speaker, and I want to get this across, that as part of the implementation of the Zeigler Report, in the south we have already started to improve the windows. The hon. member must take a drive up Worthing, and just below Bagshot House he will see already a whole car-parking area is being done there. That is the trouble with the hon. member. He only likes to look down St. James; he does not believe that the south has anything. I do not know how he has the gall to represent St. Michael South. I will have to remind other people about that. His orientation is down in the north; he is like the window to the Sea group; they are only interested in the north, they are not interested in the South. We southerners have to be interested in the South.

At Worthing between Talma's Garage and Bagshot House, go and look at it; I invite the hon. member in another month or so to take a drive up there a morning and have a sea-bath and he will be able to park properly. We will soon have a beach and a comparable facility to the Pebbles. I also invite him to park there and I hope that a bridge will be built so that you will have easy access across the road to walk into the Graeme Hall Swamp because we have taken a decision that the Graeme Hall Swamp will be preserved. Already there has been the beginning of the Commissioning of the ecological study. Graeme Hall is a very difficult problem to tackle. You just can't walk into Graeme Hall Swamp and start cutting down bush. The Government has been advised that it is a very delicate ecosystem there and the biological, chemical and all kinds of things have to be studied to come up with a comprehensive plan. I know it may be a matter of regret for the Leader of the Opposition that suggestions have now come forward that you must stop bird-shooting because I believe the hon. member has spent many a happy time during the course of July to October indulging in that sport and other sports there. Mr. Speaker, we also hope, and I am not disclosing, to do other improvements on that coast. We cannot disclose the other improvements now because there is a certain breed of landowner in Barbados that once they hear that Government is interested in something, the price goes up; so therefore I am not disclosing the plans in relation to from Graeme Hall down. It would be prejudicial to the financial interest of Government to state them. Sometimes you have to use the Land Acquisition Act, because that is your method.

Now in relation to St. James, from the Deep Water Harbour down I want to say that I do not think that the greatest detractor of Government could fail to recognise the great advantage that has been created now consequent upon the development of the first mile of road between Mount Gay Distilleries, Brandons Beach and Esso in Fontabelle. That is a beautiful vista. We want to continue it right down into Paradise. As a

matter of fact, Sir, we are so pleased with that that we are bringing it right up to St. Mary's Church. I suppose the hon. member will get on a platform and say we should not have moved the dead from St. Mary's corner, that we should have left the coffin there. He will get up and say that we have no respect for the dead and we should have left them there and leave the walls jutting out and preventing the natural development and expansion of shopping areas in Barbados. (Mr. SANDIFORD: Are you going to raise the dead?) No we are only transferring the Bill. That road has made accessible now the whole of the Brighton Beach without driving all around in a circle. We are very fortunate in having such an asset.

Mr. Speaker, that Brighton Beach area is a very beautiful area in any man's country to be able to drive right along and see the ships in the harbour. I do not go down there at night, but I can imagine what it looks like at night. I daresay it will soon become a well-known night place. And then to think of it when you are able to drive from Paradise Road down into Bridgetown in two minutes, that boggles the mind. We are continuing on down. I personally as Minister of Tourism rejected the development plan put forward which was accepted by the other side in relation to the development by Paradise and Batts Rocks. I made them redraw the plan because between Paradise and Batts Rock the Government owns a large beach area. The other side said they had no objections to changing around the road, but in consideration for moving the road the developers wanted the Government to give them beach land. I objected to that. (*Asides.*) I will bring the file and show you. The then Minister of Communications and Works under the Democratic Labour Party regime gave permission not only to change the road but also to use Government's beach land. I can tell you that. (A VOICE: Which Minister?) Don't ask me; I will bring the file. I am not calling any names.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get on with the debate.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We are dealing with beach access and this is a very important one. He said he would create a smaller beach access for having had to pay the cost of moving the road. You know the rocky road going down into the cemetery at Batts Rock where Carlos Clarke owns a piece of land and where there use to have a night club in the old days where the Jazz pianists used to play. I do not remember the name of the club now. (*Asides*) Cloud 9 I think it was. Anyway, we have reached accommodation because we said we are not giving up Government land, we have allowed you to do the road because proposals for years have been made as to how to straighten out that bad piece of road and we will endorse that part of their decision. No property developer can tell the Government of Barbados what it must do. They cannot do it. They are lucky that they got

permission to develop. The Government is in a position to dictate to these owners our terms and conditions, and one of those terms and conditions we want to make abundantly clear is that there must be no enclaves in Barbados. That is the whole position.

A study has also been commissioned on the need for groining indeed from the harbour right down to St. James. That is a very costly matter as the hon. Minister of Housing and Lands will tell you, and the preliminary work has been done, the terms of reference have been drawn and the project proposal has been put to the Inter-American Development Bank. I want to tell you something about this Paynes Bay. He talked a lot of about Paynes Bay, There are a lot of proposals for groining in St. James, but the thing is we have been advised by competent experts that you cannot go and allow on an adhoc basis owners to put in groynes to save their beaches. It may well result in saving their own and damaging the whole of the coast below it, so therefore we have to do a comprehensive engineering study and all our decisions will be conditioned by that fact.
1.40 p.m.

After that, Sir, in St. James when we reached by Holetown, everybody knows the Government has land in Holetown, the whole of the Police Station complex. I recall, and I have a long memory, when the then administration came in here for permission to lease land for this Palm Court Hotel, the Simmons's Hotel.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when we sat over there. We did not have anything against the man personally, nothing against him, but we wanted to ensure that in the leasing of that land by the then Government for a beach facility for Palm Court Hotel, the little hotel in the U, down by Holetown, the one that the Magistrate and the Simmons' family are connected with, that one in St. James, Palm Beach or Palm Court. I do not even know the name of it. I hope it does well.

We had to come in here and we insisted that the plans were re-drawn to ensure that it was situated in such a way as not to deprive the traditional user rights in that area. The hon. member was not in here. You, Mr. Speaker, will remember. The hon. member for St. John will remember that. I well remember that part of the title of Palm Court Hotel is a lease of land from the Government. It is true. It came inside of the House. I am sorry, it is Palm Beach. They have so many hotels now and they have similar names so therefore, do not let us talk about that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must wind up his debate.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Very well, Sir. I will finish now. In respect of the area I do not need to repeat the

matter. I have said sufficient to make it clear that in this matter it is not a matter of narrow party controversy. This is a matter of national interest and I do not think that for narrow political and partial reasons that people should get up here and say that the actions of the Government have been motivated by improper motives and pressure. What pressure? Nobody can put pressure on the Government of Barbados. It has too much electoral support for pressure to be put on it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution which we are dealing with is one of many Resolutions which notice has been given of to acquire a parcel of land at St. James for the purpose described in the Addendum to the Resolution.

Government can acquire land without invoking the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, therefore, when the Government comes to the House using the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act for the purpose of acquisitions and not employing the normal conveyancing procedures after negotiations with the owners, whoever they may be, the Government would normally have two motives in so doing.

The first motive may be to get an indefeasible title where no title has existed or where the title is in some doubt. That is extremely normal. The other reason for invoking the provision of the Land Acquisition Act is where the title may be perfect so far as the law is concerned but there may be some difficulty in arriving at an agreed price with the owners and there is some urgency attached to the matter.

As I indicated when we desisted discussion on this particular Resolution on the last occasion that the House met, everyone in this House – I am not referring to the Other Place. I am going to deal with them in a moment – Every elected representative of the people of Barbados, every elected representative in contradistinction to nominated members of the Other Place who may have different motives and I am going to impeach those motives in a moment without calling any names because I did not give Your Honour notice to do so and I have no intentions, as you know, to break the rules of the House and you would not allow me to do so even if I tried to break them but any elected representative of the people and they are 24 of us in here, including Your Honour, is dedicated to the proposition.

The first proposition is that there must be no private beaches in Barbados, that the general public and visitors to this Island must have their full and free access to the natural heritage of this Island. That is why we had some problem in, I think it was Bottom's Bay in St. Philip, when people who were not natives of Barbados by virtue of their acquisition of land which

was contiguous to the beach area thought that they had an inalienable right to stop the parishioners of that parish from having access to the beach.

The second proposition to which all of us on both sides of the House happen to be dedicated to would be that wherever it is a reasonable proposition, that there should be access to the beaches which are supposed to be free.

The hon. member for St. James, I assured him last time, whether he is from the North or from the South, has for a long time been discussing access. I do not represent that constituency and when we acquired the land at Oxnard's, Husbands and Maynards for the purpose of Middle Income Housing Development, the Chief Town and Country Planning Officer, as he then was, Mr. Stevens, insisted that we should acquire an area by the sea providing Your Honour with some agitation because of the mosquitoes which used to infest the area so that the people in that particular area would have access without having to go all the way down to the upper part of Fitts Village to get to the beach.

It was not done with the motivation in anyway to cause annoyance to Your Honour because you have property in the vicinity. As a matter of fact, it was done to improve the facilities which surrounded you and your neighbours down there and we at no time intended that that access was for any other purpose than for the rapidly developing Middle Income Housing Area in which the Government now, I believe, is trying to rapidly develop some more housing for CARIFESTA so that it was a continuation of a natural walk-way all the way down from the Cave Hill/Husbands/Oxnards area down to the beach.

We at no time intended that the people in Fitts Village did not need to have preserved the existing accesses because what I wish to draw to Your Honour's attention is that there is an access. There is access in Fitts Village but what is questionable is whether that access is of right. There is a slight difference and we do not wish to usurp the proprietary rights of any of the owners adjacent to the Fish Market or to Mr. Jordan's place, the Supermarket, and the fact that Mr. Jordan may be a candidate has nothing to do with it. It has been mooted that Mr. Jordan is a prospective candidate. As far as I am concerned.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get on with the debate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Please ask the hon. member not to interrupt, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Candidate or no candidate, it does not matter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: We will still support the Resolution for access whether Mr. Jordan was a candidate or not.
1.50 p.m.

The fact is Mr. Jordan is immaterial to us. We said, that we are going to support it, but what I am saying is that there is access at Fitts Village I have not got farther north yet, I will deal with the other place, when I get up there. I do not think the access by you, Sir, is one that I would like to walk on, so you would never see me coming down there to annoy you. I think, that if I want to go to the beach and I ask you for a pass through your yard, you would willingly allow me, Sir. (LAUGHTER). You would not like to see me break my ankle, Sir, or would you? You would not like to see me break my ankle coming down there but that is why the Town Planner felt, that it would be a good access, so Paynes Bay, we are in support of that.

Now, let us get on to a different matter altogether, Sir. I am very conscious of the time, Sir, I will wind up. If there is one place in Barbados, where you have a natural, irreversible window by the sea, it is from the time you leave Cracker Bob, until the time that you get to the fish market in Paynes Bay. There is no way, that anybody could even wish to apply for permission to build down there, so you have public access. People go to bathe -- you remember, my father used to live right down, Sir, your brother lives on the corner, then you have, two or three hotels, then you have another hotel which a relative of the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, the most popular hotel down there and in between, you had a vacant piece of land and there was no way that you could see the sea, even if you were in a triple decker bus, far less, a double decker bus, driving along Paynes Bay.

Lo and behold, Mr. Speaker, a campaign is mounted, that we need windows by the sea and they focus on Paynes Bay of all places. Now, there is public access, we all agree on that. There is a beautiful window by the sea, opposite the Methodist Church, at Paynes Bay, all along. Some of the best diving in Barbados is found where Codamara 2 burnt out because I took Prince Charles down there diving and he disappeared at 85 feet from me and I started swimming out to the west because I did not want to tell them, that I had lost the heir to the British throne, so I decided that the best thing to do, was not to land back in Barbados, at all. So, down there is a beautiful site. Fortunately, 15 minutes later, he re-appeared. He had been chasing a barracuda, although we warned him not to go off on his own. So, I know the area well, a beautiful diving area, no restriction on anybody going down there and a nice little fishing shed,

which is not being used very much, a place to haul up boats and then, an Honourable Member of the Other Place starts a campaign and is even nominated "Man of the Year" because he stops a development, that would have employed Barbadians, put taxi drivers out of work and it is questionable now. I do not think, that the Government should intervene in a matter of that kind, particularly because that particular Honourable Member, I am going to tell you about him in a moment, Sir.

I am glad, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central, the Honourable Minister of Trade mentioned St. Mary's Church because I am going to deal with St. Mary's Church, of which he was the rector. I will tell you about St. Mary's Church and whether his motives are as altruistic, as they appear.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would rather, that no reference whatsoever is made in this Honourable Chamber questioning the motive of any Honourable Member, of the Other Place.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Right, Sir. I agree with you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You do not have to beg, Sir. You direct me and I follow you, Sir. So, I will not deal with him in that way, I will come now, to the other side.

He was born down there in St. James. I have not checked this, I understand, that his family own three acres of land, on the other side of the road. Is the window really for him, or for the general public? That is the first question, that I would like to ask. That is the question, that I would like to ask. Can he be nominated "Man of the Year" for stopping Barbadians from being employed (a) on construction and (b) when the hotel is put up, when no Barbadians use that, as any window by the sea, or will ever use it, as any window by the sea, not even the Honourable Member for St. James now.

There is no difficulty of access down there, at all, because the previous Government, previous to my Administration — I am sure, that even Sandy Lane preserves access to the sea, on the northern side of Paynes Bay and the Southern side of Paynes Bay and the cousin, or brother, as far as, I remember of the Honourable Member for Christ Church North Central would never stop people from passing by his hotel to get to the beach — There are also paved gully courses like yours, Sir, not the one you own, the one that we put down, next to you. All over there, there is free, unhindered access to the beach.

Now, the same Honourable person, when the Honourable Member, the Honourable Minister of Trade dis-

cussed, that we might object to moving graves at St. Mary's to widen the road...(ASIDES: St. Stephen's)...we moved at St. Stephen's, after discussing it with the Church Committee and no less a person, than the Lord Bishop of Barbados. We moved at the same St. Mary's, next to Plantations Limited to give you that nice wide road there.

When the hurricane came in 1955, a big mahogany tree blew down and we moved several graves with it. The mahogany tree was at least eight feet in diameter, the largest mahogany tree I had ever seen in Barbados. Then, we should have taken the opportunity to widen the road there. Nobody has protested. But you know what the Honourable Member, who was the rector of St. Mary's Church, who is now speaking about beautification of Barbados, said about the parish church of St. Michael the oldest church in this parish, which was the seat of the Anglican religion in Barbados? He came to me with a plan to build over the whole church yard and put banks and offices in that church yard and also to close the public road, so that he would have a good income, from the banks and the offices.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, that we have had enough of that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have said my piece, Sir, I am only putting the thing in its right perspective.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: All I would say, Sir, is this, I agree with you. I am nauseated, I do not want to speak about it any more. I am choking. I cannot speak on it anymore because when I think about somebody talking about windows by the sea and covering over the whole of St. Mary's Church yard with banks.

Mr. SPEAKER: But, you are only repeating it. That is what you are doing and I do not want to ask you to discontinue your speech, but carry on.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I come closer home, now, to you, Sir. You have, down by you, Sir, a little place, I will tell you the name in a moment, Sir, a little school that we — Good Shepherd, I do not know whether you were the shepherd, Sir — you have a little place called Good Shepherd down there, a little Government school, which was half rotten and right next to that, if you will remember, there was a rat infested place, that I do not know, if the rastas have taken it over yet, Sir, that we come in here and we discussed, so that when we moved now — and the Honourable Member discussed it too — when we moved the Good Shepherd up the hill, the Honourable Member for St. James, give credit to him, said that we should acquire it from the Anglican Church, for the purpose of providing a window by the sea. Is that

true, or is it not true? That is what I remember and I think, that the Honourable Member was a bit afraid because he said, that there was a silk cotton tree there, that you should move that the same time. I do not know, if the spirits used to come out at midnight, under the silk cotton tree, but there is a big, big silk cotton tree down there, he said, that all that needed removing and opening up the area. But, I wonder if the Honourable Member would come back and tell us what the Anglican Church is doing about that particular site.

I do not know, if it met favour with His Honour the Speaker, but I am sure, that he, as a parishioner, would not object to a window by the sea down there, as well. So, when we come to this question of windows we are committed to the idea, but we are committed, on a sincere basis. That is what I want to say. I think, that all of us are committed, on that basis.

Now, I understand, from the Honourable Minister of Trade, that he is considering building a bridge across the road, at Graham Hall. The only thing, that I wish to say about this is that the Government has nearly four acres of land there. I think, that it is unfortunate, that they chose a dangerous bend in the road to put a car park. We will have to look very carefully at that and while we are considering bridges across the road, we need a bridge at Sunset Crest, across the road.
2.00 p.m.

Many countries in the world have bridges across the road, so I hope that nobody is going to say that you are letting people block up the thing, because telephone wires are across the road at heights of above 15 or 16 feet, and any time you want to move any heavy equipment you have to send somebody in front with a fork looking like a pitchfork in order to lift these telephone wires, so constructing a permanent bridge at a height of about 18 feet is not going to be any impediment to anyone either at Worthing by what we used to call the Stream or down at Graeme Hall, so I hope that that is one of the improvements. If you do it I am not going to claim any credit for it, because I am a Barbadian. I do not care who carries out development, as long as the development is carried out, so we do not have to go back to 1944 or forward to 1984. To have to go back for the apostolic succession to 1944 shows an absence of planning.

I would only like to say this in conclusion. When I heard about "Lead kindly light amidst the encircling gloom", I wondered who created the gloom, Sir. That is all I wondered, who created this gloom that they have to have this light now to lead through this encircling gloom, and something about angels' voices. I do not know where the angels are, but they are not on that side.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. The hon. member for St. Philip South, his Question No. 52. I do not now observe the hon. member in his place. Let the Reply be laid.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Reply to Question No. 52 asked by the hon. member for St. Philip South.

Mr. SPEAKER: Since there are no further Replies to Questions, this brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Private Members' Business on the Order Paper, which brings us to the end of Private Members' Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day. When the suspension was taken the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was addressing the Chair on the Resolution respecting the acquisition of land at Fitts Village. I do not now see the said hon. member in his place.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be short on this one. I just have a few questions to ask on this Resolution and matters allied to the Resolution, because I believe that already from this side the indication has been given that we are not at all opposed to the question of the provision of open windows to the sea in and around Barbados. We believe that the beaches constitute one of our natural heritages here in this island and that all Barbadians should have access to be able to not only use but to appreciate in whatever areas to be appreciated from the kind of access which this Resolution is seeking to give in that particular area of St. James.

What concerns me, Mr. Speaker, is the whole question of facilities, particularly in beach areas around Barbados, and I will speak now particularly in respect of the constituency which I have the honour to represent, St. Lucy, and to find out whether or not the Government has any intention of developing two particular areas which have been featuring in Questions and in

requests which I have been making from this side for some time. Particularly, I would want to find out what is the position relative to the development at Archer's Bay. I understand my colleague for St. Michael South made reference to it already, but I recall that there was a Resolution in here which was tabled by me and there was a statement from the Government about the declaration of a point from Archer's Bay in St. Lucy to Ragged Point in St. Philip as being an area for the development of national parks, or something along that line, and I want to find out if any steps have been made or are proposed to be made beyond the particular declaration.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there is some need for further developing areas around Barbados not only for Barbadians but also for visitors to this island to be able to use and at the same time to have the kind of access which we certainly would like to see people having to our beaches.

The second one is in relation to the provision of changing facilities at River Bay in St. Lucy. River Bay, I believe, is generally accepted as one of the popular bathing spots of St. Lucy and at the same time a popular spot for excursionists, and I would like to urge on the Government that some provision be made to establish at least changing facilities, and if possible to further develop the area which development would add to the greater comfort of those persons who use this area from time to time.

Looking beyond that Mr. Speaker, I believe that at some time in the not too distant future the Government will have to give some consideration to the development of the Cove Bay area. I think that this is an area which is an abundance of natural beauty, and the problem of course is access, and I think that any kind of development which is going to take place in that area, and certainly it falls within the belt from Archer's Bay to Ragged Point which has been identified as an area for development — I think it is an area which we know quite well — that some serious consideration will have to be given to developing this area, and I would like to find out whether or not the Government has any overall plans for developing areas which I have identified, Archers Bay, River Bay and Cove Bay.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now in respect of Archers Bay, I understand the hon. member to have tabled a question in respect thereof some time previously and he would have got a reply to his question. Having had a reply to his question, he cannot now ask a question again.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution which is before Parliament with respect to an esplanade and an open area at Fitts Village, St. James, was really very well answered by the Leader of the Opposition, and

also by the Deputy Prime Minister. Much of what I would have said was very well put by the Leader of Government Business, the Deputy Prime Minister, and I can only endorse the criticisms made by the Leader of the Opposition.

If I were to understand what is meant by a window to the sea, all of a sudden just over a year or thereabouts, a Committee comprising of some prominent persons paid a visit to my office to discuss the opening of a window to the sea at Paynes Bay in St. James. Now this was a very small piece of land, and there is a history behind that which I think is rather distasteful and therefore I would not like to bring it into focus. Then there is a piece of land between Tamarind Cove and Old Trees where the Window to the Sea group has been requesting of Government not to have a hotel built there but to make it a window to the sea.

Now, Sir, I am a little confused as to what I would call a window to the sea and what other persons may consider a window to the sea. I would think, Sir, that along the esplanade in Bay Street is what I consider a window to the sea. That is to my mind a genuine window to the sea where you can drive along, look at the yachts in the Harbour, the speed boats and enjoy the environment. Then as you drive along Trevors Way along the Harbour Road you can look into the Caribbean waters again. As you drive along the new Spring Garden highway and you drift north the only two areas that I consider windows to the sea would be at the bottom of the Lazaretto Hill, the road which would take you into Batts Rock and then the other area would be to my mind along the Paynes Bay road right opposite the Paynes Bay Methodist Church. Then you can pick up Mullins Bay as you go down. I consider that a window to the sea where one can drive along and enjoy looking at the blue Caribbean waters. There has been all this lot of talk of a man of the match and a lot of jazz you read in the papers. I do not know of what battle it is the Windows to the sea group had with this Government, because since 1969 when I was in the Opposition I had asked the then Government to provide the people at Fitts Village with some form of facilities by way of toilet and latrine and a bath and to improve the fishing village there; so we were conscious all along of a window to the sea, and I believe that the last administration was also conscious of it, and I share the view of the hon. member for St. Michael South and the Leader of the Government Business and the Leader of the Opposition that both sides have in common this window to the sea exercise. This is nothing that any party can take any credit for, but what I object to is that all of a sudden as was quite rightly put, a bunch of Johnnies come lately have found out.....as a matter of fact one Mr. Secretary or Treasurer, I cannot remember his name wrote me a rather rude letter. Of course have no fear that your colleague gave him the type of reply which the letter was deserving of. I think his name is Mr.

Barrow or Phillips, who works at R. L. Seale and Company. (*Asides*) Yes, Bynoe. I gave him a reply.

The land at Paynes Bay, Mr. Speaker, that this group is hoping that Government would take a decision to leave as it is I would consider to be more or less a park because it is wooded, but we cannot really think of it as a window to the sea, and I cannot sit down and consider it good economics and I do not believe the Prime Minister himself would agree to spend \$2 million or \$3 million there to acquire a piece of land to turn it into a park, because it would have to be a park because it is all wooded, while you have the Folkestone Park only a matter of about a mile away and the Marine Museum. It would be better sense to take \$600,000 or \$700,000 and reclaim the land by the fish market and present a proper beach there where you have a real open window to the sea. Now I would consider that better sense, but as far as Government making any revocation of the order for the people there to build a hotel is utter nonsense. What we did is that we put a stay on it; we put a stay on the development until they can fulfil all the necessary requirements for the Town and Country Planning, and one of the requirements is related to health. So when the people went and started to push down some of the trees, the Government immediately stepped in and told them "hands off", because they had not fulfilled the requirements and then all of a sudden we hear a battle has been won by the Paynes Bay Window to the sea Group. I will know when to talk about this Paynes Bay Window to the sea group because what I am going to say to some of them they are not going to like. I know when and I know I can say it well too and at the right time in the right places.

The esplanade there at St. James to my mind would meet the requirements of the whole of Fitts Village, Prospect, Appleby Gardens with 500 houses to be built. Construction as a matter of fact has started at West Terrace to the tune of \$50 million; so with 500 houses in there you are going to have approximately 2 000 persons living there.

3.05 p.m.

Then you have Haynesville where you have, I think, 159 new houses built by this Government, as a matter of fact. Then you have Wanstead, Husbands and in the Oxnards Development. It is therefore necessary, Sir, to have some recreational facilities along the coastal line of St. James and the part which has been chosen which we think is the safest part which has the best swimming would be at Fitts Village in St. James.

I know the Opposition is not fond of this but I only hope that when we have finished analysing the situation and whether we decide to allow the Development to go on at Paynes Bay, I hope I do not hear that we are taking away the rights of Barbadians when we

have already at this point in time made provisions for them at Fitts Village.

Now it is strange to know, Sir, that the owners of this land, I can say as a part of life, I have the documentary evidence here, Sir, where the people who are working at the St. James, I think they call it the Barbados Beach Club Limited, Sir, they have, I think, some 300 workers there and it is the only hotel in Barbados that has encouraged worker participation. There are workers in that hotel. Every single worker in that hotel has been able to buy shares out of their bonuses that they get at the end of the year and they have been given the right and the opportunity to buy shares into that development for the purpose of becoming shareholders at the Beach Club Limited.

Now, I would be stupid if I did not sit down and analyse this carefully whereby the cooks, the gardeners, and maids, security guards and the washers, all of that staff, Sir, not the administrative staff, but the other staff, have been able to buy shares into this hotel with the hope of improving their lot in life so I do not understand how it is that they have won this battle. I do not know what battle it is. It could not be a battle for the Government to provide Windows to the Sea because both sides over the years have provided these.

I would say that we have gone a little further than the other side because we saw access to this since 1956 when Mr. Freddie Miller, the father of the Minister of Health, built an Esplanade in your constituency, Mr. Speaker, in St. Peter. Since 1956 that was done by Mr. Freddie Miller so we built one in Fitts Village. We have built one Esplanade in St. Peter and this Government again has demonstrated its interest in having not only an Open Window to the Sea but the actual facilities that one can go through and sit down and relax after a hard day's work.

The Leader of the Opposition made reference about a Car Park at Graeme Hall. There is no Car Park going up at Graeme Hall. It is a very dangerous bend. I would like to give this assurance that we are not that silly to have a Car Park in one of the most dangerous bends along Highway 7. What we are doing is that we are cleaning up the area and we are going to have little shops there and benches where people can go and sit down. We are going to make sure that no vehicular traffic can go in there but you can ride your bicycle in there. You can park your car where you feel like parking it but no vehicular traffic is going in there. I do not want the Leader of the Opposition to be concerned about that, Sir.

As far as the member for St. Lucy is concerned, I would not know what to really tell him. I think he just would like to catch the eyes of the judges because we have repeatedly told him in here that a study of the

entire coastal area and the cliffs of Barbados is being undertaken. We have repeated this to him and for five years the member for St. Lucy sat down on this side and I have checked the statistics, and he has made four speeches in five years when he was with the Government.

When the hon. member for St. Lucy was with the Government, he never asked a question about River Bay. He never asked a question about Archer's Bay. He never asked a question about Cove Bay, not a question, four speeches in five years but every minute he gets up now and he wants a bus service in St. Lucy. He wants a play-field in Rock Field when they have one already. He did not even know that. He wants something at Archer's Bay, River Bay and at Cove Bay.

Sir, I have repeated this and I will tell him again. The Government is undertaking an entire survey to be done by the experts from overseas on the coastal line of Barbados, one for erosion and to take care of the cliffs, Sir, so much so that the Town Planner would not allow people to build, I cannot remember how many feet away from the sea, where we have these cliffs. He is kind of restricting it. People would not be allowed to build near the high water mark, Sir. That is what we are doing.

Then again, Sir, there is this problem we are having about erosion. The member for St. Michael South asked about the Crane Beach. He asked about the Crane Beach because the member for St. Philip South asked him to speak about the Crane Beach. I would like to inform him today, Sir, that the member for St. Philip South lives in Gemswick and I am happy to announce that the Crane Beach has come back and he does not know that. You can now even build a road across where the beach was lost over the past six months ago that we were even afraid. It was so bad.

I do not think, Sir, there is much more that I can say in piloting this Resolution but I would end on this note. It has taken the people of St. James 13 years and this Government to get this because I asked a question here in 1968 and the reply which I have in this Book was this, Sir. There was a question asked in 1968 about the amenities at Fitts Village and the answer which they gave was that they did not consider it a priority, that they had already drawn up their plans and would look at it at some future date. That was in 1968, thirteen years ago and the people of Fitts Village had to wait for this opportunity.

You remember, Sir, one day if I recall, you asked 26 questions in one day. In five years they have asked 33 questions. You asked 26 questions in one day. I will never forget that, from A to Z, and not a Private Member's Resolution on the Order Paper. That is how they run the people's business. When in the first two years we had on 64 Private Members' Resolutions, in five years you did not have on one and that is how they go out all

night and walk about talking a lot of nonsense on the platforms. (ASIDES). We are going to read them when we are ready. Twenty-six questions, Mr. Speaker, you asked in one day?

As a matter of fact, this Book says that up to 1968 we had asked 305 questions in two years, this Book in which you, Sir, led the way and I was a very close second with the Prime Minister behind me.
3.15 p.m.

Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, there is not much more that I can add to this, Sir, Both Sides seem to be agreeable to the Resolution and Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the other Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item number Three.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND
AT GRAVESEND, ST. MICHAEL TO HASHIM
DEGIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPER-
ATING A SHOP**

Item Number Three was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the lease of land at Gravesend, St. Michael, to Hashim Degia for the purpose of operating a shop.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear, that Hashim Degia is a known activist of the Barbados Labour Party. He is a Member of the Tourist Board and I want to make it very clear, that this is nothing, that the Government of Barbados is more or less giving Hashim Degia, for the first time.

It is an area of land at Gravesend, which was a former agreement, it was formerly leased to Mr. Abdul Haig Degia up to the 15th April, 1980, and all that we are really doing is transferring the lease to Mr. Hashim Degia, Sir, at an increased rent of \$400.00 a month, Sir, subject to review, at the end of the first five years, Sir. I just want to make it clear. As a matter of fact, Sir, it was first leased by Mr. Richardson in 1972 and then Mr. Richardson surrendered the lease to Mr. Abdul Haig Degia, Sir. This was in 1974. Now, in 1981, Abdul Haig Degia is surrendering the lease for Mr. Hashim Degia to take it up, Sir. So, with those few remarks, I just want the Opposition to understand, that this is nothing, that we are giving to a friend, as they may go out and shout. I am making that very clear, Sir.

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

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

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

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased indeed, that the Honourable Minister is taking good interest in the young men of this country, who are having a part in the benefits of tourism and I would like to take this opportunity to mention another related matter.

There is a Mr. Charles Pilgrim living in Sandy Ground, in the parish of Christ Church, who had a water-sports shop in Maresol Apartments, owned by Mr. Peter Morgan. Last year, he was asked to vacate the premises. He made an application to the Parks and Beaches to have a spot of land at Dover. I told him to write an application to the Parks and Beaches and I, myself, wrote to Parks and Beaches about it.

It so happened, that at a function, I introduced the young man to the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. St. John and he said to me, that he should get a spot of land, a small area of land just about 150 square feet. I am glad for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker because Parks and Beaches do not seem intent on giving this young man anywhere to operate on Dover Beach. What is good for Degia and Hahie and Wahie is good for Charles Pilgrim.

The young man has to get a car and take all of his expensive water sports equipment down to the beach, from where he lives in Sandy Ground. It is expensive equipment, he cannot allow it to lie around on the beach. Some pieces of equipment cost \$100, \$300, \$500.

I am very glad for this opportunity, to draw it to the Honourable Minister's attention. In fact, when I wrote Parks and Beaches, I copied it to both Honourable Ministers. I am not suggesting, that they saw it because I know, that Honourable Ministers have so much to read, that it is not always possible to read every document. But, I want the Honourable Minister to know, the Statutory Board comes under his control, let them know, that the young man who operates the only watersports enterprise on Dover beach is entitled to a piece of beach land to lease, or to rent like anybody else. He cannot afford to buy any land, Mr. Speaker, on the beach, he cannot afford to buy any and I would ask the Honourable Minister just to drop a word to Parks and Beaches because I cannot get through to them, so I am on the Floor of the Honourable House, now, and I only want to say, do not let us get any more distance in between us because you know, that my good self and that Chair tangled already and that is the score.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just leave those few remarks and hope, that the Honourable Minister will now deal with it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, all I can say, Sir, to my colleague is that I know, that at Election time, Sir, we like our voices to be heard, where our supporters would hear us shouting loudly, from the house top. (ASIDE: All of us.)

I have been living in Dover for 12 or 14 years, or thereabouts. All that the Honourable Member for Christ Church North Central has to do is do exactly what he has done in the past, telephone me a morning and tell me "fix up Charles Pilgrim for me" and he knows very well, that it will be fixed up. I cannot kill him. Talk your talk.

I will make a note about Charles Pilgrim and you can rest assured, that I will look after you and Charles Pilgrim by tomorrow. I can give you that assurance. (ASIDE: Thank you, my friend.)

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item Number Four.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OF THE VESTING
OF LAND AT ROEBUCK STREET AND
SPRY STREET, ST. MICHAEL, IN THE
CENTRAL BANK OF BARBADOS
FOR THE ERECTION OF
OFFICES

Item Number Four was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the vesting of land at Roebuck Street and Spry Street, St. Michael, in the Central Bank of Barbados for the erection of offices.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am very sorry, that the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition is not in here because this Resolution seeks to approve an area of land at Roebuck Street and Spry Street, Sir, for the erection of offices of the Central Bank.

Now, I recall very well, I tape the Opposition Meetings, you know, I cannot understand, why the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and the Honourable Attorney General are always getting piece of change, I want to get into the change thing, too, so I tape the meetings and I distinctly heard the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition say, that if he gets back into power, he is

going to stop the building of the Central Bank in Barbados. I want him to put that in his Manifesto, that has to be in his Manifesto. I mean, how can you really in 1981 set about to stop what is almost an impossible task for development of a developing nation, like Barbados?

In every Government office, Mr. Speaker, especially in the offices of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, it sickens me, Sir, to go into those offices and see officers sitting almost in each other's lap, Sir, so crowded are they in those offices.
3.25 p.m.

The Government is relieving part of this congestion for the very civil servants and the workers with whom the member for St. Michael South Central was marching yesterday as another stupid gimmick, a complete parliamentary clown, on platforms telling the country that they are going to stop the building of the Barbados Central Bank.

Now, I have hurried this Resolution in here, and I am going to challenge any member of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition or any of them at all, to vote against this Resolution. If they say they are going to stop the building of it, they should stop the Resolution now, Sir.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND TOGETHER WITH
THE BUILDING THEREON KNOWN AS
BUCCANEER AT BAYWOODS,
ST. JAMES, FOR USE AS A
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I think you will recall that Sunday evening when the late Elsworth Holder, you and I went to Orange Hill at the Buccaneer Society, the Buccaneer Lodge Room. I owe this to the people in Baywoods. I hear, Sir, how the late Elsworth Holder held my hand and walked me about St. James and showed me St. James! God rest him in his grave anyhow.

If you recall very well, Mr. Speaker, you will recall that the two of us journeyed there and the late Elsworth Holder was introducing himself at a constituency group meeting, and I was in the audience to be introduced to the constituency group as the candidate to run with the late Elsworth Holder. Mr.

Holder, at the end of his speech without even making reference to you in the audience or to me as the candidate, said he had to leave then, he was going to a funeral, and you, Sir, brought that meeting to a standstill when you nominated me. I do not even think you remember that, I do not even think you remember you nominated me to be the member for St. James, Sir, in your own way. It was in the Buccaneer Lodge Room that incident took place, and for all those years Baywoods, Orange Hill, Endeavour and its environs had been part and parcel — Springhead, Taitts — that whole area in the north of St. James was always dear to my heart, I mean really dear, because if I did not win the Orange Hill box, which is known as SA 1, I would have come last in the election in 1966, beaten by Glenroy Straughan, so you would know how dear it is to me.

There are times, Sir, when I do not always agree with you, but there is a degree of gratefulness when you nominated me the evening, and as you sit in the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I think we can share together those happy days in Orange Hill and down in Boscobelle tumbling about together, Sir.

I have the greatest pleasure in moving this Resolution. I believe that this is something which I myself may have asked when I was on the Opposition benches, for a playing field and a community centre for the people in that area. I am not the representative of the area now, Sir, since it was ungraciously taken away from me to destroy me, but in the meantime in taking it away it has strengthened the hands of the Barbados Labour Party by bringing victory to the member for St. Andrew. It was Orange Hill again, Baywoods, Endeavour, and it is those areas to which I feel a debt of gratitude and would do anything at all to demonstrate to those people that we are grateful for all they have done for us in the past. I therefore hurried this acquisition down to Parliament so that the work can be started, and I am told it should be started some time in a week or two or a month or two for the people at Baywoods, for the people in Orange Hill to have for the first time a community centre.

Let me also say this, Sir, and let me also let the member for St. Andrew know this, the Minister of Agriculture, that I am guaranteeing him that the two of us are going to walk hand in hand and look at the playing field as well as have our drinks and sit down and talk with the people there in this Buccaneer Lodge which would then be given a new name. I feel very proud, very, very happy, more than proud in introducing this Resolution and I think, Sir, that you can take some joy in knowing that it was in that room that you nominated me, Sir, though you were not a member of the St. James constituency group.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, in rising to second this Resolution I want not only to congratulate the hon. mover, but yourself as well, bearing in mind all that has been said this afternoon. I am sure that if he did not say what he said about you, Sir, many of us would not have known.

The area of Orange Hill is a considerable part of the constituency of St. Andrew and it represents something like 30% of the total population of the area of St. Andrew. It is unfortunate that over the years that area never had any facilities whatsoever in terms of social activities. The playing field within the area known as Standard certainly operates at a very substandard level. Much as they have been able to produce some good players because of the skills of the people involved, the pitch is not one to be desired, not one to feel happy about, and certainly we have got to look at a number of improvements for the area of Orange Hill.

In Baywoods where the property now to be acquired, known as the Buccaneer, in which a lodge existed, a Friendly Society, over the years, that area itself has quite a large number of children, a large number of boys and girls, who themselves are looking for a place in order to meet and enjoy themselves and as is well said, express themselves.
3.35 p.m.

If one would look across Baywoods one would see that even where the toilet and bath facilities are out there that around that place at some time or another in the past they had flowering shrubs, they tried to plant grass and to keep it well, and they did a number of things to beautify the area of Baywoods and Orange Hill generally. With little or no facilities at their disposal they still tried to make the place as happy and as peaceful as possible.

The Hon. Minister of Housing and Lands who for a long period of time represented that area and is still considered to be a co-representative of that area drew to my attention that something should be done for the Baywoods area, and along with the Minister responsible for Community Affairs we visited that area and decided that something should be done and should be done quickly, and therefore we set about to acquire the Buccaneer whereby we would have a nice social centre there, and we would have hard-court facilities for the people in that area. My understanding is that with the passage of this Resolution it should not be long before we get a lot of activity going in that area.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to go a little further afield even than that in terms of social services, in terms of activities for the expression of the young people and their enjoyment thereof. If one looks around the country and especially in areas which have been traditionally represented by the Barbados Labour Party, one would notice the total lack of social amenities. Take your own constituency, Mr. Speaker, there is hardly anything that was done over the years for the constituency of St. Peter. St. Andrew falls actually in line and St. James as well, especially in the remote areas of St. Peter, St. James and St. Andrew. In St. Peter you run very closely into me in the area of Boscobelle and as vast as that area is there is not a playing field, there is not a community centre of any kind for people to meet at. They have to get out from there and come to Bridgetown or go to somewhere far removed and remote from where they are, and I am happy that since this Government was returned to power a number of positive steps have been taken to ensure that these people who were neglected over the years are now getting some of the benefits and the fruits of this country.

I want to commend the Minister for his haste in this matter, and to assure him of the gratitude of the people of Orange Hill to him in his haste in bringing this matter to fruition, and I believe I can speak for you as well, Sir, that we look forward to tremendous activities in the neglected constituencies which Your Honour and myself have the honour to represent in this House of Assembly.

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

THE BARBADOS NATIONAL BANK (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1981

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6 stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Barbados National Bank Act.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to allow a form of legal delegation of authority within the structure of the Board of Directors or governing body of the National Bank. It is felt that because of the lack of provision in the Act specifically empowering the Board to assign specific functions within a written framework that the work of the Board is hampered. Normally in the Articles of Association of a private company or a public company these provisions would be included, but the National Bank is a statutory legal entity. It is therefore necessary for the law to be amended to permit this power by the main board to be exercised without the formalities of the lease of the Interpretation Act.

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

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make an observation here with respect to the actual operation of the Barbados National Bank. In my capacity as Minister responsible for agriculture including fisheries, a number of complaints are made to me from time to time about the attitude of the personnel of the Barbados National Bank. The Barbados National Bank was conceived on the premise that it would liberalise the lending institutions in this country to a point where small people would stand to benefit as a result of the setting of such a structure.

When I introduced legislation on a previous occasion which brought to an end the operation of the Barbados Peasant Loan Bank which it used to be known as, I said on that occasion that I hoped that adequate and proper consideration would be given to the needs of the peasant farmers of this Island and to fishermen as well. We now have a situation, Mr. Speaker, where there are many problems which are being faced by fishermen and small farmers alike with respect to acquiring loans from that institution. You are called upon to produce feasibility studies, you are called upon to surrender all forms of documents of security and your task is made extremely difficult on trying to secure a loan. It is my belief as the Minister responsible for agriculture which embodies a large section of small farmers, and these are the people we seek to encourage to grow and to develop because a country can well progress with a healthy peasantry that a note of warning should be sounded to the Bank that it must relax to some extent its stringent rules. While we do not say that the monies of the people in this country or the Bank's money should be thrown away, we still feel at the same time that there must be a liberalisation of the policies of banks with respect to these small people who by themselves cannot prepare the type of documentation that is required of the sophisticated nature which banks generally look forward to. I am sure that most of the people in this country imagined that when this bank was set up the system would be so liberalised that the kind of formalities which were expected from the lending institutions of the foreign-owned banks would to some extent be reduced with the setting up of this commercial operation.

3.45 p.m.

It is reaching a point where I might have to, in the future, when onlending Institutions from abroad are giving money to the Barbados Development Bank for onlending to small fishermen to object very strenuously to their being allowed to have this money. They are a bit

too tight fisted and their attitude can be too conservative and that has left a lot to be desired in areas such as this and you have got to be considerate and less hard-headed when you are dealing with the peasants and fishermen in this country and while I support this, as it is my duty to do, it is equally my duty to express the fears of people who are involved in seeking loans and to suggest to the Directors and the people who look after those peasants and fishermen to so democratise the system as to make it possible for fishermen to get easy loans in order to carry on their day-to-day operations.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that speaking as the Hon. Minister does from the vantage point of the Minister of Agriculture whose responsibility it is to look after Fisheries and Farming in this country, the points that he has made will be conveyed to the Directorate of the Bank.

It is certainly the objective of the Government in setting up this Bank. There will not only be a rationalisation of a number of the Financial Institutions but the policies of the Government will be carried out in ensuring that credit worthy people would be given ample opportunity to get credit and if, as it seems, there is something that is missing or lacking in the administration in this area, I want to assure the Hon. Minister that his thoughts and statements will be conveyed to the Directors of the Bank.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there is no quorum.

(The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.)

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move, Sir, that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Mr. ODLE: 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.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Hon. Leader of the House would care to offer some explanation why in Clause 2, the second paragraph it says:

"Notwithstanding section 16(1) of the *Interpretation Act*, it is not necessary for rules or regulations made under this Act to be published in the *Gazette*, and any such rules or regulations, unless they otherwise provide, shall come into force on the date on which they were made."

What is the objective to be achieved by having such secrecy over the formation of these rules. There may be some valid reason and I would like the Hon. Leader of the House to throw some light on this because it is not the usual practice.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: This is precisely the point I was making. If this was a Company these would be internal rules. They would be of no concern to the public at all but since it is a Corporation or a Legal Entity by virtue of a Statute, you have to come before Parliament and empower the Directors to delegate powers other than by the Interpretation Act. There is no need for this at all because as far as the public is concerned whatever the internal divisions of authority are the National Bank is liable. That is the reason.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of H. B. St. JOHN, 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. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
3.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1.

Item No. 1, was called – To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the granting of sums of money for the service of this Island.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1980–81, No. 29

Head 12 – Parliament

Subhead 1: Parliament and General Administration

Item 8 – Operating Expenses.

Head 12 – Parliament was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate for the provision of meals to Parliament was fixed some considerable period of time ago. Since then, the conditions have changed, in that both prices have risen and wages and fuel. It is therefore necessary to increase the sum paid per meal. This sum represents the supplementary provision necessary to give effect to a new agreement, which is being reached between the Government and the caterers.

I beg to move, that this sum stands part.

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

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

HEAD 28 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Subhead 1: General Administration

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this sum is necessary to carry into effect the Agreement relating to the revision of salaries, wages and allowances and supplementary provision is required.

I beg to move, that this sum stands part.

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

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

HEAD 33 – FIRE SERVICE

Head 33 – Fire Service was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir supplementary provision is necessary, consequent upon the increase in the cost of running the Fire Service, as a result

of the response to an increased number of fires, between April and September, 1980.

I beg to move, that this sum stands part.

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

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

HEAD 34 – PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Head 34 – Probation Department was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Again, Sir, this is a consequential adjustment, necessary to carry into effect the salary increases, Sir.

I beg to move, that this sum stands part.

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

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

HEAD 38 – WATER RESOURCES

Subhead 1: Waterworks Department

Head 38 – Water Resources was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this is necessary, as a result of the two increases in electricity charges, which have affected the estimated position in the Waterworks Department. The sum of \$1,875,000 is therefore needed to carry through our commitments to the end of the Financial Year and this is purely in the case of electricity, for the various pumping stations.

I therefore move, that this item stands part.

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

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I believe, that the Honourable Minister would be aware of the fact, that when the electricity goes off, for whatever reasons in some areas, you find, that the water that is in the reservoir, before the stopping of the electricity rapidly gets used up and if the electricity does not return on soon enough, you find, that people supplied, by that particular reservoir have a very great problem in getting water. Obviously, either the water in the reservoir is very low, or due to the fact, that the pumps are not working, the water does not get out into the pipes.

I would like to enquire of the Honourable Minister, what preparations has the Waterworks Department made to meet this type of emergency? Do they have any

generators standing by, or do they consider this unnecessary? Are they fully seized, that this can be a serious problem, for some people, for example, like in the Black Rock, St. Stephen's, Grazettes area, where, when the electricity goes off, for a very long time, people have this problem of having no water and then the actual supply of water being distributed by tank and motor vehicle, under the direction of the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks is not adequate. Very often, you find, that they tell you, that you will soon get water, the pump will be in your area, under those conditions and very often, many hours pass by and you do not get water. You get up in the morning, you cannot get a bath and very often, throughout the day, you cannot get water to do your normal domestic duties.

We are not really trying to blame the Waterworks Department, but this is a type of problem, which I believe you cannot anticipate, when it is going to occur and there should be some sort of back-up system where, when this does occur, you will not have the type of embarrassments, that people have to suffer, when this occurs, from time to time and I think, that in recent years, it has been occurring quite too often. Again, I would like to enquire of the Honourable Minister, do they have any generators? What is the policy of the Waterworks Department on meeting this type of contingency? I would be very grateful, if he can shed some light on this because there are many people in Barbados, who are inconvenienced, to some extent, and some others, to a greater extent, whenever the electricity is cut off, for whatever reason there be.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I can fully understand the problems, which the Honourable Member spoke about, but the area which he mentioned, the Black Rock, St. Stephen's area has been plagued with difficulties, from the Waterworks Department, for numerous years and I believe, that he will remember the problem, as he once occupied the position, as Honourable Minister responsible for the Waterworks Department. 4.05 p.m.

In the first place there were serious leaks along the Black Rock road, and as a result of technical assistance from Canada and the ability of the Chief Engineer at the Waterworks Department they have carried out leak detector tests in the area and they have been able to remedy the underground leaks in pipe which was lying, as I understand, from back in the 1920's, cast iron pipes that were laid in that era.

Subsequent to this they then encountered other problems, one being that there were air locks. Every time you had an outage of water and the water came back, for no reason water refused to flow, and it was discovered that there were air locks in the system. They have introduced a number of bleeder valves in the lines along Black

Rock. People have commented over and over again about the digging up of the Black Rock Road, but it was specifically to improve the water supply in that particular area.

The third point is that Black Rock was served from the Lodge Hill reservoir and it was a receiving reservoir. The water in the Lodge Hill area, the reservoir at the 460 contour level, came from the Belle which meant that the pump at the Belle supplied the water to the Lodge Hill reservoir, and that was taken off particularly in the early hours of the morning and late in the afternoon, when people are at home using water, and the reservoir was refilled during the day. We have just completed the construction of a steel tank which increases the capacity in the Lodge Hill reservoir by a further million gallons of water. That will serve part of the St. James area, Cave Hill, Lodge Hill, St. Stephen's area.

We are also nearing the completion of the St. Stephen's reservoir. This is a concrete reservoir which is due to be completed in another couple of months from now. That will also increase the holding capacity in that area and we hope that the residents in that area, some 35,000 people, will no longer suffer from outages of water.

The Department is equipped with three generating plants which are used at the stations. If you have long outages of electricity the mobil generation plant will go to the station and activate the pump for pumping the water, but in the area which the hon. member speaks about, that area is served from the Belle Pumping Station. We are also in the process of constructing another pumping station at the Belle alongside the existing pumping station, because it has been discovered that there are other wells adjacent to the existing wells which are being pumped which will increase the pumping capacity at the Belle.

Those are some which are included in the 1981-82 Estimates, and I am told that with the bringing into operation of the million gallon steel tank, which has just been opened up at Lodge Hill, that should solve some of your problems. With the other concrete tank which is coming to the end of construction, which will soon be in operation, you should have no problems whatsoever with that capacity.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to a particular point. A few months ago the hon. member for St. Lucy, who is one of the Maguffies in the Barbados Workers' Union, came in here with a letter and challenged the Prime Minister to say why we were laying off some 400 workers from the Waterworks Department. No such letter ever went out. What we do in the Ministry now, I gave instructions that we should not lay off workmen in the

fashion as it used to be done before. They would wait until a Friday evening when the man received his pay, hand him a letter and tell him he is being laid off as from that evening and that he should report to the Personnel Department from the Monday. When he went to the Personnel Officer it was found that the Personnel Officer could not employ him because he had no requisition from the Engineers or the other Supervisors on site, and therefore that man went home without money that week.

My instructions are that every Supervisor on site must give us two weeks' notice when a project is coming to an end. The Chief Engineer at the Waterworks Department has extended this period of notice to four weeks, and at the beginning of the first week he gives notice that a particular section of the job is coming to an end and therefore he would have to lay off some workmen. This is all in connection with the St. Stephen's reservoir which is being constructed. When you come to the second week you are then given a second notice that you will be laid off in two weeks' time. Copies of those notices are sent to the Personnel Department so that we can find alternative employment for those workmen who are leaving one site on another site. This is what has been happening in your area. We have been running down the workmen as we finish a particular phase of the work, and therefore I am told that within the next two to three months we should be able to commission the St. Stephen's reservoir — I think it has a capacity of five million gallons — and therefore we should be out of the problems which the hon. member speaks about. I can sympathise with him, because I know for years, long before I became a Minister of Government, when I was a practising lawyer I know you had the problems in the Black Rock — St. Stephen's area of people not having water.

We have a similar problem in the Wildey area and we are looking at that as well. That is why we decided to increase the pumping capacity at the Belle. We have built the Fort George reservoir which has taken off some of the problems, and soon as we can construct the other pumping section at the Belle we should be in a position to satisfy the St. Michael area and the St. George area.

We gave out a contract to a contractor for the widening of the fissures in the well we found at the Belle, and the contractor worked for two weeks and has not returned. We have now to go back to contract again and bring in another contractor with the hope that he can have the well ready, so that by the time we come to construct the building over the well we will have no blasting underground. But we are in a difficult position brought on by ourselves, and that is, there is so much building going on in Barbados we cannot get well diggers, we cannot get masons, we cannot get carpenters. We will

not be able to provide the utilities as fast as the Government would like, because we just have not got the workmen.

We have the same problem when it comes to drainage. We would like to have sunk more wells this year, particularly when it was drier, now that we have identified the water courses, we now know where we can sink the wells. I believe the hon. member will note that we have been doing a considerable amount of work in the area of Kentucky Fried Chicken. We identified where the water was coming from, up in the hill by the university, coming across that road, destroying people's property on its way to the sea. We have been able to sink some wells. We were hoping to sink more wells, but unfortunately well diggers are now *primus inter pares* in this country. Anybody who can send well diggers to the Waterworks Department or to MCW, we will gladly take them. It has reached a point, Mr. Chairman, where National Housing is paying \$1.85 a foot to dig a well, and we are now fighting Establishments to move our price at MCW from \$1.20 up to the \$1.85, so you have competition among Government Departments for well diggers to dig wells.

That is the serious situation which we face, that Government Departments are raising the price of digging wells to compete with other Government Departments, because there is a scarcity of well diggers in this country. We would have liked to have finished doing the work on the new well at the Belle, we are lengthening the aqueducts as they call them for the water to come into the main well, but we just cannot get the work done. We have one contractor and he is doing as much as he can, but I can assure you that we know the problem, we have plans for solving the problem. The big problem we still have is to get the workmen available to do the work in time.

4.15 p.m.

The question that Head 38 – Water Resources – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 44 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Head 44 – Ministry of Labour and Community Services – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 44, the Addendum is quite clear. Hon. members will recall that an incident took place at Pleasant Hall Day Nursery. Consequent upon that incident a legal writ was filed. There was a profound conflict of opinion as to the cause of the death, and rather than dissipate the money in paying passages for medical experts to come from Australia here, both sides agreed on a compromise that the Government has always maintained that

it denied liability having regard to the medical evidence by the pathologist and by the radiologist, and the Government offered to pay to the other side by way of *ex gratia* the same amount that it would cost for the Government to prove that it was not liable and after some period of time in my opinion very wisely, the claimants accepted that, and we want to end the law suit and the sum as set out is the amount to be voted.

In respect of the others, Sir, I would like to draw attention to subhead 12, Item 1. Not so long ago new National Assistance Payments regulations were filed and it is necessary to provide money for the payment of the new benefits for national assistance. I am not talking about National Insurance, I am not talking about old age pensions, I am talking about national assistance which is supplementary to these other grants. There are three types of grants in Barbados. These have been revised now and the most significant revision is in respect of disabled persons, that is people who suffer from some disability of whatever kind; it might not necessarily be physical, it may be mental, and the old maximum was \$8 and the minimum \$5. We have raised these to \$8 and \$12 respectively, but if the disabled person is over 55 and is not in receipt of any pension of any kind, they can go to \$15 a week. These are considerable improvements on what they were before and in my opinion and in the opinion of Government they were necessary. So the money is being voted here to permit the payment of new benefits.

I would also point out that as far as disabled persons are concerned, they are treated as adults from the time they reach 18 years and not the previous 40 years or whatever the rule was.

The Child Care Board had to pay increases in salaries like all the Statutory Boards, and it is necessary to supplement theirs too.

I beg to move that Head 44 – Ministry of Labour and Community Services – stand part.

Mr. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 NO. 30

Head 28 – Ministry of the Attorney General – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the most significant sum under this Head is to pay travelling allowance for a Forensic Pathologist. The Ministry of the Attorney General now has a Forensic Pathologist. They have after a long period of time been able to recruit a person, and

part of his terms and conditions of service will involve travelling. Obviously a Forensic Pathologist by the very nature of his office will have to visit sites and scenes, so therefore he will obviously have to be a travelling officer, and in the circumstances it is necessary to have money to supplement the travelling vote in the Ministry. Other than that, there is nothing unusual in this.

I beg to move that Head 28 — Ministry of the Attorney General — stand part.

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

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

HEAD 45 — MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Head 45 — Ministry of Information — was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Under the Ministry of Information, Sir, again small amounts to cover utilities, plant, furniture and things of that kind, but the most significant area is Government advertising. This is the one under which the Government Information Service comes.

I want to say that my constituents like I am sure a lot of other hon. members' constituents have expressed great concern over the fact that sufficient publicity is not being given to the new camera centres. As hon. members will recall when we were debating this matter last year, the public was informed that camera centres would be re-opened at the beginning of the year. They are re-opened but the basic position is that for some reason all the media in Barbados have not made a big thing of this. I saw it tucked away in a couple of pages in the newspaper.

The question of taking your picture to have your new I.D. card is one of fundamental importance to everybody. We in this country who are believers in free, fair and open elections would like everyone to do everything possible to come forward and have their pictures taken. The fact that you may use an old picture may for some people be a reason why they are not coming forward, but as we have repeatedly pointed out, the National Registration Scheme is a scheme that the Government has introduced so that National Health Insurance benefits can be obtained.

In addition to that, there will be a number of younger people who would not have had their pictures taken because they were too young at the time of the last. They must come forward. It must not be said that this Government has done anything to prevent anybody from voting. This is now about the sixth speech that all of us on this side have made appealing to people to come

forward. I hope the other side, now that this is 1981, will equally join us in this appeal. We have never had any support from them yet. We have opened the camera centres, we have put in the newspaper, we are appealing to the agencies, the media as part of their public affairs programme to appeal to people to go forward.

4.25 p.m.

I hope that the importance of this would be recognised. It would be a matter of great regret if we have to pick up the taxpayers' money to have published advertisements. We have repeated the requests to the people. Even yesterday's paper has it. I appeal to the media to make a big thing of this for us.

We appealed to the Government Information Service to make use of their free time and try and see if they can get everybody. We want everybody. We do not have to conduct Elections in this country on the basis of trying to prevent people from getting on the Register or by putting the wrong people on the Register. Our Elections will be conducted on the basis of the well-known criteria for registering and well-known criteria for identification and we appeal to the public to come forward.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 45 stand part.

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

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, having heard the Hon. Leader of the House on the need for greater publicity on this matter for registration I wonder if he has examined the role being played by the Government News Agencies of Television and Radio because I would like to believe that it would be easier for Government to impress on these two areas the action necessary to give adequate coverage of this exercise because as you look at Television night after night and you listen to Radio Barbados at different times of the day you certainly do not hear anything being said about the need for people to go out and get registered and it would seem a bit far-fetched to expect that with this type of behaviour coming from Television or Radio Barbados owned by the Government to expect the other people in the media to come to the assistance of the Government and I would like to appeal to the Hon. Leader to exercise some influence in the appropriate media to make sure that his words do not go unheeded.

I would also like to assure him that in the area of registration I would like to see everybody registered and I hope that apart from the remarks made here that every facility will be put into use to enable the people of this country to get registered as quickly as possible.

I do not believe that this is the appropriate time to go into this because we are dealing with Information but

as he would know, and I would know, there are people who have been registered. They have had enumerators come to their homes. They have had photographs taken but they have not yet received their I.D. Cards. Some people have gone so far as to have their names registered but apart from getting in here and making these remarks which I appreciate I would like to support him on these matters but there is a lot more that has to be done to get all the people who should be registered to be registered before the appropriate time and I would end again by appealing to him to try to influence the Minister of Information, or whatever he cares to call him, to devote more time to it. It only takes a few seconds to put it in on a time slot on T.V. and to ask people to go and get registered, and a little more time on Radio Barbados to remind people who listen from time to time to ask them to get registered and if the Minister of Information can do that then I think they can then ask the other people in the media to do that. Let us begin with Radio Barbados and CBC T.V. and when we begin to get them doing what they should do to make this programme successful then they can deal with the other news media.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am very glad that the hon. member has supported us. The Government finds itself very often in a dilemma when dealing with the media. On the one hand on programmes which are of international interest one would expect that the media would recognise its importance and would carry out its functions. On the other hand, as soon as attempts are made to point out defects in the operation of the media, accusations are made of trying to twist and distort the media to suit one's purposes. It is a kind of dilemma that this Government has and I am sure that other Governments have had it in Barbados. It can only happen in Barbados because in other countries there is no doubt that they have to carry out and be subservient to Government. We do not have that situation here in Barbados.

I have had my own experiences with them. As a matter of fact few Government Ministers have had to tolerate what I have had to tolerate in some areas. To show you the lack of influence that we have. Not so long ago we had an opening at Heywoods and one part of the Government media never turned up and it was not the first occasion. It was the second occasion that they did not turn up. It was too far for them to travel.

Now I suppose I would be accused of influencing them and I got a letter written to the Board of Directors at CBC complaining on that particular issue. I think it is worthy of a full investigation and I have already spoken to the Chairman about it so that when you talk about using your influence in relation to this we in this country very often confuse competence with a number of other things.

I would have thought that the importance of free and fair Elections would be of such in the Caribbean today that anybody who was responsible for the Editorial or policy of any media in Barbados would seize upon its significance but instead we do not have that. I reiterate and I am very glad that the hon. member has supported us that it is the policy of this Government to encourage everyone to come forward and I appeal to all the media to support the Government and those members of the Opposition who are light-winded, who believe in free and fair Elections and do not give support to others who do not believe in that, and especially at this period of time. This is an Election year. The Camera Centres are opened in districts. The Central Camera Centre has never been closed. Let us form some programmes around it. It is of importance to us all.

The question that Head 45 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 31

Item 1(c) was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$2,063,067 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. 31, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this is to provide the second amount of call-up capital in respect of the formation of Caribbean Air Cargo Limited. I can give hon. members an up-to-date position. The warehousing situation in Barbados is now completed with the exception of a small area in the front for a parking bay which has been excavated, filled and seal-capped.

It has not been barber-greened yet. It is being barbergreened very soon. Tenders are out for the barbergreen. The Customs Hall in Barbados is totally completed. It has received the staffing approval of the Customs. With the opening of the new warehouse at the Airport, it is hoped that we will return to the system of complete clearance at the warehouse at the Airport. 4.35 p.m.

Honourable Members will recall, that this system was in operation a couple of years ago because we have been having complaints, that relatives abroad send goods here and people have to go at the Airport, then go back down to town to get their goods cleared. We want to get rid of that. We cannot afford to waste fuel like that in Barbados today. Those days are over. We must have proper Customs facilities for full clearing of goods.

I understand, that one of the reasons why the former facility at the Airport for clearing goods was discontinued years ago was because the Chamber of Commerce objected. Well, I want them to understand, that they are not the only importers in Barbados, there are other people who import in Barbados too and if they do not like it, they will have to lump it, on this occasion because you cannot have an air cargo facility without customs clearance facilities, within that area. The days when everything had been tailored, in this country, to suit the convenience of a few retail merchants are over.

I, from my Ministry's point of view have already informed the Comptroller of Customs and the Director of Finance and Planning and the Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning, that it is totally incompatible with a modern air cargo facility without having complete customs clearance at the Airport.

The facility in Trinidad is not quite as complete as ours. The main body of the warehouse is much larger than ours. Ours is roughly 2,500 square feet, the one in Trinidad is 65,000 square feet, but they have to import oil equipment and they have a much larger scale than ours. The main building is complete, the cold storage is being built and we expect, that that will be finished, by the end of January. The customs hall, I understand, the Customs are visiting it today and they will give a seal of approval to it.

Of course, there is still one other problem, like everywhere else, there is a shortage of transformers in the Caribbean. For some reason, or the other, transformers are very difficult to obtain and I believe, that that is one of the hold ups, getting a transformer, but I understand, that it is on the sea coming. We therefore expect, that the two warehouses will be complete, by the end of January. The computers have been installed and people are training on them. We have now got out CAB permission, we got that at the end of October and our arrangements in Miami, I understand are quite complete, the ones in New York. It is expected, therefore, that Caricargo will be in the air at a very, very early date.

The concept behind this joint venture was one that we explained previously. I am very pleased to see, I am exceedingly pleased to see, that no less than two other Governments in the Caribbean have formerly and officially applied to become participating members in that air cargo facility. When this Air Cargo joint venture was signed, both parties to it stated, that it was open, at the appropriate time, for other Governments to join. There was never any intention of restricting any particular people because we recognise, that the time has come in the Caribbean area, if we are to have an adequate service run along commercial lines, that it has got to be widened. Anybody who is watching the aviation industry at the present moment should be able to observe that PANAM

had to merge with National in the United States. The economics of the airline industry are such, that the cost of capital equipment is in millions and millions of dollars. The cost of fuel is rising and unless you have a certain low factor, you cannot expect to break even, so that these basic economic facts are going to force people in the Caribbean to have a new look at the air transportation structure, if they wish to survive in today's world of the difficulties of the economics of operation, not only in the cargo area, but, in the passenger area.

I beg to move, that Head 73 stands part.

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

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

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in a brief reply to the remarks of the Honourable Leader, I would like to begin, by stating, that I welcome his remark on the point, that there should be a full and complete custom coverage at the Airport because one only has to look back at what has gone on in the past, the great inconveniences which people had to suffer, going up there, getting documents, coming all the way back to Bridgetown to get these documents sorted out and approved and then, travelling back to the Airport to get delivery of their goods and many people have wondered in the past, why you could not have all of the facilities for declaring of goods done at the Airport.

If what I am hearing today is true, it was due to talk of the Chamber of Commerce, it makes me shudder to think what can happen, if a small group of people, such as the Chamber of Commerce can enforce such pressure upon a Government to indulge in an operation, which is to the great disadvantage of many people, who have to go to the Airport and be exposed to this type of operation. Therefore, I will repeat, that it is refreshing and I believe, that many people outside, who will have to deal with the airport on a basis of getting their cargo and other things removed from the air cargo facility will be impressed to hear the Honourable Leader talk about having complete and full customs coverage, at the new building.

However, one has to draw to the attention of the Honourable Minister and I believe, that he must have heard, that there is some concern about this operation, concern in relation to what benefits in terms of employment, Barbadians are going to get, noting quite clearly, that it is a joint effort and Barbados is contributing just as much as Trinidad. There are some apprehensions, in the minds of some people, that there may be a domination of this exercise by Trinidad employees not necessarily from the top to the bottom, but more so, at the top and this brings out the question, whether or not this is so and what steps the Honourable

Minister and Government will be taking to ensure, that adequate and suitably qualified Barbadians are not going to be denied proper employment, in this particular exercise, rather than stand by and see all the attractive employment going to Trinidad because Trinidad may be able to exert a certain amount of pressure to get these things done. We have to recognise, that Trinidad has oil, we have to recognise, that Trinidad has a lot of other things and they may be able to bring to bear on negotiations, or on trends in this country, a certain amount of influence, which Barbados may not be able to bring to bear on Trinidad.

4.45 p.m.

On the other hand, I bear in mind and I take seriously to heart what are some of the reasons that the Hon. Minister has advanced for the merging of companies overseas, notably in North America, and I anticipate that such factors may very well force people in the community to do likewise, but one cannot but look back to the fact that at one time Barbados had a cargo service owned and operated by Barbadians, which seemed to be a very attractive and lucrative operation, and one still, must at some times look back and wonder why we have had to rush into an exercise which saw the demise of a Barbadian company giving place to a joint company between Barbados and Trinidad, when the very same factors which the Hon. Minister has enumerated, of being conducive to the uniting of companies in the United States, North America and other parts of the world, have not yet come to bear on the Caribbean scene, and I hope that the Hon. Minister in his reply will be able to advance some good reasons, apart from the so called CARICOM spirit, for this exercise, because if we can have an operation in Barbados which is profitable, which was being run by Barbadians, one would like to be convinced that there is even greater advantage to accrue to the Barbadians, not only through the Government, but to the people at large by such an exercise.

Sir, passenger service and air cargo service are rather technical matters and due to the spiralling cost of everything — oil, oil products and many other things associated with the exploration of oil — we find that everything is going up, and therefore it has to be anticipated that even in this exercise you find that the articles which are necessary for the good functioning of this exercise must go up, and therefore people who are going into it will have to look for more and more capital to be able to compete effectively. If they are not going to be able to find this capital, then they will have to forget this idea.

I do not want to go into the history, into the long talk of the Hon. Prime Minister of Trinidad talking about a common carrier for the islands and things of that nature, and the various rebuttals which have come from different sources. I think that is now past history, and I would believe that one of the best things to do at this

particular point in time would be to let the past history lie and let us look forward with some more enthusiasm in the hope that the effort, given the necessary goodwill on both sides, will bear fruit and will not go down the road of some of the other joint exercises which we have seen come up in the West Indies, and which we all expected to do well and sadly saw them go down bit by bit.

In recent times there has been a lot of concern being expressed about CARICOM and what is its future, what is it doing, what steps should be taken to revive it or to ensure that it continues to survive, or if steps should not be taken to bury it. I can only hope that this exercise will not give rise to the same type of fears which now surround the CARICOM exercise. Rather than having this type of fears. I would like to see the people of the two areas, and maybe the Caribbean as a whole, have great confidence in that it will succeed, and as the Hon. Minister has pointed out, that not only two members will be interested in participating in the exercise but that we will see a lot of other members of the East Caribbean joining in the exercise to ensure that it succeeds and goes from strength to strength, because in the highly competitive field such as air cargo traffic if we are not well founded we could very well find that after a short period of operation, a year or slightly more than a year, we are going down the drain of ruin much to the discomfort of the people in the Caribbean, who may only have to start wondering again if there is anything that the people of the Caribbean area can ever get together and succeed in.

I would like to say here that I appreciate some of the remarks made by the Hon. Leader of the House, but there is still some concern about this operation and I hope that the Hon. Leader of the House will, not necessarily today but at some time, be able to convince the majority of people in this country of the righteousness of the exercise.

Mr. SIMMONS: I cannot say that I shall not be long, Sir, because of the particular aspect of the current relationship between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago that I wish to air today.

Before I deal with that, Sir, I want to point out at the very outset that I have always been a Caribbean person. I have friends in every island in the Caribbean and relatives in some. I have had a good relationship especially as a student and when I was lecturing at Cave Hill with people from the Caribbean, and I would do at all times everything that is possible to promote Caribbean unity. As Black Stalin would say, Sir, I am a Caribbean man, because I realise that we all made the same trip-on the same ship. It is therefore of a little concern to see that the CARICOM Community is foundering on very rough and uncertain seas, and I can only trust in the interest of Caribbean people in the decade of the eighties that the

seas will become less turbulent and that we can give effect to the purport and spirit of the CARICOM Agreement.

We on this side appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that that Agreement was never referred to the people of Barbados for their comment, approval, approbation or disapproval when the now Opposition happened to hold the reins of Government of this country, and the people of Barbados therefore never had an opportunity through their representatives to voice any opposition to the CARICOM Agreement or to express their fears, but in the last two years since the coming into effect of the Agreement there have been people throughout the region, in Barbados, columnists in particular, who have asserted that the Caribbean Community is dead or was dying, and they saw no future for it. I believe, and I will maintain, that it was a grave error on the part of the former administration, the DLP administration, not to have had that CARICOM Agreement debated and discussed in this Hon. House of Assembly. I think it was a cardinal error and for all we know the people of Barbados may still today be paying a price for that omission, whether deliberate or accidental I cannot say.

I particularly welcome the closer association that is obvious between the Governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, especially after 1976 – the cement plant, the Prime Minister addressing the Chamber of Commerce in Trinidad, floating loans on the Trinidad capital market – all of these things show that in a significant way the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has some respect, and indeed trust, respect for and trust in the present Government of Barbados.

4.55 p.m.

I know from talking to people in Trinidad and from Trinidad in Barbados that the reputation of this country is extremely high in Trinidad and among Trinidadians. The way we manage our affairs the orderliness of Barbados is appreciated by Barbadians who come here; and they do not come spasmodically; they come weekly if not daily, even to make purchases in Barbados for necessities which are unobtainable in Trinidad. Now I admire that. Obviously we like to see it, but the Government must at all times nevertheless be wary that an influx of Trinidadians, the fact that they come with more money at their disposal than the average Bajan has at his, does not tend to inflate the cost of things in Barbados and then put commodities, land prices, whatever beyond the grasp of the local Barbadian. The Government must be careful to maintain a balance and to maintain Barbados primarily as a place for Barbadians and to see that their interests are protected, welcome though Trinidadians and their petrodollars may be.

Now at the same time that the two Governments – and this is the part of my contribution that I

indicated at the beginning I had something a little critical to say – despite the efforts of the two Governments to come closer to each other, in the sport of horse racing there is a move by persons in Trinidad particularly persons in the Racing Authority, not in the Turf Club – I make it clear, not in the TTC or the Arima Race Club or the Union Park – people in the Racing Authority in Trinidad who have tried to destroy the good relations that have existed between Barbadian sportsmen and Trinidad sportsmen in the field of racing.

Let me give a little history, Sir. As a boy it was common for horses from Trinidad to come to Barbados and race; their jockeys used to come, they still come. It was common for horses, jockeys, trainers and supporters from Barbados to go to Trinidad certainly for the June meeting, most definitely for the Christmas meeting and sometimes for the Easter meeting at Union Park. This was going on before I was born and it continued right up to about 1975 unabated. In the last couple of years two Barbadian owners in particular, Mr. Patsy Springer and Mr. David Seale have sent horses to Trinidad and have won substantial stakes. With respect to Mr. Seale, one horse of his, Local Knowledge, has won over \$100 000 in Trinidad; Mr. Patsy Springer's horse, Daring Dan was up in the \$80 000s. Local Knowledge even won the last Stewards Cup. In those days the Chandlers, the Edwards, the Perkins, the racehorse owners of Barbados and the breeders always looked forward to competing with the Trinidadians on their territory and beating them and of course being beaten by them, but within the last year the Trinidad Racing Authority has instituted what is in effect a ban on horses from Barbados taking part in the classics of Trinidad. First of all, this is contrary to the spirit that should exist between the two countries and has been evidenced by the various areas of cooperation and indeed as evidenced by today's Resolution. It is contrary to that spirit. Suddenly it is enigmatic because they allow horses from Martinique to come and take part in their classics, and a Martinique horse, Black Moor has just won the Breeders Cup at the Trinidad Christmas meeting in 1980, and Barbadians are excluded. They make things difficult for us.

In order to have the possibility, let me put it that way, in order for a Barbadian owner now to have the possibility of his horse racing in Trinidad, the horse has to be shipped to Trinidad, as their rules now say, has to be imported into Trinidad before you can apply for classification, so since classification is also within the discretion of the Racing Authority, there is no guarantee that your horse will be kept classified, so you may expend air freight and send your horse to Trinidad hoping that it will be classified and is illegible and then find that the Trinidadians refused to classify it, and you would have wasted \$3 000 or \$4 000 to air freight the horse to Trinidad, which would be double that for return.

Now I took up this matter last year on behalf of the Turf Club of which I am a member of the Committee of Management with the Government, and a meeting was held with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Sport. I have not heard anything since that meeting. The Trinidad intransigence is still very obvious and I would like to call on the Minister responsible for Caribbean Affairs to see if he cannot take up this matter at governmental level so that this one rough spot in the current relationships between Trinidad and Barbados may be ironed out, and that in future we can proceed as Caribbean brothers on a proper basis and on a friendly and amicable basis.

Dealing specifically with this Resolution, Sir, as far as the airline is concerned..... (Laughter)

Mr. Chairman, let me explain. It is all well and good for people to talk that so far I have not mentioned Caricargo, but this Resolution concerns relationships between Barbados and Trinidad, and if members of the front bench or anywhere do not appreciate that people on the outside find it very anomalous that we can be signing agreements for millions of dollars and some little sector of the Trinidad and Tobago community could be showing their unwillingness to acknowledge the spirit of the agreement by banning and refusing racehorses, then I am sorry for those members who may jeer. It is an aspect of our relationship. We may have economic relationships, cultural relationships and indeed we do exchange some tapes at C.B.C. with Trinidad. Why can't we have proper, smooth sporting relationships? All I am asking the Government to do is to investigate and to use its influence to see if anything can be done to deal with the two or three people in the Trinidad Racing Authority. I know the two or three people in the Trinidad Racing Authority.

Now, Sir, in respect of Caricargo, I happened to visit the old complex at the Airport late last year and to observe work that was going on, and I must say publicly that I was impressed by the effort that was being made. I want also publicly to compliment Mr. Kingsley Clarke, a Barbadian who has been responsible for the carrying on of this project from the Barbadian end, the Managing Director, I am told, and to say that calling and making enquiries about the work and any possibility for jobs even, he has been most cooperative. Time will tell whether he has been entirely helpful.

5.05 p.m.

He has certainly been most co-operative and listened to the requests and made some promises to help so far as he was able and I appreciate it, but what I appreciate about Mr. Clarke most is his personality. I think in the choice of Managing Director, a very wise choice has been made by the two Governments because Mr. Clarke is a person who endears himself to all people. I have never seen him vex in my life.

Mr. Clarke has a very charming personality. Most importantly, he knows about the Air Cargo business. He is highly qualified and he is very collective in his field and I feel that with him our country can have confidence and we look forward after this venture gets off the ground to many long years of success for the two participating Governments.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman, and that is it in a nutshell. I said I did not promise to be long but that is my contribution to this particular debate.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was interested to hear how much an ardent supporter of sports can see the foreign policy implications of cultural things because I think when my friend referred to the front bench making a *sotto voce* comment, really what I was trying to say to him is that the matter of which he was speaking was not strictly of economic significance within the terms of this type of agreement but they are more related to cultural and sporting links and was applicable to the foreign policy implications of cultural agreements between ourselves and our CARICOM neighbour with whom we have the closest of relationships.

Being one of the persons associated with the Government's foreign policy particularly within the Caribbean during the last four and a half years, let me say that one of the successful aspects of the Government's foreign policy has been seriousness and the success with which it has pursued a closer relationship with the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and I think that it is fair to say that at no time since the break up of the Federation has that relationship been closer than it is today and indeed if I should look beyond the 1980's and the 1990's with the assumption that this Government remains in power, I would say that we can look forward to a period of closer relationships with the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago where we will wherever possible be trying to co-ordinate and integrate our respective productive capacities with the two countries taking the lead by this example of bringing CARICOM countries into a closer association.

Mr. Chairman, you will probably recall that in the Government's major foreign policy speech in 1979, I believe, when I spoke to the Heads of Government at the opening of The Heads of Missions Conference, I pointed out that the Government saw no contradiction between closer bilateral relationships in the Caribbean or trilateral or quadrilateral relationships and the wider CARICOM union and unity.

It must be recognised that some of the states in some regards can go faster in some respects than others and the momentum of Caribbean co-operation cannot be dictated only by the pace of the slowest member of the CARICOM grouping and it is necessary for those

countries which can, to try to intensify and accelerate the speed at which our economies, on the productive level, not merely on the level of trade, are being integrated and also to co-ordinate more closely our political and foreign policy alignments and we, in pursuing this policy, have made it quite clear to the other CARICOM partners that there will always be room for them to join in any relationship of this nature such as Carib Cargo.

I believe that my colleague, the Leader of the House and Minister of Trade, Industry, Tourism and Civil Aviation has already informed this Committee of the intimation from at least another three Governments of their interest in becoming part and parcel of this Agreement and I expect that there will be many other such initiatives where other countries will seek to join from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, this provides me with an appropriate opportunity as well not only to cite this Agreement as an outstanding Agreement of bilateral Caribbean co-operation but to say that the Government of Trinidad has, during the economic crisis confronting the Caribbean, shown quite clearly its attachment, its real attachment, not merely by words but by deeds to Caribbean integration by the manner in which it has assisted other CARICOM countries.

Only yesterday the President of the Republic of Guyana referred to a loan of \$40 million under the Caribbean Aid Facility and Oil Facility which the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has made available to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. Previous to that, a few days prior to that, another Loan of \$4 million has been made available to the Commonwealth of Dominica for helping in various economic developments in that country including Housing.

The arrangements with Barbados have not been by way of loans but rather by way of investments because our economic circumstances are no doubt different in some respects to that of some of our CARICOM neighbours but also Barbados stands to benefit from the Trinidad Oil Facility in respect of that portion of our petroleum products which we import from Trinidad and Tobago. Likewise the facility of which the Caribbean Aid Council has available to this country for the purposes of fertilisers as well as petroleum products and the road product asphalt, if we choose to make use of these facilities.

Late last year we loaded successfully on the Trinidad market a major loan for US\$20 million, a loan which was fully subscribed by the Investors of Trinidad and Tobago.

I am conscious of the fact that in terms of the private sector there has been a cross purchasing of shares

not only with Trinidadians purchasing within Barbados and investing within Barbados but the flow has been the other way as well.

5.15 p.m.

I would like to remind Barbadians, that the Barbados insurance companies in particular are gaining more premium income from Trinidad, than the Trinidad insurance companies gain from Barbados and so that this exchange is not a one way exchange, it is not a question simply of Trinidadians purchasing in Barbados. On the corresponding side, Barbadians have been purchasing by way of mortgage, by way of purchasing of shares, by way of investment into equities in the Trinidad market as well and I think, that in a way, this is a successful manner in which to build a foundation and a basis for a more sensible, lasting co-operation looking at the functional areas of co-operation and moving on to the wider areas.

That is why I can say, that if there is a temporary problem between Trinidad racing authorities and the Barbados racing authorities, it certainly has posed no serious problem for the relationship between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the government of Barbados and not indeed, the temporary misunderstanding of which my friend, the Honourable member for St. Philip North speaks is one to which the Honourable Minister of Civil Aviation, Tourism, *et cetera* has already addressed himself, in a letter to his counterpart, Senator DeSouza, who has responsibility in the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago for Caricom affairs and certainly, if the Honourable Member wishes the matter pursued further, even at the level of foreign affairs, we would be prepared to raise the matter again with the Trinidad High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Mrs. Verna Crichlow and finally, if necessary, with the Honourable Minister of External Affairs.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to hear, that the only note of which my friend spoke, of which he says may be a jarring note, is a matter, that is I am sure, of tremendous significance to the people involved in sport and in that particular sport. But, in terms of the foreign policy implications and significance is of course *de minimis*, rather than of any importance caused for disagreement between these two great countries.

Mr. Chairman, I have stressed the Trinidad significance of our bi-lateral relations, of our foreign relations because we are talking about Trinidad. But with almost all, I wish I could say with all of the countries of the Caribbean today, Barbados has managed to develop very close relationships, significant in many ways, where we not only seek advice, but give them advice, where we not only help, together with them to fashion common policies, on the external affairs, but we help also to give

guidance to their policies and they in turn, to give guidance and influence to ours. I said almost all. I do not want, at this stage to widen this debate on any other Caricom country, although I would welcome, at some stage looking at our relationships with others, but, I am happy at what is becoming the end of the period of external relations to say, that this country's external relations, within the Caribbean, within the Western Hemisphere, within the Third World, within the non-aligned movement, within the Commonwealth, indeed within the United Nations, this country's foreign policy is respected.

The various initiatives which is has taken have been welcomed and our country's voice is today listened to with respect, not only for the strong, moral conviction, which we bring to bear on issues, but with a sensible and objective analysis, with which we pursue our goals and I am happy to see, that on the individual level, people can speak, with a certain amount of satisfaction, of the performance of our Ambassadors overseas and our High Commissioners and our Honourable Ministers in the various Councils of the world. I think, that today Barbados is much more respected as it ought to be and much more recognised, than it was, when I assumed responsibility for this portfolio and if this opportunity is the last opportunity — because I do not know what will happen in the Estimates, Mr. Chairman, whether we will reach those aspects in the Estimates — that I get to speak on Foreign Affairs and our Caricom affairs, I wish the record to show, that it is with a great deal of satisfaction, that I have had the honour and the privilege to be one of the fashioners of this country's foreign policy, between 1976 and 1981, a foreign policy that I think, that is another significant aspect of this Government's conduct of the people's affairs.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to add to the very clear and distinct statements made by the Honourable Attorney General, with respect to the Government's foreign policy in the Caribbean area. I think, that it is important, that it should be emphasised, that anything that we do, in relation to any Government in the Caribbean area is being done, in pursuance of a long and well held conviction, deep seated conviction, that the future of the countries in the Eastern Caribbean in particular and in the wider Caribbean lies in closer and deeper association.

This is not any new pronouncement, on the part of the Government, this is something that the Members of this Government have been preaching since 1960, prior to Independence. So, I mean, this is nothing new. It should not shock anybody. We feel, that in the context of getting things done, that a bi-lateral arrangement is a good arrangement, provided that the provisions of the bi-lateral do contemplate a multi-lateralising of the bi-lateral. In other words, if any bi-lateral agreement that is signed

says, that it is open to others to join in this bi-lateral, then, there can be no quarrel at all. But, there is this, that you cannot join the bi-lateral and expect to get the benefits, without assuming the obligations either.

This is a problem, that has arisen in all integration movements. Indeed, the problem arose in the LOME Convention re-negotiation, so that, the Government of Barbados and the Government of Trinidad because we feel, that there is a consensus or an identity in a narrow area and we want to move and we want to move ahead and we go ahead, provided we say, that the obligations are stated, anybody who wants to join must come forward, they can get the benefits, but they must assume the obligations. I have no quarrel about that at all.

I have just come back from a meeting of Caricom and I want to say, that there was a continued spirit of buoyancy that the integration movement, far from dead, as the Jeremiahs speak, is active. You only have to look at the trading figures to see, that it is so. We have had great improvement, in the course of the last year with our trade in Jamaica. We have had not much success in Guyana. I understand, that the multi-lateral clearing facility, which Jamaica was about to make use of to pay for our goods, in respect of Guyana was used up because of the fact, that Guyana imports all of its oil from a Caricom country, namely Trinidad and therefore, had no credit available, within the multi facility to finance the purchase of goods.

5.25 p.m.

Now that a separate oil facility has been created, the multi-lateral clearing facility, the extent of the credit will be available, and I will be having discussions with my counterpart on this. The fact of the matter is, and it has been universally acknowledged, that the oil facility from Trinidad is the best of all three oil facilities. The Barbados Government looked at alternative supplies of fuel over three years ago and we have switched our reformat content of our imports — reformat, that is the cocktail spike — from Venezuela to Trinidad. We now import crude from Venezuela. To the extent therefore that we import reformat from Trinidad, we are eligible for the oil facility. Guyana is in a different position, Guyana imports total products, so therefore they would be the chief beneficiary, because they import all from there.

Now, we also have looked at the Venezuela-Mexican facility and we have no problem at all with the importation of crude from Venezuela. We have indicated very clearly to the Government of Venezuela that we are interested in that, but we do not have a problem with the Mexican facility because the refineries in the eastern Caribbean outside of Trinidad cannot accept the sulphur oil that comes from Mexico. That is a fact. Jamaica has the same problem, we have the same problem, and there-

fore we are worried about this one, because the Venezuelan Government said that she is only supplying half of the traditional crude. I want hon. members to understand this. She says that Mexico must supply half of the crude, not reformat, and she will supply half. In other words, if you imported 3,000 barrels of crude last year, in December, from Venezuela, she now says that she will only be supplying you in the future with 1500 barrels, and Mexico has to supply you with 1500 barrels. This is where the problem arises, because if you cannot use the 1500 barrels coming from that source, you are deprived of 1500, so we are moving in a very difficult area.

Now, Sir, in respect of the question asked by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, honestly, the Memorandum of Understanding between Trinidad and ourselves has a very clear and specific statement. Nationals of both countries are eligible for the jobs. It must be on a commercial basis, and I am not going to go and investigate the nationality of each and every member who has been appointed. I can tell the hon. member this. I know that the Managing Director is a Barbadian, I know that the Chairman is a Trinidadian, I know that the Chief Accountant and Financial Controller is a Barbadian, I know that the Commercial Manager is a Trinidadian. I know that in respect of the other staff from Barbados, some have been picked and some have not been picked, but I know that we have not had any applications for work permits in respect of other people.

Now in respect of Trinidad, let me explain something to the hon. member. Trinidad wage scales are considerably higher than our wage scales. The commercial aspect of the operation has been made clear to our representative on the Board of Directors, and they have advertised the jobs. Wage scales have been established. Some of the jobs will not be of interest to Trinidadians because of the fact that they have a different and a higher wage scale, but the point is, we are not going to interfere with the commercial aspect of the operation to slot any particular nationality in it.

Now overseas, I understand they have picked the Overseas Managers, but they had the applications. I want to make it clear that as Minister I only see the reports of the Board of Directors meetings, I am not interested in interfering with who gets a job, that is none of my business. The criteria have been established, I want this thing to succeed. We never know where we will go from here. Already two Governments have come forward to say they want to join, because the only means they can get a service on a regular basis is if their service is tied in with ours, because neither one of us has sufficient demand to generate sufficient cargo for a regular weekly service. We can have it for one day a week or for two days a week, but that cannot be economic, so economics are

forcing us together, it did not need economics to force us together, we always believed in it, we saw that long ago.

On the question now of the horses. You know, Mr. Chairman, sometimes Government and politicians are way ahead of the public. I have absolutely no doubt that there is a petty clique in Trinidad, like there is one in Barbados, who believe that they must be insulated from all competition in whatever their particular field of operation is. In Barbados there is a petty clique who believes that nobody else but a Barbadian should own in Barbados. In Trinidad there is a petty clique who believes that nobody else should run a horse but a Trinidadian, so it is the same basic petty, spiteful parochialism, short sighted parochialism, and just as we have people here in Barbados who feel that the Government should prohibit all ownership of people other than Barbadians, there are Trinidadians down there who believe that nobody but a Trinidadian should read a Trinidad Guardian. That is what you are dealing with, but the politicians are ahead of them.

I agree with the hon. member that the conduct of that particular clique in Trinidad is contrary to the overall spirit of what the Government of Trinidad and the Government of Barbados are trying to achieve. I also say that those who lobby here in respect of prohibition of purchases and economic activity are also contrary to the general overall spirit. Only the consumers can benefit from competition. The Government has made it very clear. In respect of certain areas of economic activity, we do not want people indulging in them. In respect of other areas, we prefer CARICOM to outsiders, and that is our attitude.

I look forward, Sir, to the report of the team of experts which has been commissioned by CARICOM. I know that the trade figures show that there has been an improvement of trade between Barbados and the other territories except in respect of Guyana. I know that the multi-lateral clearing facility and its relationship with the oil facility is under examination. I feel that there is absolutely nothing wrong with a bilateral arrangement, provided other countries can join it on the same terms and conditions, and I want to give the hon. members on the other side the assurance that so long as we are in power, we are only interested in ensuring that there is equality of opportunity for the best Caribbean talent to be employed in CARICOM. I will not indulge in any process of an investigation of the national background of each and every employee in CARICARGO. If there are allegations of discrimination, I shall be the first to ask the Directors to institute an investigation. Nor, and this is very important, nor will the Government of Barbados be subjected to any blackmail by any group, skilled or otherwise, pilots or otherwise, on the ground that political embarrassment will arise if there are not hired at inflated salaries.

5.35 p.m.

This Government does not submit to political blackmail neither by Barbadians nor will we submit to any other nationality.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question that Head 73 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 84 – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Head 84 – Ministry of Information – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Head stand part.

The Addendum is very full. It just sets out the position with respect to Oistin. Part of the Oistin Development Plan involves expansion of the library. The Library is going to be placed at Scarborough sandwiched between the polyclinic on the one hand and the Police Courts and Police Station on the other. The former Rate and Taxes Division is now very nicely ensconced in Ensford Villa. We are repairing the Library. The beams of the floor have to be strengthened to be able to hold the books. Books are very expensive and heavy. We will have a very beautiful library there for the whole of the other areas. There are a lot of schools in the area; there is Foundation and there is the Christ Church High School, so we want to have a very nice library. The whole of Scarborough House which was the former dispenser's residence will now be converted into a library. The Ministry of Communications and Works is doing the job and it is necessary to have done more reconstruction than was anticipated and this is the result. It will be finished by the end of the financial year.

When the library comes out of where it is, the Post office will temporarily be extended into there while they build a new post office, and then when the polyclinic is finished, where the post office and library are now will become part of the administrative offices of the polyclinic. So that is the plan. It is continuation of the development of the Oistin plan.

I beg to move that Head 84 – Ministry of Information – stand part.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I know that the hon. member who has just sat down is obviously a modest person about his own performance, but I would like it to be placed on record that nobody in this country has done more than he has in order to promote the re-development of Oistin in a manner

which will bring satisfaction in the planning of a small city to the people of the southern area as a whole and particularly the people of the surrounding districts. He has done it almost single-handedly in taking a devoted interest in the plans of the Oistin Re-development, of talking to consultants, to workmen, to looking at the schemes, to trying to sort out difficulties, to negotiating with the Lome people, to getting behind my officials to get on with the physical and other planning for the law courts and for the police station, for the groynes in order to prevent beach erosion in the area. I could go on *ad nauseam* on the personal interest and attention which he has given to this Oistin project and development.

I think it is much to his credit that not only as Minister responsible with some responsibility for some of the subjects which have been covered by this redevelopment but also as personal parliamentary representative for that area and the person who has shown his interest particularly in the fisher folk and the other people of the lower socio-economic resources in this Island. I think it is much to his credit that he has done so much for this scheme and I believe that he will get his reward for it and they will show their due appreciation. I called for 85 per cent of the votes in my area and people say that we have some scheme. I hope they give him 90 per cent at least of the votes of that area.

As a sideway on that, I see that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is not in his seat and I do not want to say this behind his back, that the letter sounds like his words, the hand is the hand of Esau but the voice may be the voice of Jacob. You remember that, Sir. I see his hand clearly in that anonymous letter. I would only let him know that I was driving through my constituency yesterday afternoon and one of my constituents said, I see they say you want 85 per cent, but we say that is not good enough for you, 90% in this area; so I thank him for the publicity which he has given to me.

The question that Head 84 – Ministry of Information – stand part – was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 27th January, 1981, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

5.45 p.m.