
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 — 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th 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); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, C.B.E., J.P.; Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker)

Prayers were read.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER entered the Chamber and took her seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 20th January, 1981.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these Minutes have been circulated and subject to any observations, by any Honourable Member, as to the accuracy thereof, I beg to move, that they be now confirmed.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations, by Honourable Members, let these minutes stand confirmed, (PAUSE) These Minutes are confirmed.

Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: On behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to lay:

The Training Report for the year 1979–80.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, I beg to give notice of a:

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Speightstown, St. Peter, for the construction of the Speightstown By-Pass Road.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Workman's St. George, for the widening of the access road to the Pulverisation Plant.

On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$76,243 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980–81 — Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980–81, No. 33, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, I beg to give notice of a:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$527,100 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. 34, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. CHELTENHAM entered the Chamber and took his seat.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Item Number two, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item Number Two.

Item Number Two was called — To move the passing of a 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.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a simple Resolution to correct a descriptive error, which occurred in the Resolution No. 90/1979 of 21st December, 1979, when this Honourable House vested certain lands in Wildey, St. Michael in the Caribbean Development Bank for construction of additional accommodation. The Resolution did not include the words, which are sacred to conveyances in that it stated, that the land is situated at Wildey, which is a fact, but, the conveyances needed additional words and they are:

“and which forms part of a larger area of Wildey Plantation.”

So that, it is to make clear, that the lands that are being vested in the Caribbean Development Bank are part of a larger area of Wildey Plantation. I believe, that it has now become hallowed by custom, in Barbados, the way you segregate, or separate from a title which was formerly a plantation, the description shows it by way of exception, instead of general words of description.

It is a simple Resolution and I beg to move, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the amendment being made to the Resolution, but without reflection in any way, on the vote of the Honourable House, one of our problems in

respect of land transfers and land acquisitions is that Honourable Ministers frequently come in here without giving Honourable Members of the House the plans of the area.

We had a debate here Sir, you will remember, last week concerning some land, similar parcels of land, certainly while I was here, we were speaking at large, we did not know the precise locations and I will only counsel the Honourable Leader of the Honourable House, in future, to let us see the plans because the Law requires it, to quote the Merchant of Venice and justice demands it.

So, I think, that the Honourable Minister will take the point that I am making. We are at a disadvantage. We can frequently be of assistance, if the plans are submitted. 12.30 p.m.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely no quarrel with the request of the Leader of the Opposition. Land management in Barbados is now centralised as far as Government ownership of land is concerned in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and the Environment, and the Lands and Surveys Department is also part and parcel of that Department. The description of the acquisition of land is usually taken from a surveyor's plan, but unfortunately the pattern of new surveying descriptions that has developed is that they do not now in survey plans describe it in the way that they were formerly described, so that we have to be very careful in the future that those people who are responsible for the Schedules to the Resolutions do not only follow the description of the surveyors, because it is accurate.

One of the things is that surveyors feel that surveying is such an exact science that once you describe a property by reference to a plan that the plan is sufficiently descriptive in itself to guarantee the identity of the boundaries. Of course, this has been an old row between conveyancers and surveyors in Barbados for a long period of time, because the conveyancers also like to describe it in words, in case there turns out to be an inaccuracy in the plan, so that I agree 100% with the point of view that members are entitled to see a copy of the plan, and as long as I am moving these Resolutions I am only too happy to provide the plans.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply to consider a number of Resolutions, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO HEAD 74 SUBHEAD 31

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, in moving this Resolution, I think it might be useful at this time to bring hon. members into the picture with respect to the redevelopment of Oistins.

I am happy to report that the reclamation of 1.7 hectares of land in the Oistins area has now been completed and all that is left to be done in that area is a question of drainage. In the past we had in mind a limited area for development, but now we envisage that a larger development will take place ranging from Scarborough and stretching in a westerly direction. That was part of the Plaza complex in the west, Archer's land. The land which Mr. Archer owned was not in the plan, but it is thought that it might be useful and make for a more tidy arrangement if we can acquire that land in order to have a better outlay of the situation.

The Government in the redevelopment of Oistin has in mind the building eventually of a new road just a little way to the north of the existing road and under the hill of the Foundation School, because Oistin, as you know, Mr. Chairman, is an extremely busy area and people find it extremely difficult to commute and therefore we want to take some of the traffic off Oistin, traffic that does not necessarily have to pass through there. Even those that might be going on the way to Silver Sands may be able to take the other road and lead on to one of the exit roads from Gibbons Boggs or one of the adjoining areas.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the Oistin Redevelopment Project is involving a number of activities, including several Ministries. The Ministry of the Attorney General is involved in the building of a complex for the Headquarters of the Police Force, as well as a new Magistrates' Court. The Ministry of Health will also be having facilities there for a polyclinic, and the Scarborough House which used to be used as the Rates and Taxes Division Office will be used for the police, the library and the new Rates and Taxes Office will be north westerly of the existing Scarborough House. There will also be a new Post Office and also a terminal building for the buses that will be operating within that area.

As far as the fishery complex is concerned, which is the primary objective of that purpose, we will be having a jetty for the fishing complex as well as a new facility for the fishermen there. There will be six fish stalls for 36 vendors, a fuel facility and a workshop, because we do not want to have the workmen moving away from Oistins and coming into Bridgetown to have a congested city further congested.
12.40 p.m.

We are hoping to have very shortly operations put into being whereby the facility would be started. What is

now the Police Station it was originally thought would continue to be in existence, but it is felt that it would not offer a tidy arrangement to have that old building there since it has no historical value, and therefore that too will be going by the wayside.

The reclamation of the 1.7 hectares of land was done by C. O. Williams construction and it was started in September, 1980. The cost of the reclamation was \$968,500.

I do not know if there are any questions which the Opposition would want to ask, but I thought that even though this Resolution which does not call for quite a lot to be said, that it could only be fair to the House that I should just bring it up to date as to what is taking place in that area, but I stand willing and ready to give any further information which the House might require of me.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 No. 32

HEAD 15 -- CABINET OFFICE

Head 15 - Cabinet Office - was called.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution relates to the need to provide legislative authority for the payment of increased travelling allowances which were approved by this House. Resolution No. 69/1980 and the finances that were approved in the Estimates for this year are inadequate to implement the decision subsequently made to increase the rate of travelling allowances. Accordingly it is necessary to supplement this Head.

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

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

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

HEAD 35 -- MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Head 35 - Ministry of Trade and Industry - was called.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, consequent upon the revision of salaries which were approved by this

Honourable House last year, all Statutory Boards whose salary scales are part of or similar to the arrangements made for the Civil Service are required to implement salary increases. Obviously at the time when the Estimates were prepared and the block grants were allocated to the Statutory Boards, it was impossible to be able to compute the exact amount required. This Resolution seeks to authorise a supplement to the grant to the Industrial Development Corporation in the sum of \$400,000 to permit the payment to wage earners at the Industrial Development Corporation of the new wage scale with effect from 1st April, 1980.

I beg to move that Head 35 – Ministry of Trade and Industry – stand part.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 36 – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION

Head 36 – Civil Aviation and Tourism Division – was called.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, again this Head relates to a grant to the Board of Tourism. A similar situation arose with them and it is necessary to supplement their grant which was \$6 million last year by \$175,703 in order to allow them to implement the salary increases.

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

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to make a few observations. I note that the amount of money approved in the Estimates for the Board of Tourism amounted to some \$6 million and that we are now being asked to vote a further substantial amount of \$175,703.

Now, Mr. Chairman, whereas I have been aware for a long time that the Minister responsible for Tourism seems to be completely out his depths when dealing either with matters relating to the Tourism or the associated Ministry of Aviation, nevertheless I sometimes wonder whether the obvious failure in this regard has been the result of the incompetence of the Minister or his failure to give proper directions to the administrative unit that forms the Board. Today there is considerable public concern about the state of the tourist industry in Barbados. That concern, Mr. Chairman, is echoed not only by investors, not only by persons who have large

loans for physical plant at various commercial institutions, but that concern is also being echoed by employees in the hotels and in ancillary facilities.

On my way here between Golf Club Road and Parliament, at this time of the day and at this time of the year I saw ten tourists, two in a taxi going down Bay Street, four coming across the Swing Bridge and four soliciting the assistance of a taxi driver just outside Parliament – ten tourists at this time of the day and at this time of the year.

We have been hearing all kinds of conflicting reports from various organisations as to exactly what is happening in relation to tourism this season and so far I have not heard any statement of any significance emanating from the Minister, but Mr. Chairman, I think the problem rests with the fact that when this Government took over in late 1976, in that particular year there started to be a growth in tourism which one anticipated would last for some three to four years.
12.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, it is well known in the Tourist Industry that the seeds that you plant today, you will see the results of those seeds probably two, three or four years from now. So what they benefited from in 1976 to 1980 would have been largely the work of the previous administration in the area of Tourism.

This year, Mr. Chairman, for the first time it can be reasonably said that we will be seeing the contribution which the Barbados Labour Party Government has made in the area of Tourism and judging from statements being made and from my own observations and from the observations of people in the Industry, it looks as though Barbados is heading for a very lean season this year.

I do not know whether this is actually so but these are the appearances and I think it is about time that the Government recognises the vital contribution which Tourism must make this year to the economy of this country, particularly bearing in mind the very heavy capital out-flows which would have taken place over the past 12 months consequential to a political decision taken by the administration to postpone all of its capital projects until the last minute, and recognising that we have borrowed now almost up to the hilt unless you want to continue to manufacture all sorts of irrelevant criteria to determine the amounts that you should borrow. Bearing this in mind and recognising that in this year our capital development must largely depend on capital in-flows, and that a major contribution must be the Tourist Industry, it must be of vital concern to all persons in Barbados to know exactly what is happening.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this administration every year has simply been making idle boasts about the number of

tourists coming to Barbados and I think the case was put very well sometime ago by the member for Christ Church North Central that those figures can be completely misleading, not only in what they represent because they might only represent people passing through the Airport, but also they certainly do not reflect the changing pattern of Tourism and the changing level of expenditure by tourists when they come into this country, nor have we seen any policy by the present administration which reflects the changing pattern of Tourism.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is the next problem of matching seats to hotel beds. We have seen no progressive policy on the part of Government in order to correct the problems here. We hear all the complaints but we see nothing positive emerging from the Government.

We hear, Mr. Chairman, of the question of seasonality and the need to alter the nature of our promotion, so as not to introduce into the minds of people that there is an element of seasonality in the Tourist Industry. However whilst you are talking about getting tourists to Barbados all year round, yet you find that the same people who are promoting Tourism abroad are talking about an off-season and an on-season.

As a matter of fact, there was a very interesting paper on this whole question of the removal of the concept of seasonality in the area of the promotion of Tourism within the Caribbean area as a whole and I presumed that that information must have been transmitted to the present Minister, if he has any time to read anything relating to Tourism, and so far I have not seen any kind of impact made on the kind of promotional effort which I see being made by the Tourist Board.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I mentioned the whole question of plant. On this Floor of this Honourable House I have questioned before the wisdom of continuing to pump large amounts of soft loans from the Barbados Development Bank into that sector of the Hotel Industry, namely, the apartment sector, which is a less intensive generator of employment as compared to the hotel sector.

Every year we see the Barbados Development Bank patting itself on the back saying that we have raised more money in loans than the year before and that we have spent more money than any Government before and this kind of nonsense but the point is, and as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, those levels of expenditure do not even take into consideration the inflationary factor which has taken place within the building industry over the past four years which has been over 100%; so if they are disbursing twice as much in the area of Tourism with the same very heavy slant towards apartments which employ very few people, in point of fact, they are hardly doing anything. But what they have done is this, Mr. Chairman, they are creating problems for the very Tourist Industry because when you

extend your plant particularly in a situation where there is massive inflation in that particular area, it means that you have that many more beds to fill.

It means then that the tourists who are coming here will be faced with higher prices because the prices that these apartments and hotels can charge must bear some relationship to their levels of occupancy and if you find yourself in a situation with expanding plant and diminishing levels of occupancy then inevitably either the owners of those hotels will be faced with a situation of bankruptcy or alternatively, Mr. Chairman, they will have to push their prices up and as they push their prices up, that then will have an adverse effect on the number of tourists who can afford to come to Barbados even under the packaged tour arrangement. So therefore we might be sowing the seeds of our own destruction in this direction of the capital inputs into various areas of development within the Tourist Industry, and I suspect that that is what has happened, that that is what is happening now and I am fearful that if we get a bad tourist season this year that this economy would be in even greater trouble than it is in at the present moment. Therefore, I believe that apart from the call from many sectors of Barbados to look at various other environmental factors relating to Tourism, I believe that this particular area of plant expansion and type of expansion and the the number of tourists can have an effect on prices.

Now the question of prices. Barbados has clearly made a distinct shift into the area of packaged tourism. In that area prices must be of paramount importance.
1.00 p.m.

I am not saying, that everything can be determined by what happens in Barbados because we do not own that many aeroplanes and factors such as the cost of travel and so on are things which we have to bear in mind. But, I am of the opinion, that once you become dependent of package tourism, then you have to start getting into the area of packaging yourself, at the site from which the tourists emanate because, unless you get involved in that, although the capital expenditure, Mr. Chairman, might be great, the point is that you could add more and more, from year to year and make sure, that you can compete with people at the site of origin, who have the capacity to direct tourists to one destination, or another.

We have to do this, for this reason, Mr. Chairman, because the product that we sell here in Barbados is a product, that is readily available, in many hundreds of other destinations and if the price becomes a critical factor, then the packager will immediately send persons, who would normally come to Barbados, to other destinations. There is nothing remarkably specific about Barbados. We have the sun, we have the sea, we have clean air, we have a healthy social environment, but remember, that we are only one of a whole lot of other

destinations, who have to share the same kind of plant, that we have to market as distinct, for example, Mr. Chairman, from say, the United Kingdom, where they are marketing a specific product and the people who want to go to Britain, there is no way, that a package tourist would be able to tell them, "well look, do not go to Britain, this year, I think, that you should go to Germany instead", if they want to go and see the changing of the guards, or something like that, to put it as ridiculous.

But, the point that I am making is that I think, that for two reasons, one to make sure, that we can, to some extent, control the flow of tourists to Barbados and we need to get involved in the packaging arrangements, whether it be in Canada or the United States. But, there is also another important reason and that reason is this, in order that we can, in some way, determine, Mr. Chairman, the extent of the retention of the tourist dollar, or even before that, how much of the money paid by the person, who travels on a package tour, how much of that ever leaves Canada, or how much ever leaves the United States, or the United Kingdom, or Continental Europe. We must be in a position to have some influence in that area and also to determine more decisively, the retention factor of the tourist industry, and the tourist dollar in Barbados.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I say this, for this reason that clearly, there are many tourists coming to Barbados, who come for sun, sea and fresh air and often without a penny in their pockets. Two weeks ago, at a snackette in Worthing, where I often go to buy cigarettes, I saw a family of four having dinner. The second week I saw the same family sitting on the steps of a shop having dinner. I travelled on an aircraft from Miami a few months ago, with a young honeymooning couple, who sat next to me, on a package tour to a particular hotel here in Barbados and they had \$40 US on them for the period that they were staying here.

But, at the same time, the tourist industry has its own other problems, not only of the kinds, that I have outlined, so far, but there are other economic problems, generated by the tourist industry itself. For example, I think, that it is a major contributor to inflation in Barbados, particularly in the area of house rents and so on and there is a need to look at the totality of tourism in Barbados, and have clear guidelines, as to the type of tourism we want, the maximum number of people we want to accommodate, relate that to the type of investment that is encouraged by the lending of soft loans, by various institutions here in Barbados, so that, you will recognise, that you are dealing with an industry, which has the capacity to continue to make a major contribution to Barbados, but it needs some kind of direction. That direction, Mr. Chairman, I have to submit, seems to me, to be completely lacking.

Criticisms are always made of us, that we rise here, criticise the Government and do not make any positive suggestions. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that on this occasion, I have made some very positive suggestions to the other Side. If they had been giving thought to these matters, then, this is something, that they should come out and tell the public, and in particular, to let the public know now, whether, or not they expect a serious recession in the tourist industry this year, whether they expect this to continue into next year, and also, tell them, the serious errors, which they themselves have made in contributing to this recession, not simply to say, Mr. Chairman, that this is due to problems outside of Barbados. That is extremely important because I believe, that the performance of the Democratic Labour Party, in the area of tourism has been extremely successful between 1961 and 1976. The work done by the Democratic Labour Party in the difficult years of 1973 and 1974, in laying the ground work for a further take-off in tourism, that the results of that work were seen in 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 and now, in 1980, for the first time, we are beginning to see the work done, by the Other Side and this is coinciding with a serious recession in the tourist industry.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, it is important to recognise, that many people who come on holidays to Barbados come on borrowed money. Today, in North America and the United Kingdom, that money may have to be borrowed at 20%. When you look at the various other charges, you might find, that for every \$100, that the tourist should pay, then various other charges on top of that, such as sales tax, room tax, the whole lot, that the tourist may end up paying \$30 to \$35 on the initial borrowings of \$100 in the form of credit. This has to be taken in mind and it is not surprising, that although I understand, that there has not been the expected growth this Winter so far, at the European end, that the area of tourism is slightly better, coming out of the United Kingdom because they are benefitting from the exchange situation, from the sterling area to the dollar area and consequently, they get some benefit as a result of the exchange, as an offset against the factors, not only the price of plant and the general cost of living within the society, but also in relation to the cost of credit, if they are coming for a holiday, on credit.

1.10 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have been very brief on this major subject which I have been looking at very carefully over the past three or four years. I believe that if BIMAP is really capable of carrying out the task with which it has been entrusted it might be of help to us when we form the Government later this year in getting on with a

new thrust in the area of tourism. To some extent the results emanating from the Jamaican study have been very useful; and I believe that the Puerto Rican study which was completed earlier, I think, because of the particular modular arrangement within the economic structure would be extremely useful, because they have the capacity in Puerto Rico, Mr. Chairman, to identify immediately and in advance those shifts in emphasis that have to be made even within a given sector because of the arrangements within the economy. They do not bother with the kind of bogus figures that come out and tell you that inflation in Barbados has been 10% per year for four years, when in point of fact every single area that you can think about, whether it is building, travel, food, clothing, housing, medicines, everything has gone up by over 100% in four years, and yet they say the rate of inflation is only 10% per year. That is the kind of situation that you have.

Mr. Chairman, in winding up I would urge on the Government to let us know whether or not they have taken into consideration these very fundamental concepts in relation to growth and development of this vital sector of our economy, and whether or not they recognise that we are in a recession, and how long they expect this recession to continue. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I think it is fair to say that over the last 25 years in Barbados alternative Governments have put a very sincere thrust into the development of tourism in Barbados, and a great deal of planning, even legislation has been before this Parliament for the development of tourism in Barbados.

When the hon. member for St. Michael South Central just said that what we need is planning and direction, and to know where we are going and what we are doing, he is obviously only criticising his own party when they were in Government, because our records will show — and I do not think you will hear the Minister say or would you hear anybody else in Government say that the then Government did not do whatever was necessary — so that I do not understand the hon. member trying to make out that there is no planning, we do not know where we are going, there is no organisation, we do not know who we want and what we want, and this kind of proposal that he has made on the floor of the House, but his own party will talk to him privately about that.

Mr. Chairman, as long as tourism has existed there have always been cycles, in that a number of years you get a tremendous influx of tourists and then a few lean years. This is nothing new in the industry, and to try to panic and to lay the fault of a bad tourist season on the Government, or draw this to their attention or try to convey this to the public is very incorrect. In fact, it will not go down with the people of the world, in Barbados or anywhere else, for the simple reason that we are

hearing of very tight economic conditions existing in all the major markets from where we get tourists in Barbados. In the United States of America interest rates are in the vicinity of 21%. Most people in the world today, except the hon. member who may not have to do it, travel on credit. That is to say, they have an overdraft at the bank, and going on a trip they just increase their overdraft and they travel. When they know that they are going to be paying 21% on the money they draw off the bank to travel, they are inclined to say they will have to postpone it this year and travel another year, so that in the United States of America, in Canada as well, and in Europe we find these conditions existing.

Added to all this, the hostage situation in Iran definitely caused the American people as a nation to be most embarrassed that they, a great nation, could not bring across the result of the release of the people, and it did indeed make them freeze as it were. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, you like any other human being when you are in a good mood and things are going well with you, you spend money, and when you are depressed you are inclined now to do so, and this has had the effect in the United States of America. Perhaps that could not be demonstrated more than by what happened in the recent presidential election, to show that the anguish and the disappointment and the perplexity of not being able to get the hostages released caused the most massive swing that it has ever taken place in electing one President as against another; the rejection of one President for another, obviously showing the frustration of the American nation. This also is effecting tourism this year.

I do believe that within the next two weeks we should see an increase in tourists coming to Barbados as a result of the relaxation that is felt by the American nation. Mr. Chairman, if you were to read today's paper, the celebrations in the United States of America from coast to coast is almost equal to what the celebrations were, in feeling at least, to what took place after the last World War. This in itself gives some indication as to the state of the mind of the people, but the economic conditions still exist and they go over to Canada as well. The economic conditions in Canada are not good. I know people in Canada cannot afford to fly this year.

As far as the Barbados Board of Tourism is concerned, I do believe that a very serious look will have to be taken at our four overseas offices. When things are going well, almost anybody can ride the wave, but when things start to slip it is very important that you have persons there in your overseas offices that can check this slide, and I think it is known by the Minister and at least known by other people that in the United Kingdom, and in Canada in particular, there seems to be a great gap existing between the management of those two offices, the tour operators and the wholesalers, etc. I also believe that the Government will have to take a very

serious look at the Frankfurt Office, because the drive and the punch necessary to Continental Europe need to be increased there.

All in all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal now with what the hon. member said earlier about us getting into the packaging business and as wholesalers and what have you. I would like him to know that the Barbados Board of Tourism, even before the Government changed, had a Committee set up to look into this matter of setting up its own tour operators and package operators. While there are advantages to it, there are also great disadvantages. There are advantages of course to having your own tour operator, but you also must remember that you are putting a business directly to compete with your clients. We have built up over the years a number of good friends in Canada who are in the packaging business in Canada, and if we have to go in there to open a business, the Barbados Government in association with the Board of Tourism as was contemplated, it would mean that we would be creating friction with those people on whom we have been depending for so long, so there is a calculated risk.

1.20 p.m.

I do believe that the Minister, who will speak in due course, although he has read thoroughly all the investigations that went into such a proposal, will agree that certainly now is not the time; and I cannot see when it will be the time, because a place like Caribbean Holidays is such a powerful organisation in the United States of America that it would be tragic to say you are going in now to compete with them in the United States, and even places like Fiesta, Holiday House and many others in Canada. I think it would not be in the best interest of Barbados because the competition is very severe.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to mention just one other point, that tourism in the Caribbean is no longer a small matter. Barbados is in the big league. I estimate what is spent in the Caribbean in a year in tourism in American dollars would be anything like \$3 billion to \$4 billion, and the question which we will always have to think about is whether we are getting our fair share, because when you get that kind of money being spent in a region, you definitely are going to get some sharks. We have to make sure that the tourists who want to come to Barbados are not diverted to other markets and other areas. This is very easy to be done by sending out rumours that Barbados is full, for instance. There is nothing for a tour operator — I do not know of any who have done it and I want to be very careful with my words — but there is nothing to sending out a rumour that Barbados is full and therefore you should send them to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Curacao or Aruba. Our people in the area have got to be on their toes to make

absolutely certain that this is rebutted and corrected immediately, because these people who hold these positions as tour operators can send the word through and it can be very dangerous to our tourism. We have got to be right in there with them at all times.

Mr. Chairman, without elaborating I would like to state that there are some Governments in the Caribbean that are extremely close to tour operators. It would suffice to make that simple remark. Tour operators are very close to certain Governments or Governments are very close to certain tour operators. All in all I would like to say that I believe that Caribbean Airways is doing a remarkable job in continental Europe, but I do believe that Barbados for the future will have to look into the possibility of having a similar arrangement or otherwise have their own airline operating into North America. Jamaica can move planes at a flash to Baltimore, Washington, Miami and New York. Unfortunately Barbados is not in a position to be able to say at any given time we will put on two more sections to any city of North America, and for this reason I believe the Government will have to take a serious look; and I would like to emphasise that Caribbean Airways is doing a marvellous job in Europe, but we have got to have something that we can control out of North America.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a couple of observations on this. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central seems to be speaking empirically about what he considers the decline in tourism. As I understand the present situation, and I look forward to hearing what the Minister has to say, it appears that the growth expected in tourism this year may be in some danger of being achieved; but it does not suggest that there has been any sudden calamitous drop or decline in tourist arrivals. They are two different things. As I understood the Tourist Board to be saying, last year they were aiming at a target figure this year of 400,000 tourists. They may not achieve that, but there has been a steady increase clearly in the number of tourists. The Government has been giving the necessary incentives to hoteliers and persons who are interested in apartment buildings to provide the number of beds and rooms that would be able competently to cater to the expected increase in the tourist traffic over the years in the eighties. I do not believe that the Heywoods Project could have been encouraged and would have been promoted and would have got off the ground if the statistical evidence was saying that over the years there would have been a serious decline. I believe that the Ministry of Tourism has been operating on the basis of the best available data and information to make their planning more meaningful and better informed.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central asserted that in 1976 when this Government took over, tourism was doing well and the seeds, as he put it, of continued growth had been sown by the Democratic Labour Party. In fact I like to confront statements such as those with evidence which is to the contrary and submitted by the Central Bank of Barbados in its report for the year ended December 31, 1975. This is Parliament's copy which was laid on 18th May, 1976. The Central Bank's report at page 17 under the subhead "Tourism" said this; this is at the time when they were in power:

"For the first time since tourism became a major economic activity, a number of visitors arriving in the Island declined."

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation what I said was that what happened to the tourism industry during the winter of 1976 was as a consequence of work done before the Barbados Labour Party took over; so it is irrelevant to quote figures from 1975. We all accept that because of the world's economic condition there was some decline in 1975. We are talking about 1976 and onwards, and I am saying that what took place in December, January, February and March, 1976 to 1977 was due to work done before the Barbados Labour Party came into power.

Mr. SIMMONS: Now that the language of the Central Bank has contradicted the impression given by the hon. member for St. Michael South-Central, he now comes and agrees there was a decline when they were in power.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, the hon. member, I think, has inadvertently misquoted what I said. I have never dealt with any time prior to the winter of 1976 and what I was trying to point out again and again was that you do not come into power on September, 2, 1976, and get an increase in tourism in that year and say that it is because you came into power that you have an increase in tourism in a matter of months. It is because of work done before. That is the nature of the industry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Order, please!

Mr. SIMMONS: The hon. member is entitled to make a number of speeches by way of illustration and points of order, but he cannot get past this, Sir.
1.30 p.m.

This Central Bank Report when they were in power pointed out quite clearly that the rate of growth declined by 7%. I will read the whole thing for the hon. member for St. Michael South West, West Central to be. "The 106,709 tourists arriving in the 1974/75 Winter Season (December 15th to April 15th) were

7% fewer than in the 1973-1974 Season. This pattern continued and by the end of the year the number of visitors was 4% lower than 1974. The decline in the number of tourist arrivals followed a period of no growth in 1973 and 1974." Then it goes into specifics about the United States and so on. You want to hear that?

There is no doubt that when they were in power, Sir, that Tourism, for all they would have the unsuspecting public and certain members of the public believe, there is no doubt that under their regime Tourism was allowed to go along at its own pace. The impetus which has been given to Tourism since we have been in power was never matched, or was never equalled by the Democratic Labour Party. That is clear. We have done more positively to promote Tourism in this country than the Democratic Labour Party.

I am sure that the Hon. Minister and Parliamentary Secretary would be in a better position to actually detail the figures which I am not in a position to give at the moment but I believe that one of the members of this Government actually received an award for his contribution to the development of Tourism but you will hear about that when other members on this side speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. There will be no cross-talking.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what the Central Bank Report clearly shows is that between 1973 and the period ending 1975 there was a decline in Tourism. Nobody can say that it was unrelated to external influences. All this was related to external influences.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central got up today and spoke as though he is oblivious to the fact that there is a recession in North America and elsewhere.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point do you rise?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What Standing Order has been breached?

Dr. HAYNES: He has breached the Standing Order, Mr. Chairman, which states that you should not mislead this Honourable House. I was most particular, Mr. Chairman, to draw a clear distinction between the specific problems overseas, for example, interest rates, credit factors and so on, on the one hand and also those domestic factors in terms of planning. Mr. Chairman, which might have created the vicious circle in which

we find ourselves so it is quite misleading to say that I did not deal with the problems in relation to overseas and the origin of business and I even specifically spoke about interest rates existing in North America and other charges that might also be added to the initial 20% and so on which one has to pay for an Order of Credit so it is quite misleading to say that I did not advert to external matters.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is trying to explain what he has previously said. That is no point of order.

Mr. SIMMONS: Those are four speeches he has made already. He said he spoke of domestic matters and I want to draw it to the attention of the House that one of the matters that is affecting Barbados internally and that is really inside of Barbados is some over-emphasis on racism and hostility to foreigners and to tourists.

I am going to say today, of the first available public meeting, because I have all the speeches now analysed. I am going to accuse certain members of the Democratic Labour Party, in particular, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, for actively promoting race hatred in Barbados and I will quote some of what he said. (ASIDES). Get up and object. Get up. Let them get up and challenge me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. No member can get in here and accuse another member of promoting racism or anything like that. It is quite unparliamentary and the hon. member is not in his place but this is contrary to our experiences and therefore the hon. member is quite unfair and unparliamentary to make a reference like that in here. It is quite improper. He should withdraw it.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I will continue my speech. At a public meeting held in Boscobel.....I cannot talk about a public meeting in Boscobel? I have not said what transpired yet. What is he beating the desk for? Why is he so edgy?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it that the hon. member....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Ask the hon. member over there not to point at me because I do not know whether he has a gun in his hand or not. Do not point at me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Please continue with your speech. Order, please.

Mr. SIMMONS: I do not know what he is talking about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on with your speech.

Mr. SIMMONS: I do not know what gun he is talking about. The only gun that I have, Sir, is in the words that I am going to tell them today. I will use some verbal artillery on them. Mr. Chairman, at a public meeting held in Boscobel and at another one held in St. Thomas in Redman's Village, a member of the Democratic Labour Party.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It is a criminal offence to incite racial hatred in Barbados, Sir. The hon. member, as I recollected hearing him say, accused the hon. member for St. Michael North Central of doing this and therefore he is accusing him of a crime and that, according to May's and the Standing Orders of this House would be contrary to the Rules of debate as set out in the Standing Orders and I believe the hon. member should be asked to withdraw the remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Understand.....

Mr. SIMMONS: No. If he asked me to withdraw, I withdraw. If he is saying that what I said is imputing a criminal offence to the hon. member I unhesitatingly withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not see that as an imputation, however, if that is the case your apology is accepted.

Mr. SIMMONS: But, Sir, all I would say is that they used language of a highly intemperate nature. They used language in which they spoke of the white people in Barbados not having the right to own properties in Broad Street, that they should be taken over, by black people. 1.40 p.m.

They said, Sir, I have the tapes and I have the transcript. (ASIDE: Do you disagree with that?) I am not imputing anything, Sir, what I am doing is putting the words now, that they used, Sir. They said, that the people should not cut canes, until the white people themselves went out and cut them and they said, the Simpsons, the Seales, the Caves.....(ASIDE: Do you disagree with that?) I listened to it, I have the tapes I have the tapes for another reason and I have the transcript, Sir. (ASIDE: Mr. TAITT: I said so, and I am not shame to say so). I am going to bring them in here, if you want to hear them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, Please. Let us get ahead on these matters. Go on.

Mr. SIMMONS: Now, all of us in here happen to be black, Sir, I have to look around and not one of us in here would be unfair to our own colour, but I think, that in a society, which prides itself of being tolerant of a

variety of races, that we ought to be careful as leaders of public opinion, in the community, the example that we set. I never heard the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition speak in the tone that.... not even now, I have never heard him at all....

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. George South and the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John were ordered to be expunged from the Records of the House by the Chairman.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, are you saying, that the remarks I made should be struck from the Record, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I will back them up now, Sir. I was called..... The high priest here, I want to say,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Order, please.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. I am being assaulted, by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central waving his hand. I cannot see what he has in his hand. I am scared of that man. (ASIDE: Mr. BRADSHAW: Check with Mark Stokes).

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am not sure, Sir, whether you are asking, that what I said be struck from the Record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Have you completed your point of order?

Hon. L. R. TULL: That was that point of order, but consequently, on your ruling, Sir, I would like to know, whether you gave a direction, that what I said should be struck from the Record?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. My ruling was, for your benefit, that when the Chairman stands and any Honourable Members also stands and speaks, that whatever he says be struck from the record.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Does that include what I said, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Definitely.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am still lost. I do now know, whether it is struck from the record, or not because if it is struck, I want to put it back on, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Order, please.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all I am concerned about.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. There seems to be a fear by some Honourable Member, that pointing a finger, or hand is attempting to do something and I cannot understand that fear myself (LAUGHTER). Will you continue your speech. Order, order.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, let us settle down to the debate. The whole point that I am making about our behaviour, within the society, if we anticipate, that it can have an adverse effect on the economy because the political stability of the country, which has been renowned is all of a sudden being threatened, it behoves each one of us to behave responsibly in the national interest. That is the only plea, that I make to Honourable Members on both sides, but in particular, to Honourable Members, on the Other Side. I make it because of their activity, in particular, over the last year. One is amazed, that they have not taken disciplinary action against certain of their Members. But, the public has heard a lot of the things, that they have been saying. We have tapes and we have the transcripts.

I know, that they are getting a bit edgy about elections and looking forward to what they say would be the 26th February and all kinds of foolishness. Well, when they get edgy and nervous about elections do not let them lose their heads and create a climate of disquiet, in the country, which does not redound to the benefit of the tourist industry.

But, the Honourable Member for Christ Church North Central, I think, in the very picturesque language that he used, about Mr. Reagan's accession to power, put the issue in a nutshell. So long as there is recession, in the markets overseas, from which the tourists come and so long as we depend upon these people from North America, Canada, England and wherever to come to Barbados, so long as, there is a constant and steady increase in the cost of air fares, Barbados, as recipient to tourists is bound to be affected, if people decide, as is happening in Canada, for example, to do more touring, within Canada itself, than come outside Canada, Barbados is bound to see a decline in tourism, or at least, in achieving the target set, by the planners. But, at the same time, as we may have no control over external influences, certainly, we have control over our internal behaviour.

1.50 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central must be very careful when he is on a political platform that when he is promoting his party's interest with the vehemence that is necessary, that he does not at the same time go beyond the bounds of reasonableness and into areas of association with his other doctor friend. I do not mean Dr. Booby, I mean a real-real doctor who is prone to making statements and outburst which can only damage the national image and prestige of Barbados.

Now, Jamaica paid dearly in the seventies for the problems engendered by political misbehaviour. Their tourist industry did not only collapse because of the consequences of the fuel crisis, it collapsed because of the violence within the society. One of the reasons for its collapse was the violence within the society which was associated with the two political parties, and which to some extent was promoted by the two political parties, and had the effect of scaring away potential tourists, indeed regular visitors to the island.

Now, if we are serious about Barbados, if we are serious about the promotion of Barbados, I make an appeal today for members to be careful and measured in what they say publicly so that there is nothing done to operate to the prejudice of this island called Barbados and its prosperity.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the time is very short and I will be short. There is a decline in tourism in Barbados. 1976 was not the beginning of creation, 1961 was not the beginning of creation. Governments get in on promises and the people expect them to perform according to what has been extended during the course of a campaign. If there is one area that no one can say that the Democratic Labour Party did not perform, it is in the expansion of tourism in this island.

I should like to refer the hon. member for St. Philip North to the Table following page 12, the second Table, figure 3(ii), in the Physical Development Plan of Barbados which he can see here shows a steady increase in the number of visitors to the island from about 35,000 in 1961 to the figure of over 275,000 close to 300,000 in 1976.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir, The figure for 1976 was 224,314.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I thank the hon. member. It does not show on the graph, the end of 1976 shows something close to 275,000. The point is that it came from 35,000. You see, I am reading a graph, Sir, that at the end of 1976 it must have been close to 275,000. He said it was close to 230,000. Well, that was an increase of 200,000 visitors.

Now, the shape of the curve, Sir, is important. You see a very steep growth in tourism. On the next page, Sir, without looking, you can tell me if I am wrong, you see the income...I had better look at it, Sir. The income from tourism shows equally a spectacular rise. (ASIDE). The hon. member for St. Michael West will probably say it started in 1940 or 1935. He will probably praise Adolph Hitler for the growth in tourism between 1961 and now, because we know that Adolph Hitler is the patron saint of some of the members on that side. Tourism has grown, the rate of growth dropped off between 197.....

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member has said that Adolph Hitler is the patron saint of members on this side. I want to tell the hon. member that is insulting and it is not true. The only member of a political party who is a self-confessed Fascist was a member of the hon. member's party, the Democratic Labour Party, Sir Theodore Brancker.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: So was Sir Alexander Hoyos, a member of the Barbados Labour Party. I am nothing to do with them, I was not here at the time. The brother in law of the former Leader and the former Leader of the Barbados Labour Party went to Government House to have the three of them locked up, two of his members and one of ours.

The position with tourism is that between 1973 and 1975 the rate of growth decelerated. At the present moment, whether they like it or not, and I am not blaming — whether the member for St. Michael South Central blames them directly or inferentially — I am not blaming them directly, but I agree with the hon. member that there are a lot of unreported crimes going on, unsolved and unreported crimes, people are being raped, hotels are being robbed. The member for Christ Church can verify what I am saying, that they are not getting into the newspapers, people's pictures who have been arrested are not being published so that people would know who they should employ and who they should not employ, and there has been an increase in violence during the past three years in Barbados.

Coupled with that, Sir, you have hotels in this island who are charging people over \$240 U.S. a night without even breakfast the next morning if they have to go to the airport. Those are the factors, and the industry as the Leader of the House will admit, is being dominated by a lot of arrogant — if this is racism accuse me of being racist — a lot of arrogant non-nationals of Barbados who can come in here, cream off everything off the top and disappear and cause a lot of labour problems in this country, as well as antagonising the visitors to Barbados because they are birds of passage. When we look at the overall picture, there is no point in one political party accusing the next one of being responsible. I directly refute any allegations that any members of this side have been preaching any kind of racism. I would not even worry to answer the hon. member, the neophyte from St. George South, because I do not think that he had seen the light of day when I was trying to educate the people of St. George to political responsibility. He is a latter day Johnny-come-lately on the political scene, but if he thinks so strongly about it, I would invite him to resign from the Democratic Labour Party, we do not want to throw him out. Send in your resignation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is now 2 o'clock.

Hon. L. R. TULL: On a point of order, Sir. It would be most inappropriate if the Leader of the Opposition were to use the end of the debate to make a statement such as that and get away with it. I do not want to call the Leader of the Opposition a diabolical liar, I will as soon as I go out of the Chamber, Sir, but it is dishonest, extremely dishonest for the Leader of the Opposition to get up in here and talk about any association of mine with the Democratic Labour Party. It is most dishonest for him to do that, Sir, and if he thinks I am unparliamentary in calling him dishonest, I wish he would get up and clear it up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Don't you think he would like to have you over there? He sure would.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I know he would like to have me over there. They were trying to get me over there for the longest time, Sir, but I prefer not to be in a den of thieves.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is 2 o'clock and I must report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised that there are no Replies to Questions. Automatically we go into Private Members' Business, and I do not see any item of Private Members' Business on the Order Paper. It therefore means that Government Business must be the instant Order of the Day.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Luncheon adjournment was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is there any hon. member who wishes to make a contribution? If not, I will ask the Minister to reply.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the Tourist Industry in Barbados is an industry in which well over 15,000 people are directly employed. Indirectly a larger number of people are dependent on its continued health and existence for the maintenance of their standard of living. I do not intend therefore despite any provocation on the part of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to use this industry as a political football in any campaign for political recognition. As I listened to the hon. member this morning make his speech, I was more than convinced that from the tenor and content of his speech that Barbadians ought to be grateful to him for his continuous exposure of his real character by the content of his speech. He this morning by the violence of his language, by the exaggeration and distortion of his arguments was again confirmed in the minds of many people that he is one of those breeds of politicians who believes that in pursuit of one's individual ambition nothing must take precedence, not even the national welfare, national well-being, truth, honesty, none of these things must enter into consideration in the pursuit of one's personal ambition. I know because it has been reported to me that during the course of the last two weeks he has been making it his business on political platforms and otherwise to proclaim to Barbados and Barbadians that hotels are empty all over Barbados. I wish to state as a fact that that is totally untrue. I am in continuous contact with all segments of the hotel industry. Some are performing at exceptionally good rates of performance. Others are performing slightly below their position last year, others are not doing as well as they would like to do, but the overall picture up to the present time in relation to actual performance is that we may be slightly behind where we were at this time last year. On the other hand, forward projections for the month of February, March and April are very heartening and pleasing to me bearing in mind the degree of skepticism and gloom with which we entered this year's winter season. As a matter of fact, I have been checking very carefully with airlines coming to Barbados and it is very clear now that over the course of the last week to two weeks forward bookings have exceeded the expectations of many of them. It is therefore very, very difficult for anyone at this stage to attempt to predict the final outcome of this year's tourism performance.

There is sufficient hard evidence before me now to indicate quite clearly that the picture is nothing as gloomy as the hon. member would like it to be, and that is the point. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is desperately hoping that the tourist industry would perform very badly this year because he believes that that would enhance his personal electoral prospects, but the position in Barbados is very clear. Over the course of the last four years persistent and successful efforts have been made to diversify the source of visitors which come to Barbados. We have pursued a

relentless campaign of attempting to reduce our dependence on Canada and the United States, and increase our promotional activities in the United Kingdom, in Europe, in the Caribbean and in Latin America. Notwithstanding the obvious success which we have successfully demonstrated as I will do in a moment, that prince of evil, that harbinger of gloom, that political Goebbels, that propaganda merchant, that self-seeking dangerous despot potentially speaking still throughout the length and breadth of Barbados by his conduct clearly demonstrates the well-being of Barbados must be made subservient to the well-being of his own self-promotion. It is for that reason that he openly and publicly without consultation of his own party promotes the espousal of the cause of Bishop in Barbados. After all when he was a student of Edinburgh University he was a prominent member of the so-called left wing group there. He was at that time a pretender of being a communist; so it is not unusual now for him, having absorbed all of the practice of the communists, to act like a Communist.

3.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the time will come when he will have to be exposed for what he is. I only want to say this. I yield to no-one my patriotism and my love for Barbados. I believe there are issues which from time to time in political combat must be made subservient to the national interest for after all, this is our country.

I do not seriously take his personal abuses of incompetence or inability very seriously for that is his personal prejudiced opinion. It certainly is not shared by any of the people who have knowledge of the competence in this area. I need not recall the consensus of opinion by knowledgeable people on the performance of the Barbados Tourist Industry in my Ministry in conjunction with the Tourist Board and others.

I need not recall the very valiant efforts that have been made in the course of the last 4½ years to conserve the asserted independence of the Government of Barbados in the pursuit of its perceived policies as to what is good for tourism in Barbados. I need not recall the steps that have been taken to ensure that Barbados Tourist Industry reduces its dependence on any particular tour operator or group of tour operators in the market place nor need I recall the steps taken by the Government of Barbados to ensure that it makes its contribution to the general revenue of Barbados.

An analysis of the statistics will show that our performance between 1976 and 1980 has been nothing short of remarkable. We have moved in those four short years from 224,314 visitors to approximately 370,960 visitors. I can show the performance of the four years previously. I can show it. From 1972 to 1976 the movement was only 210,349 in 1972 to 224,314 in 1976.

I will underscore that. In 1972 there were 210,349 visitors. In 1976, there were 224, 214, a mere 10,000 in the four-year period immediately preceding 1976 but that twister of facts, that distorter of arguments would have us believe that we have been failures. Of course, he is also the advocate of the philosophy that truth is irrelevant in politics. What is important is impressions.

What is even more significant to completely demolish the stupidity of his argument in the non-performance of the Ministry is this. In 1976 there were 25,843 visitors who came from the United Kingdom. In 1972, there were 14,851 people who came from the United Kingdom. In 1980, they were 50,000 who came from the United Kingdom. In short, they were able in the previous four years to move it from 14,851 to 25,843. We were able to double it in the same four-year period subsequent to that.

The importance of the United Kingdom market is very clear. The traditional pattern of travel in the United Kingdom is during the summer months, the same period of time which coincides with our traditional market period so that the policies that were perceived and executed over the course of the last four years was an intensification of the efforts to prevent the peak and valleys in the area of tourism.

That we have been successful is self-evident because not only has the United Kingdom but Europe has also performed in that direction and what is even more significant is that the Caricom countries and the French West Indies, Suriname before the coup and Venezuela before their latest difficulties, have also been attacked and attacked vigorously in our attempt to have a good and continuous year round season.

What does the hon. member want? Is he not satisfied by the whim of sheer evidence that the factual situation is that we have a better occupancy level year round that we had during the time of the Democratic Labour Party and I bear no malice against others. There were problems of peaks and valleys also identified under the Democratic Labour Party. The only thing was that the then Minister of Tourism, as he publicly said and openly that he was not able to persuade the Minister of Finance at that time to increase the vote to the Tourist Board to allow him to pursue with financial vigour his intensified and diversified market. But it is not surprising because anybody who had had anything to do with financial management will understand that you only have a given amount of money which has to be divided up and if the performance of the tourism sector in the course of the four years under the Democratic Labour Party from 1972 to 1976 only showed such an insignificant increase in numbers of 10,000 people, who can blame the Honourable Minister of Finance as he then was and now Leader of the Opposi-

tion for saying "There is nothing that you can demonstrate to me that even if I give you more money that you will be able to bring more money into the Treasury of Barbados."

Now, we have been more fortunate. Because of the sterling performance under my administration and the administration of the Tourism Board and others, I have been able to persuade the Minister of Finance to double the grant in the course of the last four-years. In short, we have been able to give the Tourist Board money to intensify its promotional activity in the very competitive areas of Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America so that I look forward to any debate with the hon. member for St. Michael South Central on this issue.

He attacked me on the aviation policy. Never has there been a more vigorous campaign for the pursuit of air group rights in Barbados. We have been able in Europe and in the United Kingdom, in particular, to make significant break-throughs with respect to our competitive position in air fares.

I am going to talk a little bit about this because the hon. member obviously does not know. We have analysed the trend in world traffic like everybody else, the distinction between a charter carrier now and the scheduled airline since the regulations in the United States have become exceedingly blurred.
3.10 p.m.

It is now well recognised, that the power that tour operators had, by their ability to marshal enough money to charter a whole plane, or a substantial section of a plane has been drastically reduced, since de-regulation of the United States and sky train across the North Atlantic, in particular. In short, the individual is now in a position to tailor his own holiday, by a combination of making his own hotel arrangements, and an advanced booking charter, or an individual fare. All the markets have it.

We have had a significant breakthrough in the United Kingdom, in our last round of negotiations with respect to that, but obviously, the tour operators, who hitherto had a monopoly of access to reduce fares are now worried, not because there will be a reduction in traffic to any particular destination, but that they will no longer be able to command the totality of that traffic. That is the problem.

I well recognise the role, that tour operators play, in the tourist industry, in getting together a package, in advertising, in making the ground arrangements and all of those things. I well recognise that. All over the world, that is recognised, but at the same time, in any destination, where you have a large amount of repeat business, it is important to that destination, that you have a package of fares, that an individual who wishes to pursue

his own booking can have a reasonably competitive fare and that has been the policy of Barbados, so, I do not have any quarrel about that.

As to the study of the impact of tourism, on the economy of Barbados, I have repeatedly said in here, that a series of studies are being carried out, by various competent people, in various destinations, in the Caribbean. Jamaica carried out one, Puerto Rico carried out one, some of the Windward and Leeward Islands carried out one and we carried out one too. I have explained to the Honourable Member, that the methodology of the study has been determined, by the IRDC of Canada, after a Conference held with the World Bank, WTO and others. The object is to produce comparable material.

BIMAP and others in Barbados, by way of a consortium are the people, who have been appointed to carry out the study, the methodologies agreed, notwithstanding that, notwithstanding the parameters of the study and the methodology being commonly agreed, the Honourable Member, for St. Michael South Central, in his usual uncharitable mood is going to come in here and make sneering remarks about the competence of BIMAP. I am extremely ashamed of the Honourable Member. If anyone were to question his medical competence, in the same manner, in which he questioned the competence of BIMAP, the Honourable Member would be the first to jump up and proclaim, that it has been unfair. But he seeks to attack BIMAP.

BIMAP is not an institution, that anybody in Barbados should seek to sneer at, BIMAP is an institution of which all Barbadians should be proud. Increasingly, it is receiving international recognition and the fact, that they do not like a particular period of people at BIMAP, should not drive them into....(ASIDE). But, of course, you see, that is the position. In his relentless quest for power, the Honourable Member is blind to the fact, that he even criticises institutions which they, themselves have set up because Richie Haynes has not set them up. I hope, that even Honourable Members, on the Other Side begin to understand the dangerous nature of the character, that we are having to deal with. This is a man, that is exhibiting all of the characteristics, the values and the tendency of Hitler and Goebbels combined. (ASIDE) Hitler and Goebbels combined, I say and Stalin combined, all of them. Such is the totality of that man. (ASIDE) What foolishness are you talking about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member.....

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I am not talking.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We have listened here to a half hour of vulgar abuse, from the Honourable Member. The reason why we have not intervened is that we realise, that he flies high,

after lunch time and after dinner, it is even worse and we give him a certain amount of latitude, Sir, but I think that we have been a bit too indulgent, on this occasion, Sir. For one Honourable Member to stand up and abuse another Honourable Member, who is not in his place.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am objecting to the vulgar abuse, which is being heaped, on an Honourable Member, who is not in his place and you should have intervened before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the Rt. Hon. Member take his seat. You are out of order.

(Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW took his seat.)

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I sat down in here and I heard the Honourable Member had his say. I sat patiently because I knew, that my turn would come and I would have the opportunity to reply. Twenty years in law courts have taught me, never worry when you have solid facts to wield. (ASIDE) My time is up. The Honourable Member cannot stop me from talking in here, or any other place. You cannot stop me from talking.

As I was saying, Sir, the evidence.....In reply, the Rules allow me to talk, as long as, I want and if you do not like it, go down in Black Rock and draw your US \$3,000 a month for your house. If you do not like it, go down in Paradise and draw your US \$3,000 a month for your house, or US \$6,000. You are one of the ones, who is totally dependent, on the tourist industry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Tourism, please. Let us get back to Tourism.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: You ought to be ashamed, of all the people, the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I now agree with the Rt. Hon. Member, knowing your dependence. I agree with you, but I am very concerned with the crime that is around in Barbados. Like you, I too, I am a Barbadian. You because it affects you directly, me because it affects me indirectly. I mean the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John. We share the concept, that you cannot expect to have people coming to your country, when you proclaim it, as a hospitable country and then expect robbery, bag snatching, rape and things to occur.

3.20 p.m.

Those are the things. It is a proper house. I agree with the hon. member, it is worth it. That is cheap in relation to the other rates. It is a four bedroom house, it has a nice bar, it has a lot of facilities, so eight people can get in there. At \$3,000 a week that is no money at all. I wish the hon. member had owned 20 down there,

because he is a Barbadian. Once he pays his taxes, of course.

The position is this. The Government is doing everything in its power to ensure that the conditions upon which the successful maintenance of continued growth in the tourist industry will continue. We have so far been able to persuade the Ministry of Finance to even further increase the grant for promotion. As a matter of tactic, we have identified areas for more intensive promotion. This is as a result of a consultative conference that took place between all the Managers of the Tourist Board. When I hear the hon. member for St. Michael South Central get in here and attack the Tourist Board, it makes me really wonder. The Barbados Labour Party has not changed or interfered with the people who have been there in the Tourist Board hired under the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. Carter is still Manager in Canada, the Manager in London is still the Manager in London. It is true the Manager in New York may not be there, he might have gone to higher pastures, greener ones, more lucrative ones, but the person who is Manager in New York was also the senior salesman at the time of the Democratic Labour Party. We have not pursued any policy of victimisation. I know that, Heaven and God forbid, that if the hon. member for St. Michael South Central ever assume power in this country, the next day everybody would be looking for a job. Such is his character. I know that. It would not only be Connell and Hunte, that action however reprehensible it may seem to some would be child's play in relation to the actions that the hon. member would implement. You had better look at facts. Churchill warned the world about the dangerous tendencies. You had better be careful, God acts in a mysterious way. He allows some men to reveal their true character earlier than others.

Mr. Chairman, I have great pleasure in moving this Resolution in the full knowledge that all of the unjust accusations and accusations of incompetence, all of the desires of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to see the tourist industry collapse in Barbados will not be fulfilled. We have a good tourist industry, a well diversified tourist industry. It is something which I believe the vast majority of Barbadians appreciate, and I believe that public opinion as a whole will help us to stamp out our internal problems in relation to those matters which we are responsible for internally, and I believe that externally we will weather the storm of the recession far better than many other destinations because our industry is far more diversified and broad based.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

HEAD 39 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the request for this sum of \$2,546,919 is for money to pay the salaries, wages and allowances to the teachers and other members of staff of the older secondary schools, so called consequent on the salary increases that were negotiated with the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union and the other Unions last calendar year.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply,

and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That concludes Government Business for today, Sir. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 3rd February, 1981 at 12.00 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.
3.30 p.m.