

---

THE

# House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

---

FIRST SESSION 1981 — 86

---

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 21st July, 1981.*

The 1981-86 Legislative Session was inaugurated at 11 o'clock today in the Senate Chamber by His Excellency The Governor General, Sir Deighton Ward.

Pursuant to the issuing of Writs, the Hon. Members elected to constitute the General Assembly for the Session assembled in the Assembly Chambers as follows:-

Messrs. E. W. BARROW, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Member for St. John); L. S. CRAIG, (Member for St. James North); J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Q.C., M.A., (Member for St. Thomas); C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Member for St. Joseph); H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Member for Christ Church West); L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A., (Member for St. Michael South); Miss B. A. MILLER, (Member for the City of Bridgetown); Messrs. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Member for St. Andrew); J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Member for St. George North); H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Member for Christ Church East Central); V. L. JOHNSON, M.A., (Member for St. Michael West Central); B. M. TAITT, M.A., LL.B. (Hon.) (Member for St. Michael West); L. R. TULL, M.A., (Member for St. George South); DeL. O. BRADSHAW, (Member for St. Michael South East); L. L. SISNETT, (Member for St. Michael North East); Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.) (Member for Christ Church East); Dr. R. C. HAYNES M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P., (Edin.), (Member for St. Michael South Central); P. M. GREAVES, (Member for St. Michael North); Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, (Member for St. Michael East); H. A. BLACKMAN, (Member for St. Philip South); R. E. BRATHWAITE, (Member for St. Lucy); W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.A.S., (Member for St. Philip North); M. A. KING, (Member for Christ Church West Central); N. K. SIMMONS, (Member for St. James South); A. TRUSS, (Member for St. Michael Central) and L. A. WEEKES, (Member for St. Michael North West).

## ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk read the following Proclamation:-

By His Excellency Sir Deighton Harcourt Lisle Ward, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight of St. Andrew, Governor-General of Barbados.

D. H. L. WARD  
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

## A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is provided by section 60(1) of the Constitution that each session of Parliament shall be held at such place and commence at such time as the Governor-General may appoint:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that a session of Parliament should be held at the Public Buildings, Bridgetown, commencing on Tuesday, 21st July, 1981:

NOW THEREFORE by virtue and in exercise of the power and authority in me vested I, Sir Deighton Harcourt Lisle Ward, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight of St. Andrew, Governor-General of Barbados, DO HEREBY APPOINT the Public Buildings, Bridgetown, as the place at which a session of Parliament shall be held and 11 o'clock in the forenoon on Tuesday, 21st July, 1981, as the time at which the said session shall commence.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of Barbados this 9th day of July, 1981, and in the Thirtieth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

THE CLERK: I have the further honour, Hon. Members, to read to you the text of the letter that I received from Government House. This letter is addressed to the Clerk of Parliament and is dated the 14th July, 1981. It reads thus:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BARBADOS.

Ref. GG:99

14th July, 1981.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the proclamation which has been issued by His Excellency The Governor-General appointing Tuesday, 21st July, 1981 at 11.00 a.m. as the time at which the first session of the new Parliament should be held.

2. I am further to inform you that it is His Excellency's desire that the House should elect a Speaker at the beginning of that session at 11.00 a.m. and before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, under the provisions of Order No. 2.1 of the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly; and I am directed to request that you inform the members of the House accordingly.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(SGD.) C. A. McCONNEY  
Private Secretary to the Governor-General.

The Clerk of Parliament,  
House of Assembly  
Public Buildings,  
BRIDGETOWN.

THE CLERK: In accordance with that directive I, as Clerk of Parliament, now call upon you Members and so invite you to elect your Speaker.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Clerk, I rise, Sir, on behalf of the Government and its members to propose the hon. member for St. Peter to serve in this august Chamber for the years 1981-86 in this Session. I do that, Mr. Clerk, with a background knowledge.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. I should like to draw the hon. member's attention to Standing Order 2, No. 3. The proper motion is that,

having ascertained that the member proposed is willing to serve, the motion is "do take the Chair of this House as Speaker." It is not a question of serving, we are not serving time in here, nobody has sentenced us to any term.

The Standing Order is that the member for St. Peter do take the Chair of this House as Speaker. I should also like, Mr. Clerk, to draw to the hon. member's attention that no debate should take place until or unless another member is proposed, and that is Standing Order 2.4 which reads:

"If more than one Member is proposed and seconded, the Clerk shall propose the question that the Member first proposed do take the Chair of the House as Speaker."

A debate may thereafter take place, the Clerk continuing to act as presiding officer, and therefore I shall enjoin the hon. member for St. James North to let us start the proceedings of this session of Parliament by adhering to the Standing Orders.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Clerk, it is surprising so early, Sir, that the hon. member and Leader of the Opposition should interrupt me. I shall continue, Mr. Clerk, in the vein in which I started, that is, to give this Hon. House the assurance that I have already ascertained from the member for St. Peter that he is quite willing to serve as Speaker of this august Assembly. I am rather surprised, therefore, that the Leader of the Opposition should jump to his feet and start with what I consider rather strange remarks about opening the gates, and sentencing, and things of that nature.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Clerk, on a point of order, if the hon. member will give way. I do not think the hon. member really understood what I was trying to tell him. I was trying to inform the hon. member that the proper motion — I was not questioning that he may have ascertained that the hon. member is willing to serve — the proper motion is that the member for St. Peter take the Chair of this House as Speaker, and that there should be no discussion on the merits or demerits until and unless another member is proposed and you, Sir, put the question that the first member proposed do take the Chair as Speaker, and in accordance with Standing Order 2.4, thereafter we can have a debate if it is deemed necessary.

That is all I am telling the hon. member, the hon. member need not think I was criticising him, I was only jolting his memory.  
11.20 a.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is in no position to teach me anything in Parliament at this stage of his life. He cannot tell me how to move a motion, at what time I should draw to the

attention of the Clerk that I have ascertained from the hon. member for St. Peter that he is prepared to take the Chair. I have my own style and you have yours.

Mr. Clerk, I have been interrupted, Sir, but I think my years in Parliament will not afford me to get off on a bad footing on this occasion, Sir.

I have already ascertained from the member for St. Peter that he is quite willing to serve in this august Assembly as Speaker, Sir. It is behind that background, Mr. Clerk, that I now invite you to invite the member for St. Peter to take the Chair, Sir. *(Applause)*.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Clerk, I beg to second the motion of the hon. member for St. James North.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Clerk, I propose that the hon. member for Christ Church West Central in the words of Standing Order 2(4) do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I beg to second the motion moved by the member for St. John.

Mr. CLERK: It is proposed that the member first proposed do take the Chair of the Hon. House as Speaker.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Clerk, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 2, I made a motion proposing the hon. member for Christ Church West Central as Speaker. The hon. member for Christ Church West Central has already indicated his willingness to serve.

I am going to be very brief. I am not going to launch into a philippic on the misdeeds of the person who served in the last session as Speaker of this House. All I can say is that our experiences during the past five years have fortified us in the conviction that the hon. member for St. Peter does not come up to the high standard that we expect from a holder of that office. I have nothing more to say.

If another hon. member had been proposed with Parliamentary experience, it would not have been our intention to make another motion on the election of this post but we have had no less than, I believe, three motions of no-confidence in the hon. member for St. Peter and they were not frivolous or vexatious motions and we could not sit here and go on record as members of this House acquiescing to the re-appointment of a person who has done this country such great disservice in failing to uphold the law and tradition of Parliament.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Clerk, it is my contention in this matter as I rise to support the candidature of the hon. member for St. Peter, that the

Opposition is suffering from 15 years in Government between 1961 to 1976.

I first entered Parliament in 1966 when Sir Theodore Brancker was Speaker of the House. I give as my considered opinion that the performance of Sir Theodore Brancker as Speaker was in no way superior to that of the hon. member for St. Peter. I give as my considered opinion that improprieties were committed in the House of 1966 – 1971 such as the improper naming of the late Sir Grantley Adams and his removal from the House, such as the improper naming of the member for St. James, a most unfair piece of Parliamentary procedure in the 15 years that I have sat in here.

On that occasion there were numerous motions of no-confidence also in the Speaker. Those motions of no-confidence were attended by such remarks during the debate from the then Leader of the House, Mr. Cameron Tudor, and have left no doubt in the minds of all concerned that Speakers could make mistakes. At no time during that or any subsequent Parliament did I hear the Leader of the Opposition criticise Sir Theodore Brancker in the terms in which he has somewhat briefly criticised the hon. member for St. Peter in the course of this morning.

What perhaps is informing the mind of the Leader of the Opposition is well exemplified by his remarks in his first point of order, "you do not serve any time in here. There is no sentence." In other words, he has returned to the same points of debate which perhaps hung as a shadow over the Chair during the entire course of the last Parliament. I do not think that any of us will ever forget the disgraceful debate carried on during the absence of the hon. member for St. John, as I recall it, which attended the opening session of the last Parliament.

The members of the Opposition, or at least those with Parliamentary experience, sat in this House for 15 years and in some cases demanded subservience from the Chair. Whether it was demanded or not, it was certainly obtained because this brings me to the experience of having Mr. Neville Maxwell sit in the Chair of the House of Assembly.

One of the phrases that has gone down in the political records of Barbados is that "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." Few people recall how that phrase came to be said in here.

On one occasion when the Leader of the Opposition, who was then Prime Minister, had been more than usually abusive of us, then in Opposition, contemptuous then of the rules of the House and contemptuous of all ordinary good manners, Mr. Speaker Maxwell proposed to send him out of the Chamber. He asked him to withdraw words. He asked

him to take his seat and the hon. member for St. John defied him. Mr. Maxwell drew about him what threads of dignity he still possessed and was proposing to discipline the Leader of the Opposition who was then Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition stood here where I stand now, shook his finger at Mr. Maxwell in this manner and said, "Remember, Mr. Speaker, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." Now, he cannot do that to the hon. member for St. Peter. That is the problem of the Opposition. They cannot treat the hon. member for St. Peter in the way that they could treat Speakers of their own Party.

The hon. member for St. Peter has put me to sit down in here in this very chair. He has sent out the present Leader of the House, the hon. member for St. James for misbehaviour. He has dealt with numbers of hon. members on the back-bench. Some said that perhaps he was too severe on the back-benchers during debate. Perhaps, he was a little too rigid. I would not say too severe but the real point is this. We are dealing with a Speaker who knows the rules and who is not afraid to apply them and we are therefore seeing a resolute attempt over five years by the members of the Opposition to set a standard for the conduct of the Chair which means subservience to the Democratic Labour Party. That is in effect what it comes down to.

Their measurement of whether the Speaker has been a good Speaker or not is whether or not they approved motions of no-confidence in the Speaker or whether or not they have walked out. That is their measure.  
11.30 a.m.

Mr. Clerk, Mr. Speaker Hinds, the Honourable Member for St. Peter in a previous Parliament was described as such, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Governing Body for all Parliamentary Associations within the entire Commonwealth, one of the most prestigious positions to which it is possible for a parliamentarian in Britain, Canada, Australia, Fiji, Malawi anywhere in the Commonwealth to be elected.

His reputation as a speaker and as a presiding officer has been well fortified by his attendance at Presiding Officers' Conferences all over the world and by the fact that he has always been in demand at these Conferences as a lecturer, as a speaker, as a person who could give of his knowledge and experience born of fifteen years in Parliament to the conduct of the Chair. He is in point of service by the Rules which we observe second in service in the Honourable House only to the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He is clearly a person who has seen the Chair from both Sides. For Honourable Members of the Honourable House who suggest that the Honourable Member for St. Peter was ever an ill-behaved Member of the House, I would point out that in the days when we in

Opposition were six in number and really suffered under the Chair, suffered under the incompetence and the trickiness of Mr. Speaker Maxwell, I would point out that among our ranks, the Honourable Member for St. Peter was never disciplined was never asked to leave the Honourable House. He was never late for Parliament, his courtesy to the Presiding Officers was well-known. Perhaps Honourable Members who then sat on Government Benches thought he was less politically courteous to them because he did his homework, he found points in debate which could embarrass them and he was a determined and a resolute debater. But, none of those factors appear to have moved Honourable Members on the Other Side who have visited the Honourable Member for St. Peter from the day that he entered Parliament with malevolence, with spite, with a constant dragging up of the past and with a determination that he was not to succeed in Parliament.

I recall even in 1971 when a Standing Orders Committee was being appointed and I nominated the Honourable Member, the only occasion that I can remember in Parliament when the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister objected to a nomination by the Opposition took place then when the then Rt. Hon. Prime Minister asked why was I nominating the Honourable Member for St. Peter to the Standing Orders Committee made some remark about his being the Field Marshal of something, I cannot recall it exactly. I am suggesting, Mr. Clerk that today's proceedings had to be seen in that light, a personal dispute being carried on over a long passage of time, perhaps since 1962 or 1963, a vendetta being pursued against the Honourable Member for St. Peter and finding its expression now once again in 1981 in a new nomination.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central is admirably suited for the position of Deputy Speaker. I have however already been assured by the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition that no Honourable Member of the Democratic Labour Party is going to accept nomination for the post of Deputy Speaker. I think it remarkable that the only letter which the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition should ever have deigned to answer that I have written to him should be of a negative character to assure me that the Democratic Labour Party does not wish to have the Deputy Speakership of the Honourable House. On the other hand, they wish to have the Speaker. Mr. Clerk, that will give you some idea of the sincerity of the Democratic Labour Party in putting forward the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central to occupy one of the Presiding Offices, the Chief Presiding Office of Parliament.

The entire matter is one carried on in pursuit of long standing hatred for which unfortunately the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has been so well-known during his 30 years in politics. This is not the first time that the Democratic Labour Party with the able assistance of

the present Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has decided to shake down Parliament at its start. Indeed, Mr. Clerk, you will observe that the Democratic Labour Party has never since its inception accepted a Speaker nominated by the Government. In 1956, they refused to accept Dr. Cummins; in 1976, the next occasion upon which they were in Opposition, they refused to accept the Honourable Member for St. Peter and now in 1981, they again refuse to accept the Speaker.

We on the other hand accepted Mr. Neville Maxwell who we well knew was an unsuitable person, we well knew it. We accepted Sir Theodore Brancker. We accepted Mr. Eyre Hoppin. The public will judge, the Honourable Members of the Honourable House have certainly judged the performance of the Democratic Labour Party in the light of their historical approach. Parliament must be conducted according to the way they want it conducted whether or not the electorate gives them a majority, they must have the say in who is to be the Speaker. The Democratic Labour Party must be alone in the Commonwealth where they have multi-Party systems, in that since their foundation, they have nominated someone for the Chair of Parliament whether they have won, lost or drawn the election, they feel that they must have the say. They want to establish a new Rule that the minority must decide upon the presiding arrangements for Parliament. We have offered them a share in the presiding arrangement. They reject our offer, they do not want our share, they must have it their way. Well, the electorate said that we are to have it our way. (APPLAUSE)

Mr. Clerk, I fully intend to support the proposal by the Honourable Member for St. James North seconded by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central that the Honourable Member for St. Peter do take the Chair. (APPLAUSE)

Mr. CLERK: The question is that.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Clerk, before you put the question, I do not want to make a speech, I just want to go on record that I do not accept a single statement that the Rt. Hon. Member has made. I do not want him to get away with the distortions and misrepresentations which have been made here. I thought he would tell this Honourable House something in support of the virtues of the Honourable Member for St. Peter in contradistinction to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central who he admits is admirably qualified for the post. Instead of that, we get a prolific against the Democratic Labour Party and all the former Speakers of the Honourable House who are not members of his party.  
11.40 a.m.

*The question that the member first proposed do take the Chair of the House as Speaker was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:*

*Ayes:* Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Hon. L. R. TULL; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, Hon. V. L. JOHNSON, Hon. DeL.O. BRADSHAW, Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Messrs. FORDE, BOLDEN, TRUSS, BRATHWAITE, SISNETT and ODLE – 16.

*Noes:* Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Dr. HAYNES, Messrs. SANDIFORD, BLACKMAN, FRANKLIN, GREAVES, SIMMONS, TAITT, KING and WEEKES – 10.

*Hon. H. B. St. JOHN and Hon. L. S. CRAIG escorted the SPEAKER ELECT into the Chamber and directed him to the Chair.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I wish to thank all hon. members of this honourable institution, those who supported my election and those who did not. I will at all times remember that the minority have rights and I will protect them.

I am fully conscious of the responsibility that has been placed upon me in elevating me to this high office once more, but try as I may to discharge that responsibility, I issue an invitation to all hon. members on both sides of the House. They must play an equal part if my discharge is to be seen to be worth anything in this society of ours. We are working for the good of the nation, and remember, this institution to which we belong looms larger than any of us. We will all pass away, but this Honourable House of Assembly will remain for many many years after. We cannot succeed, however we may, in dragging this down. It will stand, it has withstood storms. You and I must remember this always.

I thank you, I thank you. Pledge me your support, I ask you now. I thank each and everyone.

*The Sergeant-at-Arms entered the Chamber and informed the Speaker that His Excellency the Governor-General had requested his presence and that of all members of the House of Assembly in the Senate Chamber.*

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for one hour.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Leader, our Standing Orders forbid this.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am following the Programme set here, Sir, and I can only conclude that the Programme copy is wrong. I was a little at a loss at the time, Sir, but I was following the Programme.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, since I am on a point of order, I would like to assure you that if you continue to uphold the Standing Orders in the way you have just exhibited, you will have my unqualified

support. You, Your Honour, cannot take judicial notice of a programme that has been printed for visitors, you have to adhere to the Standing Orders, Sir. Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already ruled on the matter.

*Mr. SPEAKER, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, and the other members following him according to seniority proceeded to the Senate Chamber.*

11.55 a.m.

The Throne Speech was delivered by His Excellency the Governor General as follows:—

*Mr. President and members of the Senate:*

*Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:*

This new session of Parliament commenced earlier today, at 11 o'clock, and each of your Houses has carried out the requirements of electing its presiding officers. Having given formal approval to your election, the next traditional step for me to take is that of outlining to you my Government's programme for the session.

Parliament has been duly formed in accordance with the Constitution, and the Cabinet also has been duly appointed and has commenced to carry out its responsibilities. In accordance with the custom of the past few years, the current proceedings in this Chamber are being broadcast to the whole community and beyond, and, subject to your approval at the appropriate time, it is proposed that the broadcasting of proceedings of both of your Houses will become a regular feature.

It is also hoped, Mr. President and members of the Senate and Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, that when next you meet on an occasion such as this, your approval will have been given, and the proposal implemented, for an increase in the proportion of seats for representatives of the Opposition in this particular Chamber.

My Government proposes to improve the facilities of Parliament, and to make further provision for elected members to maintain constituency offices so as to facilitate the electors in keeping in touch with their representatives.

The Barbados economy managed to perform at a high level over the past three years despite general difficulties in the world economy. The economy consistently recorded growth rates which exceeded planned targets and the rate of inflation was kept within tolerable limits. However, it must be recognised that, in the short term, the performance of the economy will be affected adversely by the continuing difficulties in the world economy and by the exceptional rainfall which has adversely affected local agriculture and, in particular, the sugar industry. My Government anticipates that there will be a slow down in the rate of real growth in the economy, from 5% in 1980 to no more than 2% in the next two years or so. In the interest of ensuring the long-term resilience of the economy, my Government will find it necessary to institute measures to restrain consumption and to moderate wages increases over that period.

The fiscal policy pursued by my Government in the past is considered to have met with great success in the redistribution of income towards the poorest section of the population. In addition, my Government has achieved the generation of public sector savings to support the development of the productive capacity of the country and the social and physical infrastructure on which it rests. The pre-emption of balance of payments and inflationary pressures through the management of the public debt and the public sector deficits in a manner consistent with the short and long run absorptive capacity of the economy have received special attention. These policies will continue to guide the management of Government's finances. Foreign borrowing will be confined to making good temporary shortfalls in local agricultural or industrial earnings or for productive investments in the local economy.

My Government will further support these policies by the following income generation measures, amongst others:—

- income and corporation tax exemptions for the export of non-sugar agricultural commodities
- special incentives for high employment businesses such as computer services and regional distribution organisations
- a new tax regime for petroleum producing operations.

There is a firm commitment to the development of the small business sector, and for this purpose a Government Investment Trust will be set up with the responsibility to act as a source of equity capital for small business.

The Energy problem has been recognised as one of the principal challenges facing the country and my Government's deep

concern over this problem has been demonstrated by the appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary with special responsibility for the subject. The following wide ranging set of energy conservation and development activities will be embarked upon:

- (a) an expanded programme of petroleum and natural gas production;
- (b) implementation of a wind energy pilot project to determine the future distribution and size of wind turbines;
- (c) the use of solar energy for a wide range of purposes, including industrial and cooling, on the basis of expanded tax incentives and concessionary loans for such purposes;
- (d) exploration of the potential for wave energy generation, and the installation of a wave energy device, if deemed feasible;
- (e) exploration of the scope for the use of such sources as biomass and bagasse as energy feedstock; and
- (f) expansion of efforts already on stream to promote energy conservation through the medium of energy audits in industrial and tourist establishment and the provision of finance to subsidise the redesign of existing systems where feasible.

The overall aims of policy in the agricultural sector are to maintain and, where possible, increase agricultural export earnings from sugar and to develop exports of other agricultural commodities. Furthermore, my Government will aim to reduce agricultural imports wherever import substitution is technically and economically feasible and not unduly costly to the consumer, and where the overall effect on the balance of payments is favourable. Emphasis will be given to the following programmes:

- (i) To make Barbados as near self-sufficient in food production as is practicable, given the constraints of land size and climate;
- (ii) To make Barbados a net exporter of food, including sugar and products of the sea;
- (iii) To encourage the agricultural entrepreneur, the farmer and the agricultural worker to be fully equipped and technically skilled so as to maximise earnings and improve productivity;

- (iv) To ensure that marketing and pricing procedures are developed to enable all agricultural products to be sold to the local consumer at rates subsidized by exports without endangering the incomes of farmers.

The policy of bringing maximum land into sugar cultivation will be continued. Cultivation techniques will be improved and so will variety testing. Mechanical harvesting and loading will be encouraged.

The Agricultural Development Corporation will, among other things, encourage the growth of a much larger fruit industry than has hitherto existed.

The new plant for the Barbados Marketing Corporation will be established at Lower Estate where the Corporation will establish its own poultry processing plant.

My Government will continue to support dairy farming and will establish feed lots for sheep and cattle with a view to expanding mutton and beef production. A Fish Marketing and Distribution Agency will be promoted to guarantee fishermen a reasonable price for all fish delivered and to enhance consumer ability to purchase local fish all year round at reasonable cost.

A development project in the Scotland District will be implemented aimed at stemming soil erosion and promoting productive use of conserved land.

My Government will continue its effective policy of price controls on a selected number of essential food items and household requisites. Prices of other items will continue to be monitored to ensure that importers keep their margins at moderate levels. At the same time, legislation will be enacted to give some measure of protection to consumers.

My Government considers that the health and well-being of the citizens of the country are of paramount importance to their social and economic development, and it will therefore ensure that the planned phasing of the National Health Service will be implemented.

Five new Polyclinics will be commissioned within the next three years. Full-time Family Planning Clinics will be provided at each polyclinic and an extended programme of health education, appropriate to the family and community needs, will be provided to focus attention on the health hazards created by drug abuse, alcoholism and tobacco smoking.

In pursuance of my Government's policy on urban renewal, studies will be undertaken of the New Orleans/Cats Castle area as well as of the Nelson Street and Upper Bridgetown areas. Re-development of the Greenfields for housing and commercial purposes will be put into effect during the current Session as part of the wider Roebuck Street improvement. House resiting programmes as a consequence of major capital works projects will be intensified, especially in respect of the requirements for the Church Village development, the new St. Barnabas/Wilkey highway, the Speightstown By-pass and the developments at The Glebe in St. George.

The Plantation Tenancies Programme which was started earlier this year will be intensified so as to effect the transfer of titles to eligible tenants on the 300 plantation tenancies. A loan scheme will be introduced to provide the wherewithal for needy tenants to finance the purchase of their lots. In due course, the scheme will be expanded to include loans for the improvement of houses by the new freeholders.

My Government is deeply concerned about coastal erosion especially on the west and south coasts of the island and will institute remedial measures for containing the problem.

The Town Planning Act will be amended to provide that Planning Permissions will expire if not carried out within a particular time.

Legislation relating to the preservation of trees and regulating the circumstances under which trees may be cut down or destroyed is also expected to be sent down to you shortly. Legislation to create a new regime to regulate mining and quarrying will be introduced shortly.

A programme for the development of national parks and a bird sanctuary will be presented to you in the near future.

At this present time, my Government has the honour of being host to the Fourth Caribbean Festival of Arts which brings together a wide cross section of the diverse cultures within the Caribbean region. A cordial welcome to Barbados and all that it has to offer has already been extended to the participants in the Festival but it is fitting that this occasion should be taken to repeat the hope that the Festival will succeed in promoting and encouraging closer awareness of the cultures of friendly states to which my Government is committed.

My Government sees culture not as the privilege of a few but rather as a common heritage which serves the hopes and aspirations of all. It is intended to integrate dance and movement, music and

drama, into the curriculum in schools, as well as to develop the concept of theatre in Education as a means of teaching the social sciences and history. Plans are in train for a School of Drama and for expanding the summer vacation workshops in the arts for school children.

It is proposed to strengthen the institutional arrangements for cultural development by re-organising the National Arts and Culture Council as a statutory board with powers to collect and distribute funds for cultural groups. The setting up of local or parochial culture committees and the establishment of a National Art Gallery are also proposed.

Proposals aimed at making the Barbados Museum a national institution which would reflect the history, culture and development of Barbadian society will be implemented, and so also will be a plan for the improvement of national Library and Information services and the establishment of a Caribbean Information System.

The new Education Act which was passed during the last Parliamentary Session, will soon be promulgated; and a programme of guidance and counselling will be introduced initially in the Secondary Schools.

My Government will continue its programme of upgrading and replacing where necessary, its Primary Schools.

Extensions will be made to nine of the Secondary schools within the next two years, including the provision of laboratory and specialist facilities for the two St. Leonard's Secondary Schools and Home Economics facilities at Combermere School.

The completion of these improved facilities and additional accommodation will clear the way for the delivery of a uniform quality of education in all Government Secondary Schools, thus permitting a more rational allocation of students on the basis of ability and aptitudes, and the introduction of a phased system of zoning.

The programme for the training of teachers will be stepped up by making use of the improved and expanded facilities at the Erdiston Teachers College and those at the School of Education of the University of the West Indies with the aim of achieving a fully trained teaching service within the current Parliamentary Session.

My Government proposes to deal with the problem of employment generation through two separate though related approaches. Firstly, by the creation of the condition and the

---

investment climate which will allow the economy to expand at a real rate to meet increases in the labour force. Secondly, by a concerted programme to match the availability of skills to employment opportunities through an expanded range of job training programmes for school leavers, the introduction of a National Service Scheme, and by providing additional educational opportunities aimed at meeting the demand for trades and new skills as may be required by the diversification of the economy.

The development of a Manpower Planning Unit within the Labour Department will be continued, and the Unit will make analyses of labour market information and prepare relevant data on which sound manpower policies can be formulated.

The skills training project which commenced two years ago will be continued and the National Training Board, established under the authority of the Occupational Training Act of 1979, will be launching a revamped apprenticeship training programme shortly.

The Employment Exchange will be upgraded to a full fledged Employment Bureau, providing a more comprehensive employment and job placement service for employee and employer, and serving as an agency for verifying that persons receiving benefits under the new unemployment insurance scheme are in the process of actively seeking employment.

The National Insurance and Social Security Scheme will be expanded into a full and comprehensive social security for all. The present non-contributory old age pension scheme will be integrated into the National Insurance Scheme and, on the abolition of the means test used for the present scheme, everybody of the prescribed age will become eligible to receive old age pension. Increased contributions to finance improved pensions and health benefits as part of the expanded scheme will shortly be announced.

Comprehensive Labour legislation will be introduced into Parliament. This will relate to unfair dismissals, equal opportunity and equal treatment in employment for men and women, improved health, safety and welfare measures for employees in factories, and regulation of hours of work and minimum wages.

My Government will initiate a programme for a new road structure while continuing the building of tenantry roads, maintaining existing highways and establishing proper draining systems. Studies will be undertaken towards improving the flow of traffic between the airport and the sea port and providing facilities for the rapid transit of passenger goods between the northern and southern parishes of the island.

Research will be carried out on the materials being used in roadworks, and the road surfaces of all highways and secondary roads will be improved to a standard capable of taking the heavier loads and higher volumes of traffic which now use these roads.

The street lighting programme will be continued in which priority will be given to installation of lights in tenantries and densely populated areas.

My Government will continue its programme for improving the services provided by the Transport Board throughout the island. Replacement of the fleet of buses will continue until the Transport Board has an up-to-date fleet capable of meeting the demands of commuters fully.

A new Transport Authority will be established and it will take over the present responsibilities of the Board and will have the task of integrating the private mini-buses in the overall transportation system as well as developing a system for licensing and allocation of routes which will provide commuters in all parts of the island with a regular and reliable service.

My Government will continue its social development programme whose principal purpose is to reduce the concept of permanent dependency. Additional recreational facilities will be provided throughout the island and a youth centre will be established in Bridgetown which will also provide training in skills.

Day care centres for senior citizens will be set up, and the Home Help Service and the Housing Welfare Scheme will be further extended within the limits of Government's resources.

A foster care and an adoption scheme will be implemented whereby children in need of care and attention can live within families where love and affection exist.

Women's affairs, and improvement of the status of women, will continue to receive my Government's earnest consideration and assistance.

New legislation will be enacted to provide the legal framework within which the business of Barbados' aviation regime will be conducted. Bilateral agreements will be negotiated with a number of countries for route rights which will expand existing markets and develop new ones.

The Policy of consulting with other Caribbean Governments, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean, with a view to harmonising and developing a common approach to third party countries on matters pertaining to civil aviation will be continued.

My Government will continue to pursue its policy of modernising and updating the airport facilities. The installation of a new radar system is scheduled for completion in a year's time. A five year programme for the replacement and improvement of other navigational aids and communications systems has been prepared and will be put into operation during this Parliamentary Session.

In the area of Tourism, the promotion of Barbados as a tourist destination will be intensified. Emphasis will be placed not only on the quantitative aspects of the industry but also on the qualitative aspects. Legislation will be enacted for the regulation of the business of travel agents and tourism firms. A mandatory registration and classification scheme will be implemented for all hotel properties and associated businesses. Aids and incentives to new hotels will in future be limited to particular locations which are at present not fully developed.

In order to maintain a safe environment for Barbadians and for visitors, my Government will continue to monitor closely the incidence of crime. It will continue with policies aimed at maintaining an adequately equipped, well trained and efficient Police Force, and, within the limitations of available finance, will continue to upgrade the facilities needed by the Police Force to enable it to police the country effectively. A new Police Headquarters and a Regional Police Training College will be provided.

The Emergency Ambulance Service will be integrated with the Fire Service, and a Fire Station will be established at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip. The Probation legislation will be amended to provide for community service as an additional penal measure; and construction of a new Supreme Court Complex at Coleridge Street, St. Michael, will be commenced during this Session.

Within the constraints of its financial and human resources, my Government will continue to play a full part in contributing to the peaceful and harmonious development of relations among nations. Specifically, concentration will be placed on co-operation and integration within the Caribbean Community, and no effort will be spared to promote the notion of a joint approach to the problems confronting the world's developing countries.

Particular emphasis will be placed on improving the services now provided for Barbadian nationals in major cities in metropolitan countries, and more Consulates will be established in the Caribbean, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Mr. President and members of the Senate, Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, my Government is firmly committed to the principle that in administrative decisions, full re-

gard should be paid to the primacy of human rights. This principle has been applied to the immigration policy of Barbados which has been viewed as among the fairest in this region.

In order to strengthen the framework of this policy, an Immigration Appeals Tribunal will be set up in order to give non-Barbadians who feel aggrieved by an administrative decision made in respect of them on any immigration matter, a right to an independent review.

As promised at the opening of Parliament in November 1977, a Defence Force has been established, charged with responsibility for maintaining national security in the face of attempts at subversion or terrorism which have become so marked a feature of the international scene. In the months ahead, the development of the necessary resources of the Force will be pursued and three patrol vessels, capable of providing for the effective control of our 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, will be commissioned. This will guard our substantial fishing rights and discourage the increase of smuggling and illegal use of our territorial waters.

A National Service Corps of the Defence Force will be established in which young persons will be encouraged to undergo a short period of paid full time attachment and receive training that will not only foster discipline, self-reliance and physical fitness, but will lead to the acquisition of useful skills.

My Government re-affirms its commitment to ensuring the greatest possible co-operation between Barbados and other Caribbean Commonwealth countries in relation to regional trade; and it will intensify efforts to make the fullest possible use of export trade opportunities available under the Second Convention of Lome.

The Investment Promotion Programme will be continued and so too will the factory construction and industrial estate programme.

The development of local handicraft will continue to receive Government support.

A range of services will be provided through the Export Promotion Corporation to assist Barbadian exporters in increasing domestic exports.

The industrial and intellectual property law system will be modernised, and a structure and organisation for an Intellectual Property Office will be developed.

The law relating to Companies will be revised and reformed, and legislation will be introduced for the recognition of a Stock Exchange of Barbados.

*Mr. President and members of the Senate:*

*Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:*

I extend my best wishes to you in your new Parliamentary Session, and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

BARBADOS

21st July, 1981.

*On Resumption:*

#### HOUSE RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

*Mr. SPEAKER and other Hon. Members, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, returned to the Assembly Chamber.*

*Prayers were read.*

#### MR. SPEAKER REPORTS HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received a copy of the Throne Speech as delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Throne Speech be taken as read.

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

#### APPOINTMENT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Sir the adoption of the present Standing Orders of this Honourable House of Assembly.

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

*The question that the existing Standing Orders of the Hon. House of Assembly be the Standing Orders to govern the proceedings of this Hon. House of Assembly was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise Sir to nominate the Honourable Member for St. Joseph to the office of Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House and I do that Mr. Speaker with a background of knowledge of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph and his twelve years in this august Assembly.

It is regrettable however, Mr. Speaker that the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition did not accede to

our request whereby a Deputy Speaker would come from the Other Side so as to give the Honourable House a relatively fair balance in its proceedings with such an officer.

It therefore gives me great pleasure Sir to formally move that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph be Deputy Speaker for the Session 1981 – 86.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph be elected Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House. If there are no other nominations, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is elected Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House. (PAUSE) The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is elected Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House.

#### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I think Sir that over the last five years we have seen an example of work done by the Honourable Member for St. George North and therefore it gives me great pleasure, Sir once again to nominate that Honourable Member to preside as Chairman of Committees, Sir of this august Assembly for the years 1981 – 86.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that the Honourable Member for St. George North be elected Chairman of Committees for the ensuing Session of this Honourable House. If there are no other nominations the Honourable Member for St. George North is elected Chairman of Committees of this Honourable House. (PAUSE) The Honourable Member for St. George North is elected Chairman of Committees of this Honourable House.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on this Side, Sir, I propose to nominate the Honourable Member for

Christ Church East, the Honourable Member for the City, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East and I in my capacity as Leader of the Honourable House and still Member for St. James North, Sir. That is seven Honourable Members that we have nominated, Sir. There is nothing in the Standing Orders as to limit the amount of Honourable Members and I am told from Honourable Members who sat on the last occasion that it was always difficult to get a quorum. I hope, Sir that we get a quorum on this occasion and I am therefore nominating seven Honourable Members from this Side.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in view of the declaration of the Leader of the House and the enlargement of the Committee, I propose to nominate on this side four members in order to redress the balance or imbalance as the case may be, with Your Honour's permission.

We propose to nominate the hon. member for St. Michael West, the hon. member for St. Michael South, the hon. member for St. James South and the hon. member for St. Michael North West.

Mr. SPEAKER: It must be recalled that members from the Other Place are also to be nominated to this Committee.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Government's policy on this occasion, Sir, is that we nominate seven from here, you, Mr. Speaker, although there is nothing in the Standing Orders which says that, the Opposition four as they are nominated and then the other side will determine that. We want seven on this side and yourself, Mr. Speaker. You have nothing to do with how large the Committee is. We want it this way on this occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Nobody is attempting to go against Government policy. It is merely that we seek to draw to the attention of the Government and to all concerned what appears now to be an extraordinarily large Committee.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, it is not extraordinarily large. It is a Committee of the Debates which the Government is setting up. If it is extraordinarily large to you, Sir, it is not extra large to this side, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will be the Chairman, you say.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And we sincerely hope, Sir, that we can get a quorum.

*The question that those hon. members so named constitute the House of Assembly's members on the Debates Committee of Parliament was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, for the Library Committee I think you are well aware of the fact that the policy of the Government is to upgrade Parliament at all levels and since the Library is also a very important aspect of Parliament, Sir, which, as I understand right now, is in a very bad state of disrepair, I am going to nominate the following members making this Committee relatively large, Sir, in the light that we can get a quorum. It is not extra large, it is just large for the Library.

I therefore beg to nominate, Sir, the hon. member for St. Thomas, the hon. member for St. Andrew, the hon. member for the City, the hon. member for St. Michael East and the hon. member for St. James North. That, therefore, provides us with five on this side and I propose that the other side should have three members.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to nominate the hon. member for St. Michael South, the hon. member for Christ Church West Central and the hon. member for St. James South to the Library Committee.

I would just like to point out to the Leader of the House that whereas the quorum of the other Committees is five, there is no quorum stipulated for the Library Committee so that you can make the quorum as small as you want so that should not be a consideration in enlarging the Committee. I just draw it to your attention.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I think that we have some from the other side and one-third, of course, would be the quorum.

*The question that those hon. members constitute the Library Committee of this House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*  
1.10 p.m.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose for the Public Accounts Committee five Honourable Members from this Side. I therefore Sir propose four from this Side, Sir and.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: No, no, my interpretation.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot have two Honourable Members on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the Honourable Member would give way. As Chairman of the Committee fixed by Law, there are seven Members in the Committee and a Chairman. This is a legal Committee, this is not a Standing Orders Committee. When I say legal, I mean that it is appointed by Law. The Leader of the Opposition is automatically Chairman in the same way that the Speaker is Chairman of several of the joint Select Committees. There are seven Members of the Committee other than the Chairman and the Government has always appointed four and the Opposition has appointed three and the quorum is also fixed by Law, so that the Government can form a quorum.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, there are to be seven Honourable Members, four from the Government and three from the Opposition. I propose therefore, Sir to nominate from this Side the Honourable member for St. Joseph, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, the Leader of the Opposition is according to the Standing Orders Chairman of this Committee and the two other Members. There is some difficulty of interpretation here. Mr. Speaker I propose to nominate two other persons until we can resolve this difficulty and that would be the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. That will give seven members, but there is a question of interpretation as to whether it is not the seven members plus the Chairman. That is how it is done. I prefer to leave it as it is until I can take this matter on advisement Sir. That is the Chairman and two members on this Side, Sir.

*The question that those Honourable Members constitute the Committee of Public Accounts of this Honourable House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*  
1.20 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, just on a small point of order. I mentioned earlier to you that there is a technical problem here. In the last Session when I was not present the House elected seven members including the Leader of the Opposition.

Now Your Honour will also remember that there are several Committees of which Your Honour happens to be Chairman *ex officio* according to these Standing Orders but you are not nominated as a member so my contention is that wherever the Chairman is designated

separately he is not a member of the Committee as such and if you look at the very next Standing Order on the Standing Orders Committee itself it says there should be a Standing Orders Committee which shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman and nine members.

Now on the Committee of Public Accounts it says there shall be seven members and the Leader of the Opposition shall be Chairman so if you put the Leader of the Opposition and seven members it would be abundantly clear so that is why I submit that there is a constructive problem there and for the time being, until the hon. member has had the opportunity to go into it and since a precedent was created in 1977 in which Your Honour may find it difficult to depart from, *ex proviso*, unless you have already taken it upon advice, I would like to reserve the position. How do you feel?

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like it to be clearly understood that this does not at all fall one way or the other to the Chair. Mark you, in my view, what we are now going through on this particular Committee is a waste of the people's precious time. We are doing homework inside of this Honourable House. That is what we are doing. People are not going to like to hear me say this. This is homework. It should never have been done inside here. We ought to have come here with tailored-made suits and get on with the people's business. That is me.

#### APPOINTMENT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, for the Standing Orders Committee, Sir, there shall be you, Mr. Speaker, and nine hon. members from this Chamber. From this side I therefore propose — I am not familiar with the constituencies yet, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Clerks at the Table are willing to assist any hon. member.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The members, Sir, on this side shall be the hon. member for Christ Church East, the hon. member for St. Thomas, the hon. member for Christ Church East Central, the hon. member for Christ Church West, the hon. member for St. George North and myself and you, Mr. Speaker. That will be six on this side. I want to make sure that the balance is good. I am not taking any chances with you.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: According to the Standing Orders the Committee shall comprise of nine members of which Your Honour is *ex officio* Chairman and therefore I take it that we will now nominate three which will be the hon. member for St. Michael South, the hon. member for Christ Church West Central and the hon. member for St. Michael North.

*The question that those hon. members constitute the Standing Orders Committee of this House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

1.30 p.m.

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir on this side, I beg to nominate the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, and myself, Sir, the Member for St. James North and the Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On this Side, Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the Honourable Member for St. Michael North and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

*The question that those Honourable Members constitute the Committee of Privileges of this Honourable House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### APPOINTMENT OF FOUR HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: From this Side, Sir, I beg to nominate the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Honourable Member for St. George North and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: From this Side, Sir, I beg to nominate the Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

*The question that those Honourable Members constitute the Sugar Production and Export Control Board of this Honourable House was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I have Message No. 4/1981 advising of the absence from Barbados of His Excellency the Governor-General during the period 24th July to 8th August, 1981 and the designation of Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato as Acting Governor-General during the same period.

#### PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay:

The Civil Establishment General (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1981.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations 1981.

Also, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning:

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 9) Order 1981. Sir, on behalf of the Hon. Attorney General, I am commanded to lay:

The Fire Service (Application of Fees) Regulations 1981; and also Sir:

Report of the Fire Service for the year 1980.

Mr. SPEAKER: Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 8) Order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 8) Order 1981. I called 9, sorry about that. 1.40 p.m.

Hon. Dr. D. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following:—

Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ending 31st December, 1980.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I recognise it was a short speech and I can see there will be a lot of long and very damaging speeches to come from the hon. member who just took his seat.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister:—

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1981.

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

Resolution to replace Schedules B and C to Resolution No. 68/1980 to give effect to the reclassification of the unestablished staff and casual employees of Government.

Mr. Speaker, it was hoped to do these matters in all of their stages today but apparently no notice to this effect has been given so the civil servants, the skilled workers and casual workers will have to wait for a couple of months for their reclassification and backpay but they will be back-dated to April 1st of this year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following:—

Resolution to approve the use of the sum of £471,750 Sterling from Lloyds Bank Limited and £83,250 Sterling from Lloyds Bank International Limited for financing the additional costs of providing goods and services for the purpose of developing the Coast Guard.

This is a Resolution, Sir, for building a Repair Block on the Pierhead and other expansion services for the Coast Guard which will be generally available as an addition to the Maritime Repair facilities to the Island.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:—

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Rockley, Christ Church.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Bay Street, St. Michael.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Church Village, St. Michael.

Resolution to approve of the lease of land at Bagatelle, St. James to Trowel Plastics (Barbados) Limited.

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

A Bill to amend the Land Tax Act (No. 1).

A Bill to amend the Land Tax Act (No. 2).

A Bill to amend the Bankruptcy Act.

A Bill to repeal the Estate Duty Act.

A Bill to amend the Banking Act.

A Bill to amend the Companies Act.

#### FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

*On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act (No. 1) was read a first time.*

*On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act (No. 2) was read a first time.*

*On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE a Bill to amend the Bankruptcy Act was read a first time.*

*On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE a Bill to repeal the Estate Duty Act was read a first time.*

*On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE a Bill to amend the Banking Act was read a first time.*

*On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE a Bill to amend the Companies Act was read a first time.*

#### CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I, Sir, rise to offer my heartiest congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, not only for once again assuming the very high and prestigious office of Speaker of this Assembly but I think that we can now, Sir, shake hands and I can safely say that you were among those that came from the Lord.

I would like to extend, Sir, to the new members of this Chamber a welcome to this the highest office of the land and to congratulate them all for their success at the polls. However, may I remind them that the cut and thrust of Parliament is unlike that in the hustlings.  
1.50 p.m.

Parliament is like a raging sea, calm in a moment and rough in a second. To the old faces let me once again salute them. The battles have been fought and won, the choice by the people is final. The function at the Auditorium is now postponed until 1986 and probably after. The spare ribs, the pork chops, the chicken and all of the Bally shoes that were bought to wear into Parliament, all of them, Sir still have a chance, but the electorate postponed the party, the party which was to be held is left until 1986. As an old lady said to me, "they get fooled, they get fooled with motor cars, not a motor car never cast a vote". This is going to be part Sir and parcel, Mr. Speaker of what I believe should be and can be a very interesting Session, a Session where this Side is going to ask no quarters and this Side would give none. I sincerely hope that the standard of debate would reach a level that we as Parliamentarians and all Barbadians can be justly proud of.

There are times, I have no doubt that a swipe can be taken and I recognise the qualities of the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition who still has an old time cou cou punch make up. You have to keep your eyes on him very closely and fight him like how Sugar Ray Leonard fought the Panamanian with style, jabs, hooks and upper cuts.

I ask for one thing however in this Parliament and I am going to try my very, very best since I have been the victim of several withdrawals called upon by the Speaker

at times to withdraw from the Chamber. I accept that, I admit that, it is now history, but in my capacity as Leader of the House, I am going to try my utmost best to appreciate and understand the very difficult task which lies ahead for Mr. Speaker and try to co-operate with him as far as I can and I also extend that invitation to Honourable Members on the Other Side.

As Leader of the House, Sir, I am prepared to try to establish a communications link with the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition although it may appear at times knowing him very well to be relatively difficult, but I think as arm in arm we walked to the Senate this morning, I believe arm in arm we can sit down and talk and if that communications link is difficult, I feel sure that the Honourable Member of this Parliament today whom I believe would have voted, or should have voted for me in my constituency recognising that I am a good MP for St. James North and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition lives in St. James North, I am sure that vote which I believe that you gave me, that you should have given me would establish also a good communications link.

I also look forward, Mr. Speaker to a very, very high standard of journalism and Mr. Speaker coming from the media a good report from both Sides of the Honourable House, it can only be for the good of this nation. People refer to me now as a veteran and I do not understand why they would call the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Member for St. Michael North. I welcome his face and I would say that fate has a strange way, a strange, strange way. I welcome you, a special welcome to you, a special welcome to the Honourable Member. I believe that he is going to bring to bear Sir his Ministerial experience of the past to assist us in this Chamber and to Honourable Members on my side, I ask for your fullest co-operation.

I welcome the new ones again, I have saluted you already. I have done every part for those who did not get sweet victory to keep the Opposition out, but maybe it is for the good of the nation again. However, I believe that a few Honourable Members on that Side are intransigent. I feel so, I have a strange dream, a strange feeling that there are some Honourable Members on the Other Side intransigent. As the Session grows older, I am going to whisper to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who I am going to say goodbye to as I did to Dr. Caddle and Evelyn Greaves.

Sir with those few remarks....I would hope that Honourable Members on the Other Side would even join in the dining hall rather than running away from the dining hall. Let us have the features of the Honourable Member Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the retired Member for St. Philip South a part and parcel of Parliament. I have your Manifesto here which I am going to ask you repeatedly to tell us how to formulate part

of the plans like bringing back Miss Hyacinth Goring, all of these things. I am quite sure that you will tell us the Law of all of these things. The Skills Training Programme which was implemented two years ago, I am going to ask you how to do these things. I expect a cut and thrust, a good debate from that Side. I know that you are well aware of the battery of the Front Bench and again even strengthened by the Backbench, I think you have your work cut out.

To my colleagues, I ask them to make sure that they form a quorum. Parliament is the big day for me, Parliamentary day. Do come here early and form a quorum and the Committees which we have appointed this morning, I hope to see them also work for the good of this nation of ours.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, Sir, I once again wish to congratulate the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition for another Session. I think now that he can probably go down as the father of Parliament, we would like to treat him that way, Sir, we want to respect him, we want to put you on a political pedestal, on a parliamentary pedestal. Let us treat you like we treated Sir Grantley not as you treated Sir Grantley. We want to treat him with respect. (ASIDES) I am saying that I am going to try to put him on a pedestal. In the meantime conduct yourself in the manner of the father of parliament. There is no longer Reynold Weekes now. You are the senior parliamentarian. Let us respect you at all levels. Keep your punches up and we will keep ours up.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much and to all Honourable Members, I wish you a very successful, happy and hard working Session in this august Assembly. 2.00 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: It is now two minutes after two o'clock. I know we all had a very hard day with formalities etc. I am going to relieve the House until Tuesday the 8th of September, 1981 at 12 noon.

I beg to move your Summer Recess so that you can go abroad and lecture at the University and the Leader of the Opposition can go and get his batteries recharged.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Honourable House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 8th of September, 1981 at 12 noon.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.* 2.03 p.m.