THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 16th March, 1981.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.20 a.m., o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, C.B.E., J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Q.C., M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A. (Econ.); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. H. B. ST.JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 10th March, 1981.

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

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

Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:–

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1981.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I am commanded to lay the following:–

Statement showing Money Order transactions through the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administration for the months of August to December 1980.

Statements showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders for the months of August to December 1980.

The Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 1981.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General)(Amendment) Order 1981.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to give notice of the following:–

A Bill to make provision with respect to the constitution, jurisdiction and proceedings of the Supreme Court of Judicature, to make provisions respecting the administration of justice and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to make provisions respecting the giving of effect to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, a Bill to make provision with respect to the constitution, jurisdiction and proceedings of the Supreme Court of Judicature, to make provisions respecting the administration of justice and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, a Bill to make provisions respecting the giving of effect to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences was read a first time.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, news was received lately that a former member of this House, the Hon. E. K. Walcott, Q.C., passed away. I understand that his funeral is today. It is proposed due to the lateness of the notice that in order to give hon. members an opportunity to make a contribution that we fix a specific date for the passage of the usual Resolution by this House and I am proposing tomorrow at 10.30 a.m., to be the appropriate time, subject to Your Honour's approval for tomorrow. It is my understanding, Sir, that the Prime Minister and others will be speaking on this matter.

Mr. JOHNSON entered the Chamber and took his seat.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

APPROPRIATION ACT, 1981

Order No. 1 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending the 31st March, 1982.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure are now once again before the House and as usual they show the explanation in both Revenue and Expenditure.

In the Financial Year to come, Revenue is estimated to be $483.7 million as compared to the best Estimate for Revenue of the Current Year of $447.8 million and the Expenditure is now estimated, Sir, and this is a correction to the figure printed on the cover of the Draft Estimates to be $469,239,861. It will be observed, Mr. Speaker, that for only the third time in the last 20 years we are budgeting for a modest surplus of $14½ million. Capital Expenditure, Sir, is now estimated at $200,205,550 which is also a correction on the figures of the printed estimates.
10.30 a.m.

Last year's actual figures Sir to bring the figures set out in the Estimates up-to-date are as follows:- Revenue to the end of February is $387.479 million and estimated Revenue for the month of March is $60.394 million making a total of $447.873 million. Expenditure to the end of February was $375,000,103.00 and expenditure during March is expected to be $47,000,384.00 giving a total expenditure of $422 000 487. So that, despite the most generous salary settlements ever awarded to public officers, it appears that there will be a surplus of just over $25,000,000 on Current Account during the Current Financial Year. This will go towards the largest Capital Expenditure ever known in Barbados of almost $121 000 000 during the Current Financial Year.

The Capital Expenditure to the end of February was $96 000 000 and during March is expected to be just under $25 000 000.

We therefore have a picture Sir, where satisfactory economic activity during the Current Financial Year has enabled the Government to meet the legitimate demands of public services, as well as, the general service of the country without excessive recourse to money creation, or unreasonable amounts of borrowing. The overall Fiscal Deficit of just over $95 000 000 is not an unreasonable percentage of the estimated GDP during the Financial Year. I cannot give you the actual figures of the GDP during the Financial Year, Sir because they are normally calculated on a basis of Calendar Years, but during the Financial Year, it is estimated at $1.45 billion and the overall Fiscal Deficit of approximately six and a half percent is an extremely reasonable amount for a developing country engaged in building up its productive resources, at the same time as creating a sufficiency of social welfare for its inhabitants.

The Revenue for last year Sir was up by approximately 25%, so was Expenditure and approximately 15% of that increase in Expenditure was accounted for by salaries. The remainder being attributable to improvement of services and to inflation. In case Honourable Members have not seen the figures, the calculations for inflation in the past year show a point to point on an annual average increase of just over 14%, two points difference between the two figures. It is customary at Estimates time, Sir to avoid giving details of economic activity, which most properly belong to the Budget and I will not therefore give any further summing up of the state of the economy, than may appear from the figures.

It is, however customary, on moving the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to draw the attention of Honourable Members to particular programmes of the Government, which are to be financed out of the sums of money being appropriated. In terms of Current Revenue, Sir, there are very few new programmes, other than those relating to the National Health Service, which will appear both on the Current and the Capital side. No appropriations have been made for certain promised increases in certain Welfare benefits Sir because at this stage, the legal framework to support those increases does not exist. They will be dealt with fully in the Budget in a few weeks' time.

In terms of the Capital projects and the figure of $200 000 000 Sir by far, the most substantial Capital Appropriation ever undertaken in the country I will draw Honourable Members' attention to the appropriations for the Ministries of Finance, Education, Health, Housing, Trade and Industry, Tourism, Communications and Works, Agriculture, Labour and Welfare. The Capital Appropriation for the Ministry of Finance is quite substantial because it is from the Ministry of Finance and Planning that the schemes which later find their way into other Ministries' expenditures first emerge. It will be found, that in Head 73, we are appropriating some $2.2 million for contributions to national development and financial institutions. These relate to the World Bank and the IMF. The IADB, IMF, World Bank and CDB will also Sir, during the year be undertaking our first projects, it is expected with the National Finance Corporation. We are also Sir augmenting the resources of the Barbados Development Bank this year and making a contribution to the Barbados National Bank to be used for lending in the agricultural sector. This is the first phase of our programme of productive distribution of the sugar levy. The whole amounts involved between the BDB and the BNB is $3.2 million. The Government is making very substantial investments during the forthcoming year.

An amount of $20 million in round figures is being appropriated to provide for contributions to the establishment of the Cement Plant, as well as, to contributions to Barbados Feeds, the Caribbean Food Crop Corporation, the West Indies Shipping Corporation and the new projects which we regard as very important, in the light of the importance of chicken farming in this country, a project to produce broiler chicken feed locally. There is also an egg project on the card, Sir, which we hope will take away from chicken so much of what makes it really a screw driver industry. We have produced chicken locally Sir, from imported eggs using imported feed and the imported petroleum to provide electricity for broiler farms. We are trying to produce more of the local components. We are also appropriating over $2½ million for new funds for feasibility study and research and development projects.

10.40 a.m.

Last year's appropriation was a million, but there are a number of very substantial alternative energy projects being developed between this year and 1985 which will require early feasibility studies. The chief of these projects which we are investigating, Sir, will be a wave power project on the East Coast of Barbados, chief in the sense of likely to be the most expensive. This will be a very, very substantial project indeed and will involve feasibility studies of at least three years. The study of wave strengths alone will take at least a year, so we have to put installations into the sea some considerable distance offshore to measure the force of the waves. We have already done a pre-feasibility study for it. It will involve creating a lagoon. What we are investigating is the creation of a lagoon some square miles in area for the generation of electricity and at the same time we are hoping to combine it with a fisheries project and a tourism component as well. This is a very large and major matter which will require the expenditure I estimate at some millions of dollars before we can reach construction stage.

The other alternative energy projects whose lines have already been settled with international agencies involve the use of wind generators for electric power in remote parts of Barbados, because I understand that modern efficient windmills are very very noisy. They will be remote from Bridgetown, I am not so sure, Sir, that they will be remote from Boscobelle. As well as other projects, we have already seen some publicity given to the bagasse and the use of bagasse to contribute some electricity during the crop season into the national grid, and there are a number of alternative energy projects which the Ministry of Finance will be undertaking, a general programme of alternative energy.

At the Ministry of Education, Sir, there is an appropriation of $36 million for Capital Works. The most spectacular of these, although not the most expensive, and the most proximate in time are Capital Works relating to CARIFESTA which is due to take place in Barbados in the month of July. CARIFESTA will attract thousands of participants, as well, we believe, as many thousands of spectators, and four theatres are being upgraded in Barbados for the purpose of CARIFESTA, but they will remain as permanent fixtures to enrich our cultural life long after CARIFESTA is over.

The two theatres in Queen's Park are being rebuilt to serve different functions, the theatre at Combermere is being upgraded, and there will be a very substantial upgrading of the Empire Theatre for use during CARIFESTA and for use subsequent to CARIFESTA. The CARIFESTA Village is being centred around Holetown and a good deal of work will be done at Ellerslie Secondary School and Trents Secondary School where both residential and recreational accommodation is being provided for CARIFESTA. This accommodation will of course remain subsequent to CARIFESTA and make those two schools models among the newer secondary schools for permanent facilities.

Very substantial permanent facilities are also being built at West Terrace by the Ministry of Education and Culture, and these will in due course be handed over to the Ministry of Housing. The housing development at West Terrace of course forms a very significant part of the Ministry of Housing's housing plans for the forthcoming year, and it is very gratifying to know that when the first houses are completed at West Terrace they will already have their infrastructure, their community centre, their cultural centre, their supermarkets, banks Post Office buildings and so on, because these will be constructed to assist with CARIFESTA but will then be converted for their permanent use as a part of the West Terrace Development.

There will also, Sir, be a cultural centre in Church Village, St. Michael. Work is due to be started very soon to get rehearsal rooms and studios ready in time for CARIFESTA, but it can be anticipated that the next major Capital Works being carried out by the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Education and Culture will be the completion of the cultural centre in Church Village. This will rise coincidentally with the Central Bank headquarters and will embrace plazas, theatres, exhibition rooms and physical facilities for rehearsal and so on for persons using the theatre and the auditorium in Church Village as well as the theatre in Queen's Park.

On the education side, the World Bank Schools Programme is continuing and there are one or two unexpected expenditures, such as the rebuilding of the Christ Church Boys' School to replace that which was recently burnt down at Water Street is anticipated during the coming year. Many primary schools are of course already rising, Sir, for example, Eden Lodge, Grace Hill, and work will start during the financial year on a number of others, especially the new schools in St. George which will combine the old St. George Boys' and Girls' Schools.

I turn next, Sir, to the Ministry of Health. $26.2 million in Capital Works has been appropriated for the Ministry of Health. The works almost exclusively will consist of the construction or reconstruction of the polyclinics needed to provide the physical framework for the National Health Service. These are the polyclinics at Wildey, Warrens, Oistins, Ladymeade and the Glebe, St. George. Some of these, indeed, Sir, are very near completion, and others will be completed within a few months.

As deserves to be more widely known, an essential part of the National Health Service will be the provision by the Government of surgery accommodation for private doctors so that they will have adequate facilities in which to see their patients. This refers, of course, Sir, to private doctors who join the National Health Service. We know that already there are a number of doctors who have newly entered general practice who are awaiting the completion of these facilities in order to join the service, and phase one of the service will take another step forward on April 15, 1981 when a special benefit service on the drug side will start.

As from that date, Sir, all persons in Barbados over the age of 65 will receive all drugs that are prescribed for them free. Children under six from that date, and patients suffering chronic ailments which require continual treatment with drugs will receive drugs on a 50% basis. The Government will pay half the bill for those drugs. Chronic ailments which will be covered from April 15 will be diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer which are by far and away the three principal ailments for which continual care with drugs is required in Barbados.
10.50 a.m.

There have been substantial capital appropriations for the drug scheme. This year and next year of course appropriations will be both current and capital.

The capital grant of the National Housing Corporation is of course for the capital works which that Corporation will do in the forthcoming year. During the year housing estate will be completed, continued or started in the Ivy, St. Michael, Lammings, St. Joseph, Bonnetts in St. Michael and Christ Church, West Terrace in St. James and Maynards in the parish of St. Peter. A number of other projects will also be worked on during the year. In addition to the St. Cecelia housing project which is due to be completed swimming pool and all during this financial year, a major rehousing project will be undertaken in the City of Bridgetown. Surveyors are already at work on this project. The areas on which the Corporation will concentrate are Greenfields and Nelson Street, and it is planned as far as possible to rehouse those now living in substandard accommodation in those areas within the City or the central part of the urban St. Michael. There is also a project for new housing at Duncans in St. Philip which is at present on the drawing board for the financial year 1981–82.

The Minister of Housing reminds me, Sir, that I had forgotten the housing project at Valerie in Brittons Hill in the parish of St. Michael.

At the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Industrial Development Corporation is being granted very substantial sums for continuing its promotional operations as well as its factory building operations, a sum of $3 million on current account and almost $9 million on capital account. The IDC is rapidly running out of lands on which to put more factories. During the forthcoming year it will fill the remaining lands on the industrial park at Six Cross Roads St. Philip, and the Grantley Adams Industrial park adjacent to the airport. Work will also be done on the forthcoming industrial park, Mr. Speaker, in Speightstown in the parish of St. Peter. At the same time the Corporation is surveying for new lands on which to open industrial enterprises. We have been very fortunate in the past few years in attracting, I can't say many hundreds, but many scores of new manufacturing enterprises into Barbados, and many thousands of jobs have been provided during these years, but people can only work in factories if there is land on which to build factories, and the Industrial Development Corporation is now looking for land in the St. George and St. Michael areas to put further industrial parks.

The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Sir, will be spending over $20 million on capital works during the year. The principal tourism project is that of Speightstown redevelopment into which the Heywoods project is being incorporated. Work will be continuing at Heywoods during the year and the tourism infrastructure and the road network infrastructure is also being carried over during this year. Work should start very shortly on phase one of the Speightstown bypass although phase two was built first.

The Ministry of Communications and Works: the principal capital activities during the year will be road projects. The Estimates show the details, but I would particularly draw the attention of hon. members to the Spring Garden road phase two which should start during the month of May. The Upton to Haggatt Hall road which will be phase one of the Wildey to Warrens ring road around the city should also start during May. The other details are shown, but I would indicate to hon. members that we are planning for phase one of the expected extension of the East Coast Road during the forthcoming financial year; the portion between Consett Bay and Martins Bay has been identified as the start up point. The Ministry of Communications and Works will also be carrying out extensive expansions and improvements to tenantry roads particularly in the plantation tenantries following the coming into force of the Plantation Tenantries Act. The Government regards it as an essential part of improving the welfare of rural tenants that they should not only be given titles to their lands and provided with loans with which to build permanent structures on the newly acquired land, but they should be provided with as complete access to their lands as anybody in St. Michael. I hear the hon. member for St. James saying that you must make every plantation tenantry as pretty as Belleville, and it is the intention of the Government to turn the whole island into a series of model housing developments, housing as we have said on repeated occasions being the only aspect of Barbados' infrastructure for which we now have to feel concern.

In Agriculture $18 million has been appropriated for capital works. The Barbados Marketing Corporation's complex at Lower Estate should come on stream next year along with a poultry processing project which after considerable thought has now been decided on by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Government.

We are in the first stages of a major fisheries project also under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Oistins project is a highly visible one and most people will be familiar with its purpose, which is to improve the shore facilities for the principal of our fishing fleets which is based at Oistins. We have commissioned a general fisheries study

and have now received its results and are translating those results into particular projects. A major fishing harbour is planned for Bridgetown. This has already been mentioned in here, but work will probably start in 1982. This will be off Hincks Street and to the north of the careenage and will be linked in with the careenage and with commercial redevelopment in Hincks Street where the Barbados Development Bank will be putting up a substantial office building using the shell of the old Marshall Hall building as well as building another structure on Government land adjacent to the sea. All of this will represent a substantial redevelopment of the northern part of the City of Bridgetown and will contain a fisheries component which will allow for fish landing on a customs built area close to the fish market and which will obviate the necessity for fishing boats to land at the Carlisle Square, I believe it is called, adjacent to the commercial part of Bridgetown.
11.00 a.m.

It is anticipated that facilities very similar to those provided at Oistins will be provided in the new harbour. There will also be a fishing harbour at Speightstown similar to the Oistin's Project which is all part of the Speightstown Development Plan and we are planning also, Sir, for another fishing harbour at Tent Bay, Bathsheba, in St. Joseph where we are planning sheltered facilities and alongside off-loading for the East Coast fishing fleet.

We are also planning another major transformation of the fishing fleets in Barbados. In 1951, as you will remember, Mr. Speaker, our system of fishing was totally transformed when the Government set aside large sums of money to provide motors for the then sail-driven fishing fleets.

In a matter of five years Barbados acquired the most modern fishing fleet in the Eastern Caribbean which it is true to say we still have including even the fishing fleets of the French Islands but 25 or 30 years is a long time and it is doubtful whether the vessel which was modernised in 1951 have much more of a useful life either physical or in type. A new type of fishing vessel is required and we are receiving technical advice on vessels which can be built in Barbados and which can replace the existing fishing launches and which can be geared for the new facilities we are providing.

We therefore anticipate that once the prototype is made attractive to fishermen that many millions of dollars will be required for we are thinking in terms of vessels which I am told cost $30,000 to $40,000 each. Many millions of dollars will be required to permit fishermen to replace their existing launches with new vessels.

This Fishing Project originally came to us in the form of a 10-year Project. Our political party, Sir, has been bitten in the past with 10-year Fishing Projects because the lead time is a little too long. People cannot really envisage the transformation of the fishing system over a period of 10 years. We are therefore planning to accelerate it and compress it into a five year period even though this may mean greater expenditures and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries would be working on this during the forth-coming year.

The East Coast lagoon which I spoke of earlier, Sir, also has quite extensive and tremendous possibilities for fishing. Indeed I think that when the full scale feasibility study is carried out it may be found that the lagoon is justifiable not only in terms of power generation but it may be justifiable in terms of its output of fish by itself.

We have been given three options – stocking it with fin fish of a type already found on the East Coast, farming it in a less intensive way as is done in some countries but sufficiently intensive to produce as much fish as all our fishing boats now catch in Barbados and farming it even more intensively using cage techniques and fishing techniques which will produce something like 12,500 tons of fish annually which is 50% more than we now eat. All of these things, Sir, are in the future but I mention them to indicate the lines along which the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are now working. A Feasibility Study as to the wisest course of the three will be carried out.

I can safely say that if the money which was devoted to International Seafoods and friends of the hon. members opposite had been devoted indeed to major fish farming schemes on the East Coast, Barbadians would not have a lot of useless Shrimp boats knocking about in Carlisle Bay waiting to be damaged by every puff of wind or raise of the sea or waiting to drain the taxpayers' pockets even more vividly every time they put out to sea purporting to catch fish.

The Ministry of Labour and Community Development and the Ministry of Welfare also have a number of capital projects coming on stream during the year. A number of pavilions have been built and hard courts laid down. Community Centres will be built during the forthcoming year at Blenheim in St. Michael and at

Beachmont Hill at Bathsheba in St. Joseph. The Community Centre long planned for Murphy Pasture in the City should see the first phase before the end of this year.

Those, Sir, are the purposes for which our money is due to be spent in the forth-coming year.

As usual in Current Expenditure Education has taken the lion's share of $101 million. The first time we will be spending as much as $100 million on Education. I am yet to find a developing country whose educational system is comparable to ours and I wonder how many developed countries have educational systems comparable to our system in Barbados.

The Ministry of Health will be spending approximately $52 million excluding the Sanitation Service and National Insurance, that is the Ministry of Health proper. Social Security and Welfare for those who say that this Government is concentrating on economic activity rather than welfare will be spending $54 million even without pension increases which may confidently be anticipated during the next Budget and that, of course, does not include the Social Security benefits being obtained under the National Insurance Schemes.

Economic services will receive $41.6 million in Current Expenditure. This is Trade, Industry and Commerce, Agriculture, Water, Roads, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Lands and so on, Sir. Housing and Community amenities will receive $20 million of Current Expenditure. That is in addition to the $12 million in Capital Expenditure. Defence and Security $10 million and the General Public Services which will of course include the Police as well as the Ministry of Finance, External Affairs, and administering the Civil Service generally will receive $116 million. That is somewhat of a portmanteau Head.

I would point out to hon. members who speak about the cost of Defence and Security and indeed by extension presumably the cost of the Police since abuse of the Police is seldom absent from the platforms of the Opposition Party.....
11.10 a.m.

Ten million dollars for Defence and Security. (ASIDE: Seven last week). I cannot put my hands on Police, but I think that it is $11 million, Sir, a very, very small proportion indeed of total expenditure. The total for the Police Sir including the Regional Police Training Centre and the Police Band, the total for the Police, the Current is $13 million. These are very small amounts. There are not many countries in the world where more is spent on Agriculture, than on the Police Forces and the Forces of Security, not many countries. Barbados is happy to be one of them. There are not many countries where we are sufficiently specific to be able to spend ten times as much on Education, as we have to spend on Security Forces.

I therefore think, Sir, that I can safely commend the Estimates to hon. members. I can safely commend the distribution of Expenditure between the different Heads and to the country. As usual, Sir, you may find some difficulty in spending the whole Capital Appropriation. We expect to spend more than $120 million in the forthcoming year. I do not believe that we would spend $200 million. Nonetheless, Sir, the vote is there, so that hon. members may see the lines along which we are approaching the task of taking Barbados into another five years of prosperity, economic expansion and social welfare, under the Barbados Labour Party.

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

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Dr. HAYNES stood.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member rise to second the Bill?

Dr. HAYNES: I thought that I had heard someone second it.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is the third occasion on which I have heard the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas introduce the Estimates in this Honourable Chamber. All the ebullience of previous occasions seems to have disappeared. Indeed, the usual analysis of the significance of the Estimates, in the context of the economic performance of this country and of this Administration has been entirely lacking.

We have had, Mr. Speaker, a correction on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, both in the Current and Capital areas of Expenditure and then, the trotting out of selective projects which constitute the presentation by the Rt. Hon. Member, and indeed, Sir, there is just reason why we can understand why there has been that lack of the usual flavour of enthusiasm in his speech. It is because, Mr. Speaker, when one looks closely at these Estimates in relation to the overall economic performance of the Administration, one recognises that there are serious and very tragic problems associated with the economic situation in Barbados.

These Estimates, Mr. Speaker, are substantially a reflection of anticipated, rampant inflation, excessive borrowing, increases on a massive scale in the areas of revenue generation by the process of Indirect Taxation, temporary pre-election, possible reductions in Direct Taxation, or Income Tax. In other words, a progressive

decline in the social services, except some increase of expenditure in those areas which might have some immediate political impact in an Election Year and in some areas Sir, a definite mal-allocation of our resources both in the area of Current and in Capital Expenditure.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one hears, from time to time, all sorts of strange references in relation, or strange landmarks, by which one would wish to judge the extent of deficits, the extent of National Debt, the extent of Debt Service. From time to time, we hear relationships to GDP, from time to time, we hear relationships to our exports depending on what is more convenient at the particular time. But, Mr. Speaker, we are heading for a serious crisis in this country. The Barbados economy is in a crisis situation and is moving into an even greater crisis, as reflected in these Estimates here.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the total Deficit on Current and Capital Accounts this year, when the corrected figure is given is somewhere in the region of $95 million in one year. Mr. Speaker, what do we see? A corrected estimated surplus of some $16 million and a position of an estimated corrected figure for Capital Expenditure of some $200 million. It shows as $199 million here in the Estimates. The Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas said that it is more in the region of $200 million. How Sir, do we propose to finance that deficit?

If you were to look at the Estimates, you will see that the total amount, minus the Current Account Surplus of $14 million is to be financed largely from borrowings and those borrowings, Mr. Speaker, are largely borrowings in terms of external debt apart from $50 million to be raised by Debentures and a vague figure of $30 million to be raised, one does not know whether local, or external.
11.20 a.m.

Barbados, I think, has now reached the crossroads in relation to its capacity to borrow, because when you find that within a period of four years the National Debt of this country has more than doubled, and even more important, Mr. Speaker, the external component of that National Debt has more than trebled, and now you have Estimates before you with a clear indication that there will be further massive increases in the external component of that debt, then I think this economy is heading for trouble; or alternatively these Estimates do not reflect the type of economic activity which we can reasonably expect to see in Barbados over the next year.

Barbados unfortunately has found itself in a situation where the contribution from current revenue to capital development is decreasing rapidly from year to year, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, it must be a matter of concern when one reflects on the tremendous infrastructural and superstructural development which took place in Barbados during the period 1961 to 1976, or if you wish to go back, 1951 to 1976, yet with a significantly low National Debt and particularly a significantly low foreign component of that National Debt, then one can only come to the conclusion that Barbadians were able not only to meet the demands of current expenditure but also to contribute substantially to the capital development of this country, and hence there was no rapid or significant escalation of the public debt of Barbados.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are running into even further trouble, because it is my feeling that when you have a situation where an election has by law to take place within an eight to nine month period, then I doubt very much whether any administration has the moral authority to commit any other administration to this kind of public debt, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, I think that things have reached a stage in the economic management of this country where you can no longer talk yourself out of trouble, you can no longer continue to use the blandishments of the tongue, because sooner or later the chickens must come to roost and therefore we have in this year, despite all the efforts to try to indicate that this is not the case, by avoiding any discussion on this aspect of the Estimates, it is perfectly clear that this Government should not be committing this country to this kind of economic programme in the absence of a very early election to give whoever should win that election an opportunity, and enough opportunity, to set about planning the future of this country starting with the next financial year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on the revenue side there are some very interesting things revealed by these Estimates which are of concern. If you were to look, Sir, at the expected growth in the area of corporation tax and you were to extrapolate that backwards to the period 1975–76, I believe that corporation tax is Barbados is a reasonable indicator, one of the reasonable indicators of growth and economic activity. You will see that that growth has been relatively stagnant compared with other areas of revenue generation on a comparative basis. If you were to look, Sir, at income tax you will see that that has increased considerably, which tends to give the lie – it is not only a matter of increasing incomes – it tends to give the lie to any suggestion that there have been these massive increases in the alleviation of income tax over the years. I think when it comes it will come this year, because I see here a projection only of an increase of $12 million, and when you take into account the level of increases in salaries which took place last year, I think that you will probably be anticipating somewhere in the region of $30 million in income tax relief this year for election purposes.

Mr. Speaker, these Estimates do not seek nor do they reflect in terms of Government revenues any signifi-

cant element of growth, they seem to me more to reflect the consequences of inflation both in terms of income generation for Government and in terms of expenditures by Government. Additionally, Sir, they do not tackle the basic problems of the depletion of capital in the private sector in a mixed economy, because what we are seeing here as representing growth is nothing more than the natural increases from inflation and the increases consequential on transfers from the private to the public purse. There is nothing here to suggest that there has been any substantial growth anticipated in the economy of this country, and indeed I am not at all surprised at two recent statements by the hon. member for St. Thomas who seems to recognise at last that he cannot continue borrowing money left, right and centre and not run into trouble in due course. That was in that now infamous broadcast on New Year's Day when about the only sensible and absolutely correct thing that was said was that Barbados will have to rely largely on its own resources for future capital development, and the second point that he made today was a clear indication that he has no intention of spending the $200 million, which he cannot spend anyhow because of the maladministration of the capital projects programme of this country, allowing everything to come together at the last minute, creating a false impression of extensive economic activity only generating further inflationary pressures within the community and contributing considerably to wastage.

Its postponement, Sir, has had an even great effect in terms of the cost of those projects. The Heywoods project is an excellent example among other projects with which we will deal later in this week.

Now, Mr. Speaker, so much for the question of inflation and transfers, revenue and expenditure as distinct from a reflection of growth, and I am not surprised that the hon. member for St. Thomas completely evaded the economic significance. He just trotted out the figures and then proceeded to select certain projects because he knows perfectly well that he could not enter into this area without revealing to the people of Barbados the kind of economic crisis that this country is running into, safely wrapped into the debt trap, thanks to the hon. member for St. Thomas and his distinguished colleague who normally sits on his right side, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central.

11.30 a.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you were to look at Government's expenditures over the last four years and you were to analyse very carefully as I have done the kind of output in relation to the kind of expenditures committed, particularly bearing in mind that the Government is the biggest single area of business in this country, either there has been extreme wastage, and I do not think that there has been that much in the area of current revenue and expenditure management, I think there have been significant cut back in that area, nevertheless we will see that this country has been experiencing a persistent rate of inflation of over 20% per annum despite the kind of bogus figures put out by this administration, and in particular despite the most recent attempts to splice the cost of living indices in a manner that is not acceptable to any economist in Barbados or the Central Bank to the extent that they would not commit themselves as to what the true rate of inflation is in given circumstances.

At long last, Mr. Speaker, we see that the employers' levy has disappeared. It was a stupid tax in the beginning and it turned out to be a stupid tax in the end. Mr. Speaker, when you analyse the other components on the revenue side of the Estimates, you would find that under each heading, whether it be taxes on goods and services, whether it be taxes on property or in any area of revenue that you are dealing with precisely the same thing, transfers to Government consequential on inflation, and not transfers consequential on true and effective growth within the society.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to look at what the Government proposes to do and select certain areas of great concern, what they elect to do with this money which is being garnished in this manner against this kind of gloomy economic background and how they propose to deal with the expenditure area. I want to take the current account section first. Despite specific pledges to this country to the contrary, they are now in a situation where they are spending over 250% more on Parliament itself than the previous administration. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is okay to say this is a drop in the ocean. Everything is a drop in the ocean; $24 million in the Defence Force, $10 million on current account, $14 million on capital expenditure, then you are spending only $25 million on pensions, you can always say this is a drop in the ocean, and that is a drop in the ocean, but the fact of concern to me is that these drops in the ocean happens to consist of holes in the pockets of poor people in this country. Every drop in the ocean for them is a hole in the pocket of the taxpayers of Barbados, and I think that kind of expenditure I will consider a misallocation of public funds in a situation of this kind of gloomy economic situation which I have described.

In the area of Defence and Security, Mr. Speaker, I was shocked when I could hear the Hon. Minister of Finance say that $10 million is not here or there or words to that effect. I was equally shocked earlier in the year when I heard that we had been borrowing some $14 million for the Barbados Defence Force. Now we are spending, Mr. Speaker, $24 million this year on Defence and Security. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, what $10 million more would do for housing, what $10 million more would do for pensions in this country, what $10 million more can do for education, health, the roads in Barbados and other social services that are being slowly

ground into the ground? Mr. Speaker, I consider it unjust and a complete distortion of the priorities of this country, and once you get established a situation like this where Defence and Security is occupying a greater and greater percentage of your current and capital account from year to year, it will be a built in part of the expenditure of this country and extremely difficult to reverse, and the same situation in which the hon. member adverted to when he said that we are a pacific country and therefore we spend a very small proportion of our money on defence and security, you might well be creating a situation where you find yourself in the situation of other developing countries where you have to spend increasing percentages of the limited funds available on useless defence forces.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I go on to the next area where these Estimates do not take into account the impact which inflation has been having on the people on fixed incomes, particularly pensioners in Barbados, and it grieves me considerably when I see the kind of situation in which Government pensioners, people in the middle and upper ranks of the Civil Service, have to live, and I would be much happier voting $10 million under pensions in Barbados than voting $10 million for any Defence Force. They are people who have contributed and indeed, Mr. Speaker, I am engaged in a debate in this Honourable Chamber.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to hear the hon. member any further on the Defence Force. I warn you. The occasion fully presents itself for a debate on the Defence Force in detail.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with the generality of comparisons. I am not attempting to go into the Defence Force in any detail.

Mr. SPEAKER: You go ahead.

Dr. HAYNES: Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, the whole concept of pensions, a review against a background of the age structure of our society, a background of the predictable size of population which would carry the productive loan in Barbados as opposed to the dependent sector of the population, even if it calls for readjustments in certain attitudes towards retirement and so on, I think it is the duty of the Government to ensure that those who have served in the past when they reach retirement age should be protected more efficiently from the ravages of inflation which they clearly have no intention to seek to control.

Inflation, Mr. Speaker, is another area not adverted to by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. When a society is buffeted by the kind of social and economic storms which prevail in Barbados and the Caribbean today, the organs of information particularly those which are Government controlled and those for which we vote in here considerable amounts of money from year to year, must carry out your functions in a responsible and constructive manner. Most of us are deeply saddened by the goings on in the Ministry of Information and I think that affairs at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation have reached such a disastrous state that I must call on the floor of this House for an immediate public enquiry into that Statutory Board. There has been too much victimisation; there has been too much interference in the dissemination of information in this country; there has been too much indirect interference by members of Government with those people who are supposed to present a balanced picture of information to the country as a whole.

11.40 a.m.

There has been too great a shift of that Organisation from an organ of information to an organ of propaganda, Mr. Speaker, and I think the staff of that Organisation now live in a state of terror not only in relation to their jobs but when you speak to them or you see them along the streets they will hardly say "hello" to you and they will call you and tell you why they would not say "hello" to you.

Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of this Opposition, Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, interested in the development of orderly services of information in Barbados, I am calling for an immediate public enquiry in the sad state of affairs at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I was pleased and will be very happy, Mr. Speaker, to vote for the monies allocated to the Director of Public Prosecutions who has managed to retain his integrity in very difficult circumstances and despite all sorts of pressures.

I regret, Mr. Speaker, that there has not been a greater allocation of funds to the Royal Barbados Police Force in this country, people who have tried under great circumstances and under grave circumstances who have done a tremendous job for this country over the years and you can find $10 million to spend on a Defence Force and $8 million on the Barbados Police who are responsible for the care of the citizens in this country on a 24-hour day basis, year in and year out.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is what I regard as a misallocation of public funds and we will certainly not take this particular opportunity but the opportunity later on to get into that in a more fundamental way because, Mr. Speaker, the generality of that statement is very relevant to any discussion on the Estimates because our economy is one that any pattern such as increases in crime, increases in the dissemination of drugs and addiction, increases in any area of undesirable activity can have serious economic repercussions and therefore it is a

legitimate time for me to say so in respect of the 1981/82 Estimates of Barbados.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when one looks at the Capital Expenditure, when I was a young man, Mr. Speaker, steeped in the classics, my friends used to call me "Pliny" and the reason why they called me "Pliny" was not only because of the delicacy of the use of words but also because they detected a sense of probity and a sense of pudor, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that sense of pudor seems to have somehow reached across for a change to the other side because, Mr. Speaker, I have heard the hon. member for St. Thomas go into a recitation of the capital projects undertaken by his administration and no one would believe that he had not mentioned a single project which was not conceptualised, started, or partially financed, by those people whom he said had run out of ideas before he came into office.

Now, not only have they run out of ideas – I see the hon. member for Christ Church South Central making a note – but he has gone so far and said that when he came into office he searched in the cupboards, he searched under the bed, he searched all over the place to find the documents about the Oistin's Project and the only reason he did not find them was because he did not look on his desk where they were. He would have found them there but not a single project, Mr. Speaker, could he identify as their project.

Fish farming, but fish farming has been going on in Barbados. You remember the days when there were ponds? Do you know those ponds, a very low Capital Expenditure? You do not have to commit millions of dollars to buildings. You do not have to commit millions of dollars to an energy linking lagoon generating project on the East Coast in order, Mr. Speaker, to have fish farming that can be done elsewhere in Barbados with a considerably lower capital input so that kind of suggestion would seem to me as a pre-election suggestion of the same status as a Tale of Two Cities.

Now I spoke of pudor, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member was very careful to avoid mentioning certain projects. He could not avoid mentioning the Oistin's Project but, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the highlights of Capital Expenditure, the Ministry of Finance, I guess they were adequately explained. I have no quarrel with any of the projects they identified although it would be very interesting to know what particular project in Barbados the IFC will be participating in during this year.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, the Barbados Marketing Corporation – the only difference there, Mr. Speaker, is that it would cost twice as much in five years and the BMC is in such a run-down state that it is going to be very, very difficult for a new administration to get that functioning to perform the task that it is to perform that is to assist in price liberalisation and to stimulate agricultural development as a primary function rather than running around as a super super-market operator. However, the hon. member for St. Michael West will be kept very busy faced with a spate like fires. "Gets your helmets". I understand, Sir, the hon. member is approaching the cricketers to find out whether or not there can be some protection for his baldness in case they should leave some of their helmets behind.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, Consumption and Industrial Estates, nothing new about that but I thought you would have had enough money judging by the amount of money, the loan we guaranteed last year for continuing the building of Industrial Estates. I do not know whether this $8 million referred to that money or whether it referred to the new money. All I can say is that if you get people to rent factory space on an economic basis on the terms of that particular loan up in the North with transport costs then I would say you would be very lucky indeed to find any tenants for that particular project.

The Ministry of Communications and Works, the Bridgetown Sewerage Plant, the General Post Office, the Transport Board to buy new buses, absolutely nothing new. The Ministry of Education and Culture, I do not deal with that area. The Ministry of Health and National Insurance their continuation with the building of Polyclinics.

11.50 a.m.

Change of name from multi purpose clinics to polyclinics. A National Health and Drug Service, a big lot of song and dance, Mr. Speaker about a Drug Plan. If you were to look at the 1976 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party, you will see that we said, at that time, Mr. Speaker, that Barbados needed to target in on those people who because of their circumstances are more exposed to the problems associated with the high cost of health. We particularly identified the aged, we identified the chronically ill, we identified children, but we have had all sorts of experts come in here, draft useless documents and it is only largely due to the inputs by certain organisations in Barbados that they have now come back to the original plan and indeed, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the question of a National Health Service to start off with, Capital Expenditure is involved here for the National Health Service and I want to speak on the generality here.

Barbados had a free National Health Service only under slavery. A bit of the history of the health service in Barbados is very relevant. After slavery, Barbados developed along two lines, a mixed health service, the

vast majority of which has always been public, with a very small sector that has been private. The public service has always been available to all Barbadian citizens, unless they opted for a private service. In fact, Barbados has gone further than almost any country in the world not only to make that public service available over the years to Barbadians, but anyone falling ill in Barbados, irrespective of their nationality, unless they opted for a different service. Barbados has always had a National Health Service and an element of private sector.

If you were to look at the bed utilisation in Barbados over the last 20 years, under the Barbados Labour Party regime, under the Democratic Labour Party regime, under this regime, Mr. Speaker, less than five percent of all hospitalisations in this country, even if you were to exclude the Psychiatric Hospital was paid for by nobody other than taxpayers of Barbados. When you get into the area of primary care, the only area in Barbados that has not been Government and paid for by the taxpayers were the few GP's around the place and a few private specialists.

So that, the vast majority of health care in Barbados has always come directly from the public purse and it is quite misleading to jack up people's national insurance, to start off by increasing the prices of hospital beds. To go back within a month on the promise that you made to the electorate to introduce a completely free, National Health Service to tell them that nothing is free and now talking after five years, you come in with one about the health service, particularly at the end of the life of an administration and the reason is simple.

All you had to do is to do what the Democratic Labour Party has been doing, that is continue building the polyclinics without any big song and dance. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I even have some reservation, whether in a period of tremendous inflation, bearing the geographical size of Barbados and particularly, in relation to the distribution of population and to the distribution of our transport system, whether or not we should be borrowing more for the purpose of super structural development of that kind, although it is health. It is not necessarily infrastructural like, for example, the extension of a wing to a school is not the same thing as say, buying machinery for a factory, or something like that. But, it is an area for discussion, the kind of thing I would want to look at very closely indeed, so let us kill once and for all the idea, that you had any opportunity of introducing anything in Barbados, other than effecting five percent secondary care and a very limited section of primary care.

The only people whom you could have brought within that public network would have been those specialists like myself in private whom you excluded. This is the tragedy of the whole thing, the way in which the proposals for the National Health Service is set up, that people like myself would be excluded from the National Health Service, yet, they will come in here and say, that I did not join the Health Service, when there is a specific exclusion for specialists in private practice, if my recollection of the documents I have seen is correct, as far as, I can recall. So, all of this business of a National Health Service and Drug Service is just a whole lot of window dressing and nothing more than that.

What you should have done long ago is to make available or have more drugs available for the people of Barbados to try and avoid the kind of chronic shortages (ASIDES) ...which are now not only in the public sector, but for the first time, Mr. Speaker, in the private sector in Barbados. There are serious shortages of drugs, there is a serious compromise, Mr. Speaker of patient care. Once upon a time, when you could not get a tablet in a Government institution, almost invariably, you could get it in a private institution. What they do not understand is that every industry functions as an integrated whole and when you interfere with one sector, then the other is automatically affected as well. So much so in relation to Capital Expenditure, Mr. Speaker, in relation to Health.

There are one or two areas that were mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, he talked about ISL. I do not think that it is worthwhile responding to that for the simple reason that if there were not mismanagement of ISL, by this Administration, after Duffus had indicated that the value of the boats was far in excess of any liabilities at the time, when he investigated it and if there were not a bunch of Barbados Labour Party people, who were selling shrimp when they were collected off the shores of Brazil to the Americans and the Brazilians had photographs of the transfers of the shrimp taking place, indeed, the ISL would have been in a lot better state today. That has been the problem and this has been at the roots of your problems to get anything going with the Brazilian Government. The Brazilian Government has no quarrel with Barbados, but they are not prepared to allow any agreements that are made by racketeers within the Barbados Labour Party.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you have indicated that I should not speak any more on Defence and Security and I will bow Sir to your wishes in that matter. The question of energy, Mr. Speaker, I am shocked to hear of the puny, tiny, little sum coming out from the Estimates for funding alternative sources of energy, one of the vital areas in the development of this country over the next ten to twenty years.

I will tell you where the money should be coming from. If Barbadians Mr. Speaker, are being told to make

the kind of sacrifice to supply $93 million under that World Bank Agreement to the shareholders of the Barbados Light and Power in surplus charges over the next five years, whether it goes into the pockets of the shareholders, or it goes to buy equipment owned by the shareholders, it is money being charged all the consumers in Barbados for the purpose of capitalisation of that company. That is where the money should be coming from, in order to finance this kind of development programme. In other words, the Barbados Light and Power Company – and that is why I have called before for a wider spread of public ownership in relation to the Barbados Light and Power Company – should be charged with the responsibility of assisting in the diversification of..... (ASIDES).....
12.00 noon.

We are talking about the energy that you talked about. If you did not talk about it I would not talk about it. Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that the consumers are already making a supreme sacrifice of $93 million over the next five years and now they are being forced to make a further sacrifice in respect of funding this development for the purpose of energy. My feeling is that you need a much better articulated programme in terms of energy development in which electricity forms a part and that the Barbados Light and Power Company should be contributing far more substantially to the development of alternative sources of energy in this country.

CARIFESTA, Sir, falls within the area of the Ministry of Education and I do not deal with that Ministry.

Another area, Mr. Speaker. We hear of the productive distribution of sugar levies. I have seen a document which I consider to be a most revolting document produced by the Cabinet of Barbados where they intend to take up the accumulated funds in the various sugar levies, with the exception of a temporary reprieve, I think it is for the Provident Fund, until such time as that is married in some way with the National Insurance funds, and that those funds would be handed over to a historic capitalist organisation of this country, that the Government is going to take up that money, I think it is $24 million that is now available, out of the Consolidated Fund and immediately to buy shares in a particular company on behalf of small farmers.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: It is not normal to interrupt hon. members in debates such as this, but on a point of order it is grossly untrue and wrong.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what do you rise?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. The hon. member is reflecting on the motives of the entire Cabinet in repeating a number of things which are grossly untrue. First of all that Cabinet produced a document, secondly, that it is proposed to take up money out of the Consolidated Fund and so on. He is untruthfully referring to a document not produced by the Cabinet and untruthfully referring to the contents of any document which can possibly be meant in the circumstances. What he is saying is a lie, Sir. Apart from anything else, he is accusing us of breaking the law. You cannot take money out of the Consolidated Fund without voting it in the Estimates, and it is not in the Estimates. He is accusing us of a criminal act, and me in particular because money can only be removed out of the Consolidated Fund over my signature, and I ask that he withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Firstly, I must ask you not to accuse him of being a liar or of telling a lie. I take it that you mean that he is not a lover of the truth. I much favour this. As I understand it, the documents to which you refer is not a Cabinet document and an objection has been taken upon which I rely and I ask you to withdraw the remarks in reference thereto and to desist from commenting on the document altogether.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the remark, there will be ample opportunity to produce the document later in this debate; I will produce the document. Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, the point is that it has been proposed and has been submitted to at least one organisation in this country who has taken the step of having a proper professional analysis of those proposals done and has sent back their promise on the original proposal to the Cabinet of Barbados, or to the Government of Barbados. Whether it has reached Cabinet yet I do not know, but the proposals have certainly gone to the Government, proposals emanating from some place, duly considered, professionally analysed, counter proposals submitted, and what I am saying is that of the $31 million identified as having accrued under the various sugar levies in Barbados, $24 million or so have been identified as being easily available for distribution. The remaining $7 million has already been paid into the Consolidated Fund in a manner in which it cannot be easily extracted, and therefore it was recommended that attention should be concentrated on the $24 million and that of that $24 million at least $3 million, Mr. Speaker, was identified as the legitimate contribution by small farmers of this country, and that there is a proposal to purchase shares on behalf of the small farmer without consulting them, so that their $3 million would provide working capital for Barbados Sugar Factories Limited, if I must name it, without consulting them. What I am saying is that you have a duty to consult the small farmers and to give a man the option to buy shares if he wants to, and of even greater concern is that the existence of those levies represent a percentage

foregone by the workers in the sugar industry from year to year when they negotiate their wages, and therefore there will be a substantial amount of money buried within those levies apart from the Provident Fund which should be made available to the workers' organisations. When that is done, then you can play with the 1% cess, you can then get down to the business of mechanising people who own a quarter acre of land and that kind of thing, because I believe that you get the ridiculous proposals where a small amount of money is being made available to the ADC in order to assist in the mechanisation of small holdings of land and so on, so I am quite familiar with the document, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to issue a warning that this will be a major political issue, if anyone should put their hands on the money of the workers and the money of the small farmers in Barbados. They can get together with the owners of the large plantations, with those who have shares both ways and do what they like with what is identified as theirs, but as a small farmer I want mine. It is as simple as all that and I do not want anybody to buy any shares on my behalf, take up my $3 million when you already have set the scale to give them another $3 million asking people to participate in your tenantry scheme. All I would ask people is why buy a cow when they can get milk cheaply. It is as simple as all that and people will have to make their options in relation to that.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, I have identified, I think, many areas of great concern which will be the subject of detailed discussion during this Estimates debate. I have sought to point out at the very beginning the justified negligence on the part of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in avoiding any kind of analysis of what the macro figures which he trotted out actually meant. I have identified on behalf of the people of Barbados the serious economic crisis facing this country and into which they are being plunged further by the indiscriminate, I would not like to say irresponsible, borrowings by the present administration. I have drawn to the attention of the country the massive increases in the public debt, particularly in the foreign component of that debt, I have particularly invited them to view with the greatest scepticism the kinds of relationships of the capacity of this economy to bear such debt, whether it is related to figures such as GDP or from time to time when it is more convenient, to export earnings.

12.10 p.m.

Few people will believe, Mr. Speaker, that the debt charges for this year is $60 million, in fact, $60.8 million. Where are we going to get the money from in the future to develop this country? The capacity of this country to borrow is being totally exhausted, and in the absence of a very strong tourist season or some other source of dramatic increase in hard currency earnings, we are going to have even greater problems in this country. We do not have the flexibility that we had some years ago, and I would suggest again this year as I suggested last year that some care should be taken in estimation of public debt. It is a millstone around the neck not only of this administration but any future administration. We have children in this country and it is a burden that we would have to carry forever more, and in a changing world where even matters of trade can dramatically change overnight, you might find yourself having to go through a two or three-year period without any significant or drastic increases in your export earnings when you would really need to cushion those prices by borrowing, but you are borrowing in a situation when you should be able to better manage all your capital works programme over the years to have secured a greater contribution from your current revenue earnings towards the capital development of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I think that despite all the honey-tongued appearances throughout the country and on various media, the people of Barbados know we are not doing so well because in the final analysis they feel it in the pockets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, as usual the speech of the hon. member is riddled with inconsistencies. He starts off by saying that Barbados is in a state of economic crisis. He says that taxation is too high, he says that the Government has been guilty of wastage and he says that the public of Barbados are feeling the impact of Government's economic programme in their pockets. I believe he is in total isolation in all these matters. Never have the Barbados public had it so good. There has been more money in the pockets of people in Barbados in the course of the last four years, and in particular in the course of the last year than ever in the history of Barbados.

I want to deal specifically with his charge of inflation. There are no records that the hon. member can produce to substantiate his allegation that inflation in Barbados over the course of the last four years averaged 20%; absolutely undocumented and unproven. I would say, Sir, that any jury, any group of people who will be called upon to decide upon an issue will be able very early to appreciate that that figure, undocumented, is nothing but a figment of the hon. member's intention, imagination.....*(Asides)* I cannot say what the intention is to do, the Rules of this House do not permit me to do it, and I do not want to break the Rules of the House. Today no Government, no Ministry of Finance can mislead the public in a developing country on certain fundamental economic indicators. It is not possible. There is too much examination by independent bodies of these matters.

Since the 1973/74 oil crisis, all developing countries have been forced by the rising cost of imported

fuel to rely on international institutions for loans for capital development. This is a fact. It is one of the phenomena of the middle seventies and it will continue to be a phenomenon of the Eighties so long as the cost of fossil fuels keep rising and consume so large a proportion of your imports. Now, Mr. Speaker, as a result of that fact, every international lending institution as a condition of a loan examines the economy of any borrower. Everyone of them, real professionals, people who are not politicians like the hon. member, who are not out to mislead people, have examined year by year the economic situation in Barbados, and I would say if the hon. member is able to produce information from any of them who have examined the economy to substantiate his allegation of 20% per year, then and then only can any freedoms be given to that wild and mischievous statement about inflation in Barbados. The truth of the matter is, Sir, the hon. member is on a campaign trying to convince the people in Barbados that we are in a state of economic crisis, and that the public debt is a matter of grave concern. He ignores the fact throughout his speech that as a percentage of our total imports our debt repayment and interest payments annually are very very small, and that we are in a far healthier position in relation to managing our public debt than any other country in the Caribbean other than Trinidad and Tobago, than in the whole of the Latin American continent or Argentina with the exception of Venezuela. All of these are matters of fact that you can pick up the Inter-American Development Bank Report, the World Bank Reports, the International Monetary Fund Reports and you can see. Why is it as a Barbadian national the hon. member still continues in the vein of attempting to deny his country the legitimate status that it has in the world economic position? Why is it? We must be very serious on this issue. There are some politicians whose zeal for power is so overweening that they will do anything in the world even to deprive your own country. It is not a matter of the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party.
12.20 p.m.

It is a matter of national pride. We should be proud of the performance of our Government because we are Barbadians and we ought to be Barbadians first and foremost and then Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party politicians as it is. That is the spirit in which we must approach these matters.

The public debt, Sir, an important factor that one has to take into account since 1973/74 is that in the management of the economy, the management of balance of payments position is a very important one and if you borrow internally for Capital Expenditure which requires foreign exchange, it means that you run down your reserves. It is not therefore surprising that the foreign components of the National Debt has increased because, Sir, apart from 1975 when we had a record windfall reserve from the sale of sugar, Barbados was in a dangerous position as far as reserves were concerned.

When we came into power had we not taken drastic action immediately to protect the reserves in Barbados we would be in a position similar to Jamaica and other countries.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. The hon. member is perhaps mistakenly misleading this Honourable House. Barbados has never had any crisis in terms of its foreign reserves or balance of payments until after September, 1976. Barbados is.....

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Sir, he.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I listened with great patience to the hon. member. I did not interrupt him at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please. If you ask an hon. member "please" are you shouting at him? If an hon. member is accosted by "please", are you shouting at him?

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: The hon. member is known as the Prince of Cruelty, so do not worry your head with the hon. member. Do not worry about him. The basic position is that apart from the windfall reserves that were generated by our sugar receipts in 1975 Barbados was in a similar position to the rest of the Caribbean who were in a position of balance of payments crisis after 1973. That is correct. The situation was relieved by the extra-ordinary receipts on sugar.

Mr. SPEAKER: We must have perfect order in this House. We have had it all morning and it must continue.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: The foreign component therefore of our public debt is related to project loans and every developing country, every IDC now is forced to go to International Institutions to borrow for Capital development because the loans are concessionary and there is a longer repayment period. It is foreign exchange and it is part and parcel of the recycling of the foreign exchange which the OPEC countries extract from the Export countries. That is something that is fundamental. That is something that has to be taken into account by debt borrowing by the LDC's.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the logical consequences of the hon. member's speech is that the Government must stop its capital development programme with all the consequences of unemployment in this country. That is a very significant policy difference between this Government and that one. When we came into power

unemployment was at a phenomenally high rate. Today, Mr. Speaker, have you ever not seen the shortage of workers there are in this country? There are too many jobs for the people.

The hon. member is inviting the public to elect him as Minister of Finance who will collapse the public expenditure programmes in this country. *(Asides).*

I know they want to put the people out of work. The Democratic Labour Party did it between 1975 and 1976. They put the people out of work to the extent that even when they lost the last Election on the very night of the Election their own Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, conceded that unemployment was one of the causes, and among young people in particular, that they lost in their Election. You cannot espouse the philosophy of not borrowing and at the same time say that you are not going to have public Capital Expenditure programmes.

The hon. member talks about earnings. This Government has been able to carry out its public Capital Expenditure programme to accommodate increases in public expenditures and still produce a surplus to make a contribution towards the Capital Expenditure. Of course, Sir, what really galls the hon. member on the Other Side is the fact that they had all of these plans in their 15 years and still they were not able to execute them within 15 years and we were able in four years to execute the majority of theirs and some of our own too. That is what worries them.

I ask them, Sir, to look at the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party in 1966. Look at the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto. I know as a positive fact, because I have to draw it, that the Speightstown Development, the Oistin's Development, the one in St. George and the one in St. Andrew were in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party in 1966. Throughout my session in here from 1966 – 1971 hon. members can look at the speeches. We were hammering at the Government to implement a programme of decentralisation of work opportunities in Barbados because we said that it was wrong to concentrate the developments in St. Michael. I recall that.

Now when they say that these are their projects I am able to point out very clearly that the Barbados Labour Party made them their projects. We pushed the ideas in their heads.
12.30 p.m.

What we are vexed about is this, that they had ten years to implement our ideas, but because they came from us, they deliberately refused to implement them. But, there is a good Lord in Heaven and fate had it that we had the opportunity to implement our ideas. That is why we went about it with such enthusiasm and commitment because we had it in our bones. We knew the sort of injustice that was being done to the people in St. Peter, in St. George, in Christ Church and in St. Philip. We knew the sense of injustice that was being done, that is why, when we came into office, we devoted ourselves with great devotion to executing the projects.

Let them go and tell it to people who cannot read and write and there are very few of them in Barbados, that they originated the idea and concept of sub-tenant development in Barbados. At the appropriate time, in the appropriate place, all of the documents will hang out and the public will be able to judge where the ideas came from.

Now, Sir, there are a few other matters that the Honourable Member talked about. The Honourable Member talked about Defence. Mr. Speaker, let there be no doubt about it at all, once you are an independent country today, you have to decide in your mind whether you are going to have a modicum of defence or not. Since this Labour Party has come into power, supporters of the Democratic Labour Party have made at least two attempts to overthrow this country and are still talking about it, that they want to overthrow the Government. When people are so bold as to publicly state that their avowed intention is to overthrow a legitimately elected Government, that Government would be very foolish if it does not take steps to protect itself. We did not come in here by any coup, we came by the ballot box and it is our duty to ensure that law and order is maintained in Barbados. We cannot allow a situation to exist, where known supporters of the Democratic Labour Party continue to repeat that it is their avowed intention to subvert the ballot box and to overthrow us by force.

I know, Sir, that the Honourable Member has an affinity and a liking to take a great deal of pleasure of communicating with other Governments in the Caribbean, who arrived at their Government by the coup. I know that the Honourable Member has publicly proclaimed his congratulations for that kind of conduct. We know that there is an old saying, "birds of a feather flock together", so I am not worried about that.

We have said, that the expenditure on the Defence Force. Will be to provide a plane.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: .....a ship.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please is now a bad word, please, order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN:.....capital equipment for our Coast Guard. The emphasis has always been on tailoring the Defence Force on utilitarian principles....

We have pointed out, that we are an island nation surrounded by sea within the shipping lane where movement of nearly four million barrels of oil a day takes place. We are exposed to oil spillage. We have to have monitoring to ensure that in the event of a spillage, we can hold on to the culprit and exact restitution under the International Conventions relating to oil spillage. All of that. We are part and parcel of a new and dynamic thrust in relation to oil exploration offshore. All of these things make it necessary.

In addition to that, we are trying to get an acceptable position whereby we can use the Defence Force for the purpose of satisfying the objective of a voluntary national service and Skills Training Programme. We have been working on this, Sir. The first recruits who were recruited specifically in this experimental programme graduated in St. Lucy. We are going to use the army as a means of trying to inculcate young people with a concept of discipline and at the same time, improve their skills and therefore, their ability to find work in the market place. If the hon. member feels that that is a wastage of public money, that is his opinion. Let him put it in the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto, that they will disband the Defence Force. Let him do that.

So that, when he comes in here and criticises – I believe Sir, that the Defence Force, by its performance after the hurricane, by its performance, the Coast Guard in particular, in relation to rescue operations will continue to win more friends in Barbados. So that, the hon. member is again out of tune with general current of opinion. Of course, because of things that have happened in the Caribbean area, in relation to the army, many people are scared.

But, Governments cannot operate with fear, men who are called upon to make big decisions cannot allow fear to influence them from making the decisions. We have to make decisions and of course, we should benefit from the experience of others. We should look at and analyse the motivating factors of those things that occur. But, the fact that they occurred should not prevent us and influence us and make us fearful to make decisions which are absolutely necessary.

The burden of the capital programme of this Government relates to the productive sector and I believe, Sir, that the performance of the economy in the course of the last four years amply justifies our faith in its ability to weather recessions temporary, or otherwise and its ability to generate enough revenue to sustain the Capital Development Programme which we have. This is not a case of picking up public money and diverting it for unproductive purposes. The hon. member is not able to sustain the charge that $200 million odd which we have set out in the Capital Development Programme, that it is going to be devoted for purposes which are unnecessary.

12.40 p.m.

He has not been able to sustain that charge, he has not been able to sustain his charge that Barbados is in a state of mass rampant inflation, he has not been able to sustain his charge that our public debt is such that we have reached the limit of borrowing capacity, he has not been able to sustain his charge that we are taking $24 million out of the Consolidated Fund and giving it to the Sugar Producers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that there is a great temptation at this time of the year in particular because elections are due this year for all hon. members to lose control of themselves and make wild and untrue charges, but I would hope in view of the importance of sugar to the economy of Barbados – and this importance has demonstrated itself in the course of the last ten years – that all hon. members would attempt to keep control of themselves when they are discussing matters relating to the sugar industry, and at least get the facts right.

To suggest that $24 million from the Consolidated Fund is going to be taken up and given away is a very wild and irresponsible suggestion. (ASIDE). I do not mind, the Government welcomes public dialogue on the future of the sugar industry. The sugar industry is of importance to Barbados and any kind of suggestions from any quarter are welcome, provided that those suggestions are suggestions grounded on facts and not grounded on malicious distortion for political purposes by supposedly responsible people. Our sugar industry is an industry of which we can be justified. We pay better wages than any other part of the Commonwealth other than Australia, we have employer/employee relations as good as any other part of the Commonwealth. It has had its periods of depression and periods of prosperity. It has a number of people who are committed to it inspite of all the odds, and I would hope that if the hon. member has been a true Barbadian that instead of trying to present facts which are non-existent in his speeches in relation to sugar he would calm himself, cool himself, think of the national interest and decide on putting forward any proposals that he has against a background of true facts.

It is a very very serious thing, because regrettably the commentators in the media in this country did not see it as their duty when statements are made like one which was made today, untrue statements, inaccurate statements, $24 million to be taken out of the Consolidated Fund. I wrote that down. Those words came out of the mouth of the hon. member. They are not true and he has not had the decency to withdraw them and say that he made a mistake, that it was out of other funds. He

has not had the decency to do it but we have to do it because we have to point out facts.

The amount from the sugar levies has never gone into the Consolidated Fund, except the Labour Welfare Fund which has already been spent on housing. They are investments outside the Consolidated Fund. Under the financial laws of Barbados if you go into the Consolidated Fund it has to be shown, you cannot spend the money without voting it here in Parliament. There is no Head in these Estimates to which the hon. member can point to show where the Government is spending this money, not a Head, but that is a terrible mistake for the hon. member to get in here and make, and what is a worse mistake is that he does not have the courage to get up and say that he made a mistake in that respect. It does not affect the validity of the point, he is entitled to make any point he likes in relation to what his point of view is, but he is not entitled to get up in the House of Assembly and make a statement which is inaccurate, untrue and not get up and withdraw it. It is only an indication of the fundamental character of the man.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has done its best in the course of the four years now to manage the economy of this country to ensure that growth takes place, that confidence was restored in the integrity of the Government, that unemployment was reduced, that the old were better treated, that the young, not only was greater hope held out to them, but that practical programmes were devised for them. I am particularly proud of the fact that our social programme, like our economic programme, over the last four years has been so successful as to earn us envy in some quarters and praise in others, and I have absolutely no doubt that the electorate of Barbados will, as the public opinion polls show, express themselves on that big day for the Barbados Labour Party.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, we have had nearly three hours in the House and I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 o'clock.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
12.50 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If no other hon. member wishes to speak, I will wind up the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Prime Minister may proceed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Does no other hon. member of the Opposition wish to support the hon. member for St. Michael South Central? I cannot blame them.

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, even those who are familiar to you in an unpleasant way can surprise you. Even hon. members whose likely behaviour in the House has been well established over months and years can outdo themselves in debate, outdo themselves in putting forward mistaken truthful arguments and arguments which have little relation to reality. Now, Sir, it is possible that Barbadians are worse off than they were four years ago, it is possible that we are facing economic catastrophe, it is possible that this Government has grossly mismanaged the affairs of the country, it is possible that there was no crisis in balance of payments until this Government came along, all of these things are possible, but I am reminded of the song "Little Green Apples" – God didn't make those little green apples, it didn't rain in Indianapolis in the summer time. All these things are possible, and if God didn't make those little green apples, then the seat of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is well founded. If it didn't snow in Indianapolis in the winter time, then his arguments are well conceived. I cannot really ask the House to accept with no other evidence that there is a unanimous opinion abroad and in independent circles in Barbados that the country has gone through an economic miracle in the last four years. I could not ask them to accept that if we did not have the evidence of our own eyes to support it. The hon. member therefore only disgraces himself when he tries to gainsay not only the evidence of commonsense, but to gainsay the evidence of all experts who have looked at Barbados for years and years and come to certain conclusions.

I can assure the hon. member that whoever pays Eric Sealy I did not pay the Editor of the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Miami Herald, the Financial Times of London, I did not pay anybody in the World Bank or the IMF or the Inter-American Development Bank to say that Barbados is a well run country. I do not even pay newspaper reporters in Barbados. I do not even do that to say good things about the country. It is possible that the hon. member is right and the rest of the world is wrong; it is also possible that the 20 people down in the Psychiatric Hospital under the care of Dr. Mahy who believe that they are Napoleon or Bismarc or Idi Amin are right and the rest of us are wrong. It is possible that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central belongs to that self same tribe who have had the capacity to be right while everybody else around him is wrong. Dr. Mahy alone can pronounce on that. But there are certain speeches that must be

characterised as sick speeches, the product of a sick mind. The hon. member will judge where his own effusion lies.

To deal which specialised things, he speaks of the public debt. He says we have children in this country who will have to carry the burden. We have children in this country who will have to carry the burden of going to school in St. James at the St. James Secondary School at Trents, a new secondary school entirely conceived and put up by the Barbados Labour Party Government in a matter of two years. That is a burden which they have to carry and we have borrowed money to build that school and they will be educated in it and their children will be educated in it, and they and their children will help to pay for it when they become taxpayers in a country that has been made more prosperous as a result of the policies of Government in the last four years. This is the burden which our children will have to bear. We have our children working in the factories and the industrial estates, factories that have been built with money borrowed which has gone into the public debt to give them somewhere to work where underneath the Democratic Labour Party they work on the street corners and could only hear the contemptuous references of the Leader of the Opposition saying that he should have given them $20 a week and they would have voted for him. If his economic thinking extends only to throwing $20 a week at unemployed youths on the street corners, thank God we are rid of him and thank God we will not be saddled with his acolyte.

The hon. member speaks of the public debt and external debt accumulation. In only two years in Barbados has the public debt service absorbed more than 10% of general revenue. Those two years were 1973 and 1974. I ask the hon. member where he was in those years and who was in power in those years. He says the debt is crippling. In only two years has it taken more than 10% of revenue to service that debt, 1973 and 1974. He speaks of the external debt. If the hon. member is capable of understanding sensible articles of economics, I would refer him to a document that has already been laid in this House, the quarterly report of the Central Bank for the quarter ending December, 1980, and I refer him to an article in that document which I refer to everybody written by a most brilliant young economist called Mr. Mary Zephirin. The hon. member says he has seen it already. The hon. member has seen Holding bowl too, but he does not understand how to do it. The hon. member, if he has read the article and understood it, would be a dishonest and wicked vagabond to come and say the things he has said, so I have to assume that he has not understood it. He would have to be a liar if he read the article and still said the things he has said, so I assume he has only seen it, he has not read it.

The foreign debt outstanding in Barbados in 1961 when the Democratic Labour Party took power was 9.6% of the GDP. In 1962 it went to nearly 14%. By 1964 the foreign debt was 17% of our GDP, in 1965 it fell to 16.66% and in our year of independence it was 15%. Now in 1980 the percentage of foreign debt to the GDP is 10.6%. The highest figures ever achieved were achieved in years when in truth and in fact economic activity was running at a high level in the first and second terms of office of the Democratic Labour Party, but more important than the fact that the burden of external debt in percentage terms is less than it was under the other Government is the fact that when we took over we found that the Democratic Labour Party had been borrowing money for general budgetary and balance of payment purposes. In 1975 some 32.4% of the foreign debt had been borrowed for non-productive purposes; it had been borrowed to pay the salaries of civil servants and to meet balance of payments short falls at the time of the oil crisis. The percentage is now down to something like 23% and none of it – I cannot say none of it – very little of the present part of the foreign debt which was borrowed for general budgetary purposes has been borrowed under the new regime. The increase in the foreign debt has come about as a result of an increase in project loans, the borrowing of money for the sewage scheme, for the polytechnic, for the airport, all the things that the Democratic Labour Party claims, that is what the money has been borrowed for.

Mr. Chairman, I have never been one not to give Jack his jacket, therefore I studiously avoided mentioning any schemes today for which funds were appropriated which are inherited schemes. Every single one of the schemes to which I referred in my speech is a scheme initiated by the Barbados Labour Party. You can check very carefully and see that, but the foreign debt of which the hon. member speaks is foreign debt whose responsibility we have inherited from the previous regime. That is not to say it is bad. If your project involves foreign annual costs, it is better to borrow the money abroad than to try to pay the foreign exchange costs out of current earnings.

2.10 p.m.

It is altogether a more satisfactory approach to financing problems and it is the approach which we have adopted and the general profile of the debt, as Miss Jeffers' article shows quite clearly, has improved greatly since we have been in power.

The interest rates have gone down. We are no longer saddled with the crippling Euro-dollar borrowings undertaken by the previous Government *in extremis* in 1973 or 1974. We are no longer crippled by the Commercial Bank Loans which the Leader of the Opposition undertook when he was Minister of Finance. Imagine having to pay out $16 million for a lot of worn-out old Shrimp boats at overdraft rates in City Bank. We are borrowing money at concessionary rates, some soft, some

medium concessionary to carry out useful infrastructural projects in the Island and which will improve the debt profile with every such borrowing.

In the fullness of time I will see if I can get a general profile, if hon. members want to follow the truth rather than follow the false impressions sought to be created by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. The general profile of the debt can be prepared and published in the Central Bank's publications or I can have them prepared and circulated as a separate document.

Not even, it may be noted, the allegation that the foreign debt has doubled since we took power, not even that is really entirely true but even if it had, the Government has something to show for what it has borrowed other than the payment of civil servants' salaries. I really do not wish to dwell excessively upon that.

Now the question of the inflation rate. Many years ago Lewis Carroll wrote a poem called the "Hunting of the Snark" and in it was a character called the Bellman and the Bellman says in the course of the poem that if he rings his bell and says three times that something is true, then it becomes true. The hon. member for St. Michael South is clearly a latter day bellman not even searching for the snark of political truth, the thickets of public life in our country because he thinks that by repeating over and over and over again that the inflation rate is over 20% that it will be proven true.

I saw he has a Resolution down and he used the word "hyper-inflation". It would be disgusting if it were not difficult, when you meet a man who has the opportunity to know better using terms so painfully and wickedly inappropriate to the truth. I wonder how the hon. member lives with himself when he goes home at nights, if he is like Cameron Tudor who used to sit down and draw a sheet of paper in front of him on the table and say, "Well what lie am I going to tell tomorrow." I want to make up a good lie on Lawson Bayley or whoever the case may be. I do not believe the hon. member does that. I believe he relies on Eric Sealy to make up his lies for him and then leaves poor Eric Sealy to have to go and face the music when the bell rings in the Supreme Court.

The inflation rate is 20%. What evidence has the hon. member got? Just let him get anything, any document, any figure that can show a point to point or an annual inflation rate for Barbados of 20% during last year. It is over 20% and who says so? I say so. We cannot conduct politics on this basis. Why stick at 20%? Why not say 120% or 170%. He is missing the chief precepts of Dr. Boogles. If you have a lie to tell, tell a big lie, not a small one. A big lie has a greater chance of being believed.

It is a precept which no doubt he will develop at the altar at which he presently worships if he spends more time in public life, no doubt, but you cannot introduce into a serious debate in the House of Assembly not only a false figure like that but then to say nothing will persuade the Central Bank to accept that it is nothing less than that when it is the Central Bank which has worked out the annual average at 14% odd.

I am looking forward to the Budget Debate, Sir. I hear that the television equipment apparently might not have been able to stand the heat that might be generated in here and they are flying down new components from Canada in time for the debate. It will not be a very long delay. I am looking forward to it. I want the hon. member to say on television that the Central Bank does not agree with the inflation rate under 20%. I challenge him to say so on television. I challenge him. Let him get on television and look down and raise his fingers to his lips and scringe and grimace; the people who have no use for him, his colleagues. Let him do all that because it is time that we expose some of what passes for economic argument in this country.

He praised the Director of Public Prosecutions for not being interfered with. I take it that the hon. member is congratulating and thanking the Director of Public Prosecutions for not prosecuting his cousin for murder. That is what he is dealing with. (ASIDES).

Some talk about the Defence Force. You really expect, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that in this country that a prudent Minister of Defence is going to put several hundred people out of work, dismantle the Defence Force and send them home following a visit of the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to Toronto?

Sydney Alleyne rang Barbados from Toronto and said that he was ringing from Central Africa to threaten another invasion and we must do away with the Defence Force then and who did he ring first before he rang Barbados? Let the hon. member for St. Michael South Central answer that. Let him deny that he, Sydney Alleyne and the Leader of the Opposition were not in Toronto together.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The point of order is that the hon. member has just made a statement which is misleading to this Honourable House. I have never met, I have never spoken to and I do not even know Mr. Sydney Alleyne. I have never met him. I have never spoken to him and I do not know him.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I am going to challenge the hon. member that he met Sydney Alleyne at Harbour Castle in Toronto. I was there in room 1210, you and a man called Errol Barrow. You had 750 member at a dance. You gave the vote of thanks. I challenge you to that. You paid $5 to go in. You did not know I was there. Get up and deny that.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please. Let us have some order. Please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member is a braver man than George Moe, Sir. I always said that if George Moe got up and denied his signature on the cheques that we might have been in for some trouble. I admire the hon. member. You are a braver man than George Moe, less honest but braver. You will stand up and tell the public of Barbados that you do not know Sydney Alleyne.
2.20 p.m.

A man who goes to the Democratic Labour Party Annual Conferences, a man who used to be in Kampala when you were around the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition. Even I know Sydney Alleyne.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can we have some order now, please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: He is a braver man than George Moe, Sir..... (ASIDES)..... a braver man. We have to put up with this type of behaviour, people who want to destroy our country from within. That is what we have to put up with in this day and age.

Sir, I have nothing more to say to the Honourable Member, a man who can get up and in the face of this congregation so to speak say that he does not know Sydney Alleyne.

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply. Order, please.

HEAD 11 – GOVERNOR GENERAL – $185,606

Head 11 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, that Head 11 stands part.

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

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

HEAD 12 – PARLIAMENT – $1 003 948

Head 12 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, that Head 12 stands part.

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

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we spend a considerable amount of money every year on Parliament. A substantial amount of that money goes to the payment of people who hold ministerial responsibilities in this country. When, Mr. Chairman, one hears persons holding responsibilities make statements that constitute most blatant, wicked lies, not necessarily in this Honourable Chamber.....

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were ordered to be expunged from the record by the Chairman.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on with the debate.

Dr. HAYNES: The point which I am trying to make Mr. Chairman is this, I wish to publicly once again express my view, that the levels of remuneration for those holding ministerial offices in particular and Prime Ministerial office that they are far too high and they constitute.....

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were ordered to be expunged from the record by the Chairman.)

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the salaries are too high and they constitute an unfair burden on the taxpayers of this country and that I will reiterate for the public, the committed position.....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, Sir. The people to whom the Honourable Member refers are not paid under this Head. As usual, he is wrong. He is making the point under the wrong Head.

We are paid by the Cabinet Office and not by Parliament. Try to learn to understand how the Estimates work. This is four times.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is well taken. The Honourable Member will have an opportunity to discuss that when we come to deal with the Cabinet Office.

Dr. HAYNES: I have already made my point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I must warn you. Please.

The question that Head 12 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

2.30 p.m.

HEAD 13 – SERVICES COMMISSIONS

Head 13 – Services Commissions – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $286,221 under Head 13 – Services Commissions – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there is some information which I would like to get for my enlightenment, and certainly for the enlightenment of the public. I wonder if the Minister under whose responsibility this Head falls could give this Hon. Chamber any indication as to the number of applications which are in the Services Commissions Department in terms of applications for jobs at the clerical level, and also at the level of the other subsidiary staff in the Public Service.

I think, from what I gathered some time ago, there was a very big backlog of applications. I know for example that a number of people who have applied for jobs in the Public Service and who are adequately qualified have had applications in there for a number of years. I believe that the time has come when some public position should be stated on this, and certainly this is as good a time as any for the Prime Minister to be able to provide this Hon. Chamber with that kind of information, and indeed to indicate the position of his Government on this question of this large number of applicants for jobs in the Public Service, whose applications have not yet been fulfilled, that is, the applications have only been acknowledged and nothing much has been done about them.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I really do not know how it would be possible to answer the hon. member for St. Lucy, much as I would like to, much as I appreciate the fact that it is an important and sensible question to ask, because it is not the kind of information which can be easily put together in the course of Estimates. I will try and prepare the information for him for later in the week, but I do not think I will be able to get it for him at short notice, but I will try, Sir.

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

HEAD 14 – ESTABLISHMENTS

Head 14 – Establishments – was called.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,835,495 under Head 14 – Establishments – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 – CABINET OFFICE

Head 15 – Cabinet Office – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,083,711 under Head 15 – Cabinet Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Head 16 – Prime Minister's Office – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $791,337 under Head 16 – Prime Minister's Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – HEAD 71 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Capital Expenditure – Head 71 – Prime Minister's Office – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $460,000 under Capital Expenditure – Head 71 – Prime Minister's Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Head 17 – Defence and Security – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9,395,255 under Head 17 – Defence and Security – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 17 stand part. Hon. members.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, please believe me, Sir, this is a very, very important Head, this is a Head which has in Defence and Security, all the soldiers shooting down people, all the boats and the aeroplanes on which the Government is wasting money, and the $10 million to buy homes for people and to give the hungry children. I want to hear something from the Opposition on this now, this is Defence and Security, I am begging them to talk on it now, this is their opportunity. I am appealing to them, they must have something to say under Head 17. All of this money which is being wasted on soldiers, get up and say something on it. Are you going to finish the Estimates today? What is wrong? Get up and talk on Defence and Security, about how we sent soldiers down to St. Vincent to shoot down people. Talk about it in here. But what is this, Sir? Do you all want to run a country?

Mr. Chairman, I second the Head, Sir. But what is this at all?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Really, Sir, I must say, Sir, it really is very unfair that people elect M.P.'s to Parliament and they get on platforms and talk about disbanding the Defence Force, how wicked the soldiers are, try to drag down decent boys and girls who are trying to train other young boys and girls, decent boys and girls who are contributing to the defence of the country, they try to run these people down, frighten them for their jobs, threaten them, turn the hands of the man in the street against them, and when they come into Parliament they cannot even get up and be heard? They can't even be represented? They make remarks about the $10 million to be added to this, that or the next, and yet they cannot deal with this?
2.40 p.m.

I can only just draw attention to it. We are here ready to defend it, and it is very important because last year we were accused of bad faith in not calling this Head, and Mr. Martindale of the Advocate in a very well written and sensible article – his comments were among the most independent and sensible that I have seen in that newspaper for a long time, they are more independent than Henri Christopher, I mean no reflection on Henri Christopher, I like what he writes, but you know what I mean – Mr. Martindale particularly called on the Government to make sure that time was available to debate defence and security, and I want it noted that we called Defence and Security before 3 o'clock on the first day when all the Press was in the House and even before our civil servants are here to advise us on it, so ample and complete opportunity has been given in successive weeks to the Opposition to debate the Defence Force.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Before the Minister sits, I find I must draw to the attention of the Opposition that there is another area then. I have heard on the platforms how we bring in Vincentians, Canadians and St. Lucians and put them on the Electoral List. You have here work permits, residence, citizenship, passports, visas; talk about those then. I cannot invite you anymore. I can hear all over the place how we bring in these Indians, Jews, pay this money and all these things. Look it here now; talk about it. This is the time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, all the people that they put on political platforms accuse us of bringing in the St. Lucians. All the people that they pay talk about these Heads, do you mean they can only pay mouthpieces and none of them has a mouth of his own. What do they have to do, ask by Eric Sealy for some of the money and then they can talk?

The question that the sum of $9,395,255 under Head 17 – Defence and Security – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 72 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Head 72 – Defence and Security – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $14,000,000 under Head 72 – Defence and Security – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that and I invite the Opposition to another opportunity on the capital aspect of it. They can talk about this now.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make it clear from the start that as Shadow Minister of Defence and Security I have no objection myself to a Defence Force for Barbados. I wish to make it clear also that the tactics and the approach of the Opposition to this matter will not be dictated by the shenanigans of the Government. What we are concerned

about is not provision so much for the maintenance and continuation of a Defence Force for this country because however small a country may be, it has to maintain some means of securing and defending itself against attempts at its sovereignty and at its national independence. However, the question that you are concerned about is how much money should be provided for defence and security in the face of the many other competing demands on the economic resources of this country and we certainly believe that in terms of the demands for improvements in the other sectors of the economy, that the amount being provided for defence and security is too high in relation to the other needs of other sectors and persons in our economy. So we are not against the principle of a Defence Force.

I believe I have made that position clear in previous debates and I have reiterated it here this afternoon. What we are concerned about however is the spending of the hard-earned taxpayers' money on military hardware and equipment which will serve to increase the arms sales of other countries, but which may not represent any real security or bring any distinct advantage to this country. I would like to hear the Prime Minister on this particular point. It is very surprising that those countries which cannot offer Barbados tractors and equipment which may be of use in providing more food or in helping us to harvest the resources of the sea are quite willing to lend us funds at concessionary rates in order to purchase weapons of destruction, and it is that particular area that I am concerned about.

Now as far as this talk about not debating defence and security is concerned, we are concerned and I am particularly concerned that when major matters occur in this country concerning the national well being and the national security of this country, opportunity is not available for discussing and debating those issues when they are hot and when those issues are burning at that particular time. It is no point asking the Opposition now to debate something that occurred in 1979 when the Government then was using all types of devices to get away and run away and dodge from a debate at that time. I do not mind the hon. member for St. James who perhaps has misled the Prime Minister into joining into that type of grandstanding trying to make it appear as though the Opposition is unable to speak on these matters. I remember that the Prime Minister and myself had a very extended debate on the legislation long delayed for the establishment of the Defence Force. That is not our concern and I would like to make it clear again that the Opposition Democratic Labour Party is not opposed to the establishment of a Defence Force in this country. The question is, what type of Defence Force and what is the relationship between that Defence Force and the other units responsible for the defence and security of this country. But basically the question I am asking is, does the Prime Minister believe that the expenditure of some $14 million on defence and security is fair or is justified in a country in which there are many demands in other sectors of the economy and from persons who are deprived and disadvantaged in this country. I wonder whether he believes that it is a fair and reasonable amount of money to spend on the defence and security of this country.

2.50 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, like the hon. member for St. Michael South and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I myself would like to say that the tactics which the hon. member for St. James and the Prime Minister indulged in just now do not in anyway frighten the members on this side. We debate an issue the way we want to debate it because as far as we are concerned, we are developing a particular strategy to the debating of these Estimates.

Now under this question of Capital it is stated here that in the year 1981–1982 the Government proposes to spend $14 million. Now this is just one Section on Defence and Security. We have already passed the other Section dealing with Personal Emoluments and other matters which would normally come under the administrative arrangements of Defence and Security so that in truth and in fact it is much more than that and what I believe should be noted and is of importance in this debate is that only last Tuesday the House was called upon to vote $7 million to use for Defence and Security for the purpose of Patrol Boats and conversion of Shrimp Trawlers into Patrol Boats and that kind of thing.

We in Opposition are concerned about what we consider to be the inordinate amount of money which is being devoted to the Defence Force in this country. It is very clear. I do not think that any reasonable or right thinking person would say no Defence Force and that is the end of that and indeed there is nobody on the Opposition who has ever taken that position but the point is, Mr. Chairman, we are concerned when we see the amount of money which is being voted, for example, for the purchase of arms because these are the things here, the purchase of arms, radios, and other equipment, the purchase of a boat.

The Defence Force, as I understand it now has an airplane. All of these are things and we feel that money which is spent and indeed as far as we are concerned lavished on the Defence Force can be used in a much more productive way in the economy and certainly for the development and general improvement and enlightenment of the country.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said, what we find in the World today is that countries like

Britain, the United States of America and the Soviet Union are prepared to give assistance to struggling countries like Barbados, Third World countries, to purchase arms and ammunitions manufactured in these developed countries before they would make money available at concessionary rates for developmental purposes.

Only last week the President of the United States of America in outlining his economic policies and position relating to the Caribbean and Latin America gave an indication of the amount of money which the United States Government was prepared to make available to Caribbean countries for the purpose of arms and ammunitions from that country.

I believe that we in developing countries, a country like Barbados, must make our position very clear as far as matters of this nature are concerned and to indicate that we are concerned with getting money for developmental purposes money which would, as it were, purchase butter or food as against money which is used for the purchase of guns. We get back to this general position of guns and butter and I believe that as long as we have Governments which are prepared whether it is for pomp or ceremony or just really as it were in showing that they have the kind of Defence Forces in there countries for whatever reasons best known to themselves, that as long as you have countries behaving in this kind of way the developed countries will continue to be pushing arms and make money available to countries like Barbados to spend back in their country for that kind of thing and we are saying that that is wrong.

We believe, as has been stated, that this Government is devoting too much money to Defence and Security, money which can be spent and I am suggesting in a much more productive way and this is the basic position of the Democratic Labour Party and has always been the position of the Democratic Labour Party on matters of this kind and certainly I would like the Prime Minister to at least take heed to the call which comes from this side as far as this matter is concerned.

Now the question of Immigration Services, subhead 3. I would just like to ask a question to find out what kind of policy the Government is pursuing as far as the rounding up of illegal immigrants in this country, what kind of policy the Government is pursuing in this kind of area rounding up all illegal immigrants who are living in this country because I think and I believe the Prime Minister will admit that it is an existing problem in this society.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I was not prepared to get involved in this debate but after listening to the hon. member who just sat down I feel it is my duty to put the record straight on this occasion. I listened attentively to his argument and one got the impression, the clear impression that this vote or this allocation of funds was primarily or exclusively for the purchase of arms.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I took up my copy here and under subhead 2 this is what it says. The function of this subhead includes "the purchase of ceremonial uniforms; the construction of women's barracks/medical aid station, Coast Guard Base Guard room and renovations to St. Lucy Depot, Stone Barracks, Drill Hall and West India Barracks; the purchase of vehicles; the purchase of arms, radios, furniture and other equipment; provision for professional services."

The hon. member I could not understand how he could have the gall to get up and speak on this Head without alluding to the fact that part of the funds allocated for Defence and Security will go towards assisting and preparing the Station in St. Lucy when the hon. member knows what valuable services the Defence Force was able to perform for his constituents in the parish of St. Lucy.

Now he has got to understand this. He should not seek to mislead this House or convey the impression to this Honourable Chamber that the vote is primarily for arms hence giving the impression that countries are willing to give Barbados arms and that this Government is prepared to accept arms and is not prepared to accept any other gift for this country.

Mr. Chairman, it is clear that this vote, for $10 million or the amount of money allocated under this Head is for other purposes among one which is very fundamental to the development of this country is preparing and equipping the Force to fit itself into the work force of this country to help with the development of this country.

3.00 p.m.

The Defence Force which we know today is assisting in the training of the young people to equip them with the task which the Democratic Labour Party failed to equip them for and the Honourable Member should be honest enough to get up and say something like that. We do not mind what the Honourable Member says, or what the Opposition has to say – they cannot – they owe it to the country and their moral principle that they should agree and support the Defence Force because they conceptualised the Defence Force so they have a duty. They cannot say that they are not going to support it.

But, what they are going to say today is that they are concerned about the vast sums of money. Now, Mr. Chairman if you are going to have a Defence Force, if you are going to have a protective arm, you must equip it, you cannot half way equip it. What nonsense. How can you have a Defence Force that cannot even stand up and defend themselves far less a country, when these people

have gone on, coups, counter coups and people threatening Barbados to take Barbados by arms. The Opposition engaging in removing the Government before the five years the constitutional period that this Government has. After all, there must be some concern on this Side too. Personally, I am speaking for myself, I am concerned when I do not see adequate protection or defence of this country because we know, as a fact, that certain Honourable Members of the Opposition are associated with revolutionary forces, or people who have revoluntary ideas, who will not fail to take a country, or a Government by hook or crook and that is why we have got to take the interest of the people of this country at heart. We, as politicians have to think in terms of the protection of the defence of all Barbadians and hence, Barbados has to welcome this vote which will equip it with a proper Defence Force which will help protect us in times of need.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, we have a breakdown of Defence and Security, I think it is subhead two, item (d), the amount of money being requested includes the purchase of arms, radios, furniture and other equipment. I am not asking what the other equipment relates to, I am not asking what the other equipment is, but I would like the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Security to inform this Honourable House exactly how much money out of this particular sum here is being provided specifically for the purchase of arms. We are very concerned about this particular provision because if I may illustrate the point that I was making earlier, when I looked and my colleague; myself and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the position of the Opposition, when we looked and we know that the amount provided for Defence and Security has actually increased substantially, some $5.7 million for Capital in the period 1980 – 81 and in 1981 – 82, we are being asked to provide $14 million, that is for Capital.

When we compare that with the amount of Capital being provided let us say for Agriculture to provide food and to provide the means of sustenance for the people of this country, we note that the provision, far from being an increase, that amount is being decreased and that is where we are concerned, Sir. In terms of national priorities we are raising the question, does Government have its priorities right when it can substantially increase the amount of money for guns and radios, other equipment, aeroplanes, whatever they may be, when the amount of money provided to increase food production in this country, far from being increased that amount is being decreased. It is a question of priorities and in the absence of any explanation from the Government, we will say and we say, from these Benches, that we believe that the Government has its priorities wrong in this particular area.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, if you take a look at many of the developing countries all over the world, one of the things that will arrest your attention is the heavy expenditure in relation to other sectors of expenditures in those countries which fall to defence, the upkeep of armies and other related forces and it is remarkable that in those countries, whilst heavy expenditure is being undertaken to develop Defence Forces and other things of that nature, people find it rather difficult to get adequate food, adequate housing, adequate clothing. In fact, Sir, in relation to the developed countries, one finds that these developing countries spend a higher proportion of their budget on defence than in relation to countries such as Canada, the United States, Britain and so, although in absolute amounts, we will recognise that those countries can afford to spend more on their Defence Forces.

It is also worthwhile to observe that those countries have assumed to themselves certain obligations which by no stretch of the imagination, we can assume, that certain obligations fall in these developing countries. One has to concede, Sir, that in some other countries there is a case, or a case can be made out for keeping of forces, or other para military forces, but when you look seriously at the question of Barbados, and you look at circumstances and conditions as they obtain in Barbados, you cannot be convinced at any time that there is this need in Barbados for the type of expenditure which we notice that has been spent, or proposed to be spent on upkeep of a Defence Force in this country.

One can assume, or agree with some of the arguments that maybe you are seeking to find employment for some of the unemployed people in this country and one way to do that is by way of a Defence Force, but at the same time, one has to look carefully at the areas of development in this country and see if they cannot be expanded, or developed, accelerated. Already your existing areas provide the type of employment which is necessary to the young people and other people of this country.
3.10 p.m.

Sir, if you have a Defence Force one must assume that you have something to defend. There are conditions either on your boundaries or around you which make it necessary for the upkeep of such a force. In Barbados by no stretch of the imagination can you say that there exist conditions in Barbados or around Barbados which make it absolutely necessary for the upkeep of any Defence Force and the large amount of expenditure which such a Defence Force would entail.

We hear talk about the mad-headed fellow and we notice that every time something about the Defence Force is to be debated he always seems to raise his ugly head, which may be some justification for giving some people an excuse for the type of exercise they are indulging in

about the Defence Force, but I say, Sir, and it is my firm belief that that individual can be dealt with in a different manner than setting about to spend this type of money as we now see it. In Barbados there are other areas that are crying out for urgent attention and need this money. I have no quarrel with the people themselves within the Defence Force and I do not want anybody in that Force to feel that we are trying to deprive them of a job or that if the Democratic Labour Party win the Government they are going to be deprived of a job, that is not the case. What we are saying is that we believe that the present Government has its priorities wrong, and we do not agree with the haste and the magnitude of expenditure which the present Government believes it is necessary to spend on a Defence Force. We can agree that there is a need for some coastal surveillance, and this has been the thinking of the Democratic Labour Party for some time, that to patrol our waters and to make them secure from smuggling and make them secure from illicit entry into this country, that it will be necessary for the upgrading of the Harbour Police to make it more suitable to suit the present day conditions. We may convert it into what is now referred to as a Coast Guard, but the point is that the function which we now ascribe to the Coast Guard we appreciate is one that is necessary, and whether we are going to achieve it through the upgrading of the Harbour Police or by the setting up of a distinct organisation for that purpose, we concede that, but we cannot concede all the other things that seem to be happening so readily as regards the setting up of a Defence Force in this country.

When you look around in Barbados and you see the presence of the Defence Force at functions and in areas where normally you expect to see the police or other civilian forces operating, it makes one wonder what is the motive behind this type of operation in this country. I am going a step further. When one looks at the events which have occurred in some of the developing countries which have these Defence Forces, and I mean in simple terms, Sir, that after a while you find that the military people take serious objection to being instructed by politicians and sooner or later they turn the tide and put the politicians in their places and take over the administration of the country. We have seen it in many countries of the world, we have seen it nearer home, and this is something which we have to pay attention to. It is no point wishing, as Barbadians like to wish and console themselves that this can never happen in Barbados, or that can never happen in Barbados, but recent events in this country have shown that a lot of things which Barbadians believe could not have happened here have been happening here, and nearer at home we saw what happened in Trinidad some years ago, and more recently still we are concerned about events in the neighbouring Caribbean islands.

We have to be concerned about this kind of expenditure that is being spent on the Defence Force when we see there are other needs in this country where that amount of money can be spent with far more benefit to the people of this country, and we have to be concerned about the events that have occurred in other developing countries and wonder if these things would ever overtake us in Barbados. Therefore on this side we have to ask the Government to rethink its priorities on the Defence Force. We have to ask the Government to convince us on this side that it is absolutely necessary at this stage of the development of Barbados to spend the type of money that it now proposes to spend on that organisation.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, earlier in the day I indicated clearly my dissatisfaction not only what I consider the misallocation of certain areas of expenditure, but also in relation to the rapidly escalating and quite unnecessary remarks – I would not use the term "abuse", Mr. Chairman, because that would be unparliamentary – was quite amazing. However, one sometimes wonders about the levels of cynicism that one observes in the political life of this country.

I have before me here, and it is already a document of the House, a copy of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto, and I am looking at page 22. On the question of Defence and Security this is what they had to say when they were seeking to form the Government of Barbados in 1976:

> "Barbados should have no territorial ambitions. Whilst recognising its crucial geographical significance to the North American and Latin American continents there is no reason why Barbados should attract foreign invasion or intervention. The Party will not commit our country to any foreign defence pacts. Internally, the defence forces will be limited to such as are adequate to maintain law and order. There will be no need to maintain any standing army or other defence force".

It is here, I am not trying to mislead this Hon. House, it is here in writing. It goes on:

> "Externally, the party will work towards the elimination of all armaments of war and the achievement of total world peace."

Now if this was not in writing, Mr. Chairman, and I had got up in this Hon. House and said so, I know exactly what I would be called, what I have been called in relation to the public debt and other factors in this Hon. House already today, but it is here in writing, a document of the House, and I would like to know how the present administration which has been taunting us to get up and speak under a Head which we did

not wish to speak, and we preferred to deal with this matter under the Head of the Capital Estimates, how they could have the gall, how they can have the sheer – I just cannot conceive of the word, I would not like to say cynicism, Mr. Chairman, – how they can be so brazen. Mr. Chairman, the word I would like to use I do not want to use because you are going to stop me, I know that, but indeed, Mr. Chairman, this is the position taken by a responsible or what was thought to be a responsible political party in relation to the question of Defence and Security in Barbados. They know what position they took and yet you hear certain members of the Barbados Labour Party who are prepared to anticipate a debate on Defence and Security, to come in here and tell bold, naked, worthless lies to say that I had a meeting with Sydney Alleyne and the Leader of the Opposition, a man whom I have never met in my entire life, and I am saying again that it is a total and complete wicked untruth, and it is a serious reflection, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must debate Defence and Security.

3.20 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: The whole point behind this Sydney Alleyne is supposed to be a threat to the security of this country, and what is being suggested here is that a member of the loyal Opposition in conjunction with the Leader of the Opposition had a conference with a man who is suspect of having designs of an undemocratic nature in relation to this country. That is what I am talking about on defence and security, and it is extremely pertinent and extremely relevant and I must be given the right in this Honourable House to refute a wicked allegation of this kind.

Now, Mr. Chairman, unlike developed countries, when you get this game of armaments you will be permanent consumers. Unlike the United States or the United Kingdom who would be producing arms for export to support their defence postures, we in the developing countries would be from the beginning and in the end consumers of hardware that do not contribute in any way to the productive capacity of this country and I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, whether or not this $14 million that is here in the Capital Estimates for the Defence Force is going to be borrowed, from whom it is going to be borrowed if it is going to be borrowed and at what interest rates. When I look through the Estimates I do not see any indication of any borrowings for the purpose of buying military hardware for the Defence Force. Is that $14 million going to come out of the hard earned money which the people of Barbados will be paying into the Treasury over the next year, or is it going to come in the form of a loan? If it is going to come either in part or in full in the form of a loan, then I must question the veracity of those persons who have said that the only purpose for which money has been borrowed during the past four years was for productive purposes. We all know what happened to the $20 million that came from Trinidad. Casual reflection at the foreign reserves position of this country between May and October, 1977 shows a clear revelation of what happened to the $20 million, and when you ask certain persons where the money went, it is very interesting that they only smile; they never say, but I happen to know where the money went. You can do book accounting of a certain kind.

Anyhow, back to Defence and Security. If this is going to be borrowed money, we want to know, because it puts to the test positions taken on the floor of this House today that money has been borrowed and will only be borrowed for productive purposes. There is a clear warning, Mr. Chairman, in the contents of an article which has been used on the floor of this House for the purpose of projecting one aspect of the argument, but my recollection of that particular article is that it also made references to certain types of borrowing that should be avoided and certain types of borrowings which should probably take precedence at this point in time in Barbados over certain other categories of borrowings, but that would be a matter for debate at another stage, and we can all use that particular article by Miss Zephirin referred to earlier on in the forum in which either side wishes to use it.

Another aspect of this whole question is the relationship between the Defence Force, political stability and the community in general. History, Mr. Chairman, has shown that most defence forces in small Third World developing countries hardly flex their arms except to destroy the democratic processes in those countries. There are very few of them, Mr. Chairman, who have ever been called upon for any effective defensive or offensive action against another country. These are harsh facts that have emerged in the world since the 1950s when a whole series of small countries became independent, whether it be Ghana, whether it be Uganda. I think perhaps Tanzania is one of the few exceptions where the Tanzanian force actually went across into the Ugandan border to help get rid of Idi Amin. Nearer home we have had the experience of Trinidad and you can go through and through again. As a matter of fact, I distinctly recall, Mr. Chairman, having a long discussion with one of the very people that were brought to Trinidad, I think it was from Ghana, to sit on a tribunal to try members of the Trinidad Defence Force. He was here in Barbados and he left from Barbados in an emergency to go back to Ghana to form part and parcel of a group to overthrow the legitimate Government of Ghana, and he was here sitting on a tribunal trying members of the Trinidad Defence Force. The same man came through here, he came to see me because he knew a friend of mine and I was most shocked when I heard that here he was as a jurist in one situation and left from there to participate in a coup in his own country.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am sticking to this question of a Defence Force, because I want to know whether this

money is being borrowed. I also want to know whether part of this money would be going to pay for the battle ship that is already in production, a battle ship which has met the approval, as I understand, of the Minister responsible for defence; the first time he has ever gone on a ship in his life and can come back and give all sorts of excellent reports on the technical and other performance of the ship. I did not know that he was an expert in that area as well. I know, Sir, that he is one of those pooh-pooh PPE pseudo economist who can put a gloss on economic problems but without the fundamental training of an economist. I said pooh-pooh PPE economist; there is nothing wrong with that. Using the PPE means something, someone who is an expert in the politics of the economic terminology of other people, picking up little words here and there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no question whatever about the words or choice of words, but I am sure the hon. member will agree that his speech is quite good as a second reading speech. He must deal with the matters before us.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I disagree with you and I disagree because .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat, please. It is very much out of order to interrupt the Chairman when he stands to speak. I warn you. You may now continue.

Dr. HAYNES: My apology, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your generosity on this occasion. Now, Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, the reason why this particular loan is to be seen against a background of the totality of these Estimates is because it is absolutely important when you reflect on the Estimates that you realise that one of the biggest charges on current revenue is going to be the $60.8 million which forms part of the service of the public debt, and if that public debt is now being increased by $14 million in whole or in part, it is crucial that we should know about this because as this debate on the Estimates continues, it will be important for us to get an even further and better idea of exactly what the commitments of this country would be in the future.

I wish to associate myself with those sane, balanced voices here from the Opposition side that when we get into this kind of operation where we are committing some $24 million a year plus to a Defence Force, $14 million in capital expenditure and some $10 million in current expenditure, we have to sit back and ask ourselves a simple question.
3.30 p.m.

Is this a legitimate expenditure for a small country, a country in which the majority of our citizens have not yet reached the stage where they can say they can achieve the basic requirements of life without too much difficulty. This is a question that must occupy my mind and your mind, Mr. Chairman, because we have seen the situation arise where many developing countries have allowed their economy to be so vitiated by expenditures on military hardware that there is very little left over to be used to provide for such services as agricultural development, the proper development of your Water Services and other utilities, proper development of your manufacturing sector and so on, or are we entering into a phase which will inevitably lead us, Mr. Chairman, with escalating costs because once the infrastructure is established it has got to be maintained.

There will be inevitable demands for increases in staff, replacement of equipment, more and more bullets, more and more guns will be required and every year you will see an increase not only in your Current but your Capital Expenditure.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, and here I want to sound a note of warning. The history of the Defence Force in small countries is not a happy one. We on this side have always recognised that we have to have a situation existing in Barbados where law and order can be properly conducted. At the same time we realise that the Defence Force is part of the society and they share the same frustrations as any other members in the society and we cannot just consider ourselves a World apart, a branch of humanity that is completely unrelated to all the rest of humanity and not to believe that what has happened elsewhere cannot also happen here.

I would like to know what built-in protection against the possible destabilisation of the democratic process of Barbados by the Defence Force has been taken by the Government, if any, or if they have given any consideration to this matter.

I know, Mr. Chairman, that time has run out and you have been extremely generous. I have heard the hon. member for St. Thomas say that he is not going to create any Defence Force that is going to walk up Bay Street and arrest him on any given day. I want to know what steps he has taken to make sure that he would not be arrested because when I look around this Honourable House I can see the kind of steps he has taken but I would like to know what steps he has taken for the rest of us. Thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member suggesting that an hon. member can be arrested who wants to be arrested?

Does any other hon. member wish to speak.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, on listening to the last hon. member I wondered who really

is the official spokesman for Defence on the other side. The hon. member for St. Michael South in a very pertinent speech started off by saying that as spokesman for the side on Defence matters he welcomes a Defence Force. I hope I heard him correctly but the last hon. member has taken no such course because we see a situation where the Democratic Labour Party even in the run up to an Election does not understand the way it is going. It has no policy, no policy on Defence, no policy on Finance, no policy on anything at all.

The last hon. member read from the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, a beautiful document. I did not read their manifesto and have no wish to read it. So often the Manifesto of the Labour Party has been read by the other side in this Honourable Chamber that I believe that it is now considered to be the Bible of the Whole House rather than the Bible of this side. They seem to enjoy reading it because it makes good reading and good sense.

When we quote what we put into this Manifesto we did so bearing in mind the climate which existed at the time. We had no idea that after the electorate decided to make a change in the Government that we would have had such a contingency as the attempt to destabilise the country and to remove this Government before the legitimate time for it to go back to the country.

The circumstances under which the decision was taken to embark on a Defence Force was for the Sovereign protection of the integrity of the country. That is exactly what it is. I do not want, Mr. Chairman, to be in my bed a morning to have people knocking at the door. (ASIDES). Some of them will knock but they will come in and say we are ready for you. Whatever your conditions are, come. If you are naked, come. If you have on underpants, come. If you have on a suit of pyjamas, come. I do not want that situation and therefore if you see that the Sovereign integrity of the country is threatened it is the duty of any Government to ensure that that type of condition does not exist.

We have had from the time we came in here the Cubana crisis. We have had the Sydney Alleyne attempts. We have had an attempt, we were told, with the participation of some malcontents in the country of neighbouring Dominica but what is very disturbing is that the last member who spoke, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, seems to be very well *au fait* with developments in countries that are moving towards a take-over and a military take-over.

I listened with some interest to his revelations of what took place, I took a faithful record of an attempted invasion in Trinidad and Tobago and the person who took part. I think his name was Col. Ashinpong who went back to his country in Ghana. He did not overthrow a lawful Government. It was a coup within a coup. He went back to overthrow the existing Government. He himself had to give up and was eventually executed by Gerry Rawlins and his team at the time so those people who have aspired to live by the gun and the sword will eventually die by the gun and the sword.

Many years before we had Independence in this country Barbados used to be the Headquarters for the militia which looked after the whole Eastern Caribbean. I am sure the hon. member for St. Michael South will be able to help you on that because the gentlemen resided, I am sure you know, at Queen's Park and therefore we have largely been involved in a form of military operations for our protection and further than that, whenever an attempt was made to invade the shores of Barbados, the people who made the attempts were invariably repulsed by the armies which were here.
3.40 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we are talking about a Head for $14 million. Fourteen million dollars within the context of the situation which is operating within Barbados today. It is no longer the Barbados that we knew as children we have today got men in this country who are very ambitious, men who are so power hungry that when they see themselves before the mirror and they believe that the object in front of them will stay in their way to get power, they will destroy that object before them and that is exactly what we are seeing today and therefore, we are not playing with Sunday school children, we are dealing with a hardened group of people, who are prepared to take power at all cost.

I want to share to some extent the feeling of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and say that I do not myself believe in armies, but there comes a time when armies are necessary. You are afraid of armies, why are you not afraid of the Police Force? During the 1937 disturbance, who did the shooting? Who policed the country? Who used the guns? Were there then army men? Were there soldiers? They were ordinary policemen.

When the virtual coup happened in Sierra Leone who did it? Not the military at the time, it was the civil guard, the policemen who did it at that time. The coup in Grenada was not a coup carried out by the army as such, or the police as such, but you woke up one morning to hear, "This is the voice of the Revolution". Malcontents in the Opposition who are not prepared to wait until such time as the public was ready for people to vest control of the Government in their hands but decided, that they were going to move now and now was the appropriate time to move for the takeover of the legitimate Government.

Unfortunately, Gairy was the man at the time and everybody was happy to be rid of Gairy, but I want to tell you that although Gairy was unpopular, although everybody felt that the only way to get rid of Gairy, the best way – Mr. Chairman, I myself never felt so, I was concerned that if you took a step of that nature that you are going to find yourself one day unable to control the reaction which is going generally to take place.

But, we in this country have recognised that you need to be protected. You take Barbados, an island surrounded by sea, no protection at all at any area. Only a few nights ago, I was at Pebbles, Mr. Chairman and this is of interest to you and to this Honourable House and a member of the party that I was with said to me, "is that boat moving" I said, "no, it does not seem so". They said, "a boat is coming in" and when I looked carefully I saw a boat coming into Barbados. There was no light nothing and one individual got off with a large package on his back then some children followed. I was very worried because I wondered if it were the practice, if people could come in to us because of our open shores.

What do you want a boat for? A boat is to survey, a boat is to watch over the territorial waters and to make sure that there is no invasion from any point. If the people who are unhappy about a Defence Force, unhappy about the integrity of your territorial waters have ambitions to use those waters as landing points for illegal exercises this Government has already got rid of what they will do and we have taken the necessary steps. The boat is vital, the expenditure is justified. One boat in my view is not even sufficient to me, there should be two. One aeroplane is not sufficient, there should be two aeroplanes. I am prepared to go any part of this country and justify this expenditure because this expenditure is a vital expenditure and this Government has no shame for the decision which it has taken. It has taken the decision in the interest of the country and we will continue to take any decision which we consider correct and lawful and in the best interest of this country and to protect its territorial integrity.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not remarkable perhaps that the Honourable Member, who just sat down, in the process of making his point said and I quote:

"This Government has no shame."

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I want the Honourable Member.....

Mr. TAITT: Is he on a point of order?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Yes, a point of order.

Mr. TAITT: I said that he said:

"This Government has no shame."

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I want him to continue with the quotation.

Mr. TAITT: Do you mean you are going to tell me what to say now?

Did you, or did you not say that:

"This Government has no shame?"

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is the Honourable Member addressing?

Mr. TAITT: He said that:

"This Government has no shame".

Now, he is demonstrating it. He said:

"This Government has no shame".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Honourable Member making a speech?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: I am dealing Sir.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: With Defence and Security.

Mr. TAITT: .....with Defence and Security and on the matter of Defence and Security I am agreeing with the Honourable Member over there Sir, that the Government has no shame.

You see, Sir, some time ago when we, in this Honourable House, I believe it was year before, Sir, when the Honourable Member for St. Philip North was sitting in your Honour's Chair, Sir, however temporarily sitting in your Chair, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North who has been demonstrating in recent times, that most of the chairs in which he sits are temporary and I am prepared to say Sir, that when he was sitting in that Chair, Sir, he performed his duties in an exemplary manner because he had no interference, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to say at this moment and remind you that when your time is ready you will not be getting any extended time.

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please get ahead with the debate.

Mr. TAITT: To deal with this matter, Sir, one does not need a lot of time, Sir. It is a question of shame.

The fact is Mr. Chairman that when my colleague the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and the Honourable Member for St. James was acting Leader of the Honourable House an attempt was made to get this Head passed in a hurry. The amount of money at the time was in excess of $10 million in 1979. Only last week, Sir, the Honourable Minister of Finance came into this Honourable House and asked for a supplementary a week before the Estimates. He asked for a supplementary of $7 million.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has been canvassed already.

Mr. TAITT: I am not about to canvass it, I am making it as a statement of fact to demonstrate the shamelessness of the Government, Sir. Seven million dollars and during that time it was hot after the Government had made what I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central saying today were big decisions and I recall making the point, on the floor of this Honourable House, that the Government was behaving as if it had a military, industrial complex and if the decision-makers over there were making important decisions for the defence and security of the western world and their total attitude was one of militarism.

Now, Sir, in 1981 we have the Estimates and we have the Honourable Minister responsible for Defence and Security in the course of his Second Reading saying that they hope that the Defence Force will be the vanguard for a youth programme and for Skills Training.
3.50 p.m.

Now, Sir, when I say that the Government has no shame in this matter, I am dealing primarily with the way in which the spokesmen for the Government have been able to slip and slide in between the reality of the Defence Force as they have perceived it and as they have been implementing its development, what they would like in the face of the public outcry to suggest as their policy for the Defence Force. That is to say that a Defence Force in Barbados ought to have two purposes only. One, through its ceremonial to assist the people of this country to have the feeling about order, to assist the youth of this country to have a feeling about unity and to see a section or a platoon operating in unison and thus get from it some idea of how people can cooperate. The second important line on which a Defence Force in Barbados must be built is that it assists the civil order when necessary and that it does precisely what they are now bragging about that the Defence Force did when we had a hurricane in this country.

It is no business of a Defence Force in Barbados or any country like Barbados to be involved in military adventurism, to be involved in allowing any Minister of Defence to believe that he has a plaything which he can titillate himself in the belief that he is a General or Commander in Chief in some army. Mr. Chairman, this is $14 million and if one looks at the distribution of this money one does not see that the thrust is where they would have us believe that it is. The fact is that it is only because the Democratic Labour Party spokesmen up and down the length and breadth of this country railed against the use to which the Defence Force in Barbados was being put, when for example they picked up our sons and sent them to St. Vincent, and then to this day we have not been given a clear, unequivocal exposition on what precisely happened in St. Vincent, where the facts related to what happened in St. Vincent remain in the area of doubt, when the Prime Minister got up in this House and suggested in this House that members of the Democratic Labour Party were somehow stabbing the Defence Force in its back by raising that issue in this Hon. House which is the duty of this political party and indeed of every citizen, to raise questions on how the hard earn monies which are taxed from the people are used, and when we sought to suggest that the Government had taken yet another wrong turn in its wrong-headed approach to ruling – his word, Sir, not governing, ruling – it is only now that we are hearing how the Defence Force is going to participate in the skills training programme. We say, Sir, that if in fact that is the case, then the Community Development Division which has been involved with the skills training programme ought to be sharing this $14 million which has been allocated here to such things as the purchase of arms and equipment, and when we said that they were getting an armoured car the Prime Minister made the country to believe that we were dishonest. When we said that there had been some collusion with the British Government, and when we sought to put on the record information that had been published abroad in Britain, the Prime Minister sought to suggest that we were immoral.

We say, and I will continue to say, irrespective of how much the Prime Minister or anybody else suggest to the Army that we do not like them, or suggest to the Commander that he must have some vendetta against persons on this side, however much that might be done we will continue to say, and I must continue always to say, that the Defence Force in Barbados cannot be for the same purposes which we have observed Defence Forces in other countries, developed and developing alike. When we can have a Prime Minister going on a political platform in St. Lucy and saying to the population at large that he leaves the Defence Force to deal with one Evelyn Greaves and Errol Barrow, that is what the Prime Minister said about the Defence Force, we feel that we have a duty. (ASIDE) Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is fact, I heard it with my own ears, Sir, it is a fact. (Hon. L. R. TULL: Did you tape the meeting?) If the hon. member for St.

George South wishes to hear the tape I can let him have it, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask hon. members from both sides of the House to avoid as far as possible repetition of what happens and takes place on the public platforms outside of this House. I think it would do a lot to enhance the debates in here, if we as far as possible omit these references.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I assure you that except for Defence and Security, the need to do what I am doing now will hardly arise, Sir, but the prevarication which has been the watchword of the Government's spokesmen on this issue and the attempt to give the people of Barbados the impression that somehow the Democratic Labour Party is some heinous and dangerous organisation that is against the Defence Force, and allow members of the middle class in this community to go around suggesting that we are somehow subversive because we do what we know to be the correct thing to redirect the paths of the Government from the militarist adventurism on which the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security and his friends were embarking. When we said that you must be careful with Defence Forces in developing countries, again the Prime Minister led the people to believe that we were back stabbing, and now we have this good friends in Dominica, the Prime Minister of Dominica now says she disbands the Defence Force. I do not know if Mr. Seraphin is in it, out of it, across it, but I know that we gave him a military welcome when he arrived in Barbados instead of meeting Seraphin in the VIP Lounge and giving him a proper rum punch, we gave him red carpet treatment with the Defence Force.

What I am saying, Sir, is that for the young people of this country there ought not to be engendered the feeling that military apparatus is the primary and important order of the day when we have the kinds of problems which we have in Barbados. Seraphin and the Prime Minister of Barbados, one discredited and the other one soon to be discarded, they standing up with military drums. That is the sort of thing which was being perpetrated as what the Defence Force will stand for. They told the Commander of the Defence Force that I was against him and that he should take special care to deal with me.
4.00 p.m.

The Commander of the Defence Force however is fortunate enough or I am fortunate enough that I have known him from the time he was a boy, and therefore he must understand that he is a Barbadian at work and as such he is a servant of the people too just as we are or ought to be servants of the people. That is why whether the Defence Force is under the Barbados Labour Party or as it shall be shortly under the Democratic Labour Party, we are going to insist that the paths which the Defence Force take must be paths of peace, and that is why we say that when you compare this $14 million with the amounts which have been allocated for other sectors of the economy we are satisfied that too much money is being diverted towards non-productive military adventurous concepts and too little in the developmental areas of our country's economy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to make a contribution who has not yet spoken? I will ask the Prime Minister to wind up.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down who is always at his most offensive, and that is by no means an exercise in gentleness, when dealing with the Defence Force has tried hard to modify his offensiveness on this occasion and as usual as he does in so many areas of political activity, failed. The hon. member, the last time he spoke about Colonel Lewis, said that he should be sent back to the jungle to kill people as he is accustomed doing. The most disgusting statement.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks be struck from the records.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, may I say what I said? Would you like to hear what I said?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On a point of explanation?

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir. On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will concede.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, when I spoke on that matter, I said that if the Commander and Chief of the Defence Force was a professional soldier and he had just come from the area, and at that time I was thinking.....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I must have order.

Mr. TAITT: ..... from killing and if it is his desire and wish to kill people, he can go back in the jungle. Mr. Chairman, what I said then I will say again and will continue to say it. I would prefer the hon. member to bring the records. I do not trust anything the hon. member says that I said. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not going to go over that. The hon. member is not aware that Colonel

Lewis was present in the House on the occasion when he made his speech. Colonel Lewis heard what he said and no amount of false contradictions now from the hon. member will eradicate from Colonel Lewis' mind what he sat down in here and heard.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks be struck from the records.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: All of us in here heard the expression "go back in the jungle and kill people like he is accustomed doing." All of us heard that and the Colonel and now he is getting up to contradict.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, I never said that. He is saying that I told the man to go back in the jungle, and he is refusing to put the conditional clause in front of it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: *(Standing)* I stood because I saw two hon. members on their feet and that should be an indication that they both should be seated.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, at the start of these Estimates we had better get something clear. I am not going to be interrupted on false points of order from the hon. member for St. Michael South West. There are ways and means of dealing with things. If the hon. member wishes to make a point clear, he can issue a statement to the Press or whatever, but the debate cannot continue on a basis of false points of order. There is no hon. member who does it more often than the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is early in the stage of Estimates and we had better get our position clear. I am not standing by and seeing him abuse him in here as I saw him abuse you once.

Mr. TAITT: You see, Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I am not going to stand by and allow the Prime Minister who is just an ordinary member to come in here.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: That is not a point of order.

Mr. TAITT: He is only an ordinary member. He can frighten them but he cannot frighten me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: *(Standing)* Order, please! Please take your seats. *(Both hon. members sat.)*

Mr. TAITT: He is just an ordinary member like anybody else.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Be seated. We cannot have this behaviour in here.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member has interrupted me four times on a point of order which is not a point of order within the Rules, and I demand your protection, Sir. Four times I have been interrupted on false points of order. The hon. member made a most offensive speech on that occasion. If he is afraid of the soldiers now and wishes to correct what he said and put a different language and a different light in the hope that since the debates have not been published he would be able to contradict things that he said, I intend to get the debate published and put him on the spot to read out the debates and see whether they justify what he thinks he said or says he said and what he actually said. The hon. member who is an open opponent of the Defence Force, made a highly offensive speech in here on an earlier occasion and is now seeking to renege from it.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order,.....

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: In reporting progress and asking for leave to sit again, the Chairman has drawn my attention to incidents which in his view constitute assaults on the dignity of this Honourable House.
4.10 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that this Sitting be now suspended until 4.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER, suspended the Sitting accordingly.
4.11 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. ODLE resumed the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. The Hon. Prime Minister may wind up.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: As far as the abusive speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South West directed against the Regiment from which he is now trying to renege is concerned, efforts are now being made to find the debate so that the exact words may be dealt with and perhaps it is best in the interest of peace not to assume that members' recollection on this side, despite the unanimity, are necessarily to be preferred to the self serving recollections of the hon. member so I will not pursue that matter any further. I will only say that ungracious though it is we should at least be pleased to see that those who formerly abused the Defence Force now realise not only perhaps the political unwisdom of so doing but realise that the Defence Force consists of ordinary citizens, men and women, doing what are their duty in serving Barbados as Soldiers, Coast Guardmen, and as presently, at the stage of development as Airmen to defend or to patrol our waters, to provide services which have existed in our Island from the time of settlement.

As far as the Barbados Labour Party is concerned, in its Manifesto of 1976 we stood by the words of that Manifesto in that campaign. That was September. By the month of October a gentleman who is not known to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, who he has never seen, and never met – I do not know if he was going to say that he had never spoken to him on the telephone because I would really have to ask him if he would like the tape.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. I will call on the hon. member to produce the tape where I had a conversation with that person he is referring to and I would resign from this Honourable House immediately.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I cannot produce the tape. I cannot produce it. It is not in Barbados. It is as simple as that. *(Asides).* Imagine Caddle telling me I am a liar. I am not referring to any hon. member but there is a terrible liar in Barbados called Caddle. I do not believe that he can speak three sentences without telling a lie.

(Certain remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central were expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN).

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I do not mind what the hon. member for St. Michael North Central says. He knows I could not possibly be referring to him. I could not say that a man called Caddle is an outright liar, lying up hill and down dale, all day and all night, and mean an hon. member of this House. How can I mean that. I mean the man who gets on political platforms and.....

Dr. CADDLE: You are a liar, man. The people of this country know that you are that. Do you think that you are unaware of the fact that the people of this country are not aware of what you are.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The Hon. Prime Minister you should have informed me that you intended to call a name of some person outside. I had no information of this.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sorry, Sir. I have not given you any notice that I was going to reveal just how outstanding a liar a man called Caddle is, Sir, so I should not mention his name. I withdraw it, Sir.

I welcome the fact that the Opposition is now trying to retreat from its abuse of the Defence Force but there it is. They abused them once and perhaps they are not abusing them now. As far as the Barbadian Labour Party Manifesto pledge in 1976 is concerned, we have within one month of coming to power on that pledge the threats backed up by security information that proved to be all true, that Mr. Sydney Alleyne was in a Caribbean Island, that he was staying in a Hotel in a room that was booked and paid for by a politician, that he was conspiring with two Americans.

The nature of the words he used were communicated to us. We were told the names of people whom he had contacted in the Caribbean Island with a view to taking an aeroplane and a boat to buy weapons to come to Barbados. It proved to be true. The names of the people were supplied in advance. They turned up staying in the house of the former Personal Aide to the former Prime Minister at Bath. Documents eventually were found which confirmed all of the prognostications that were conveyed to us. Letters were found in Sydney Alleyne's possession by the French Police of a startling character, so startling that whatever sport I may make about Sydney Alleyne trying to telephone the hon. member for St. Michael South Central in Toronto, whatever sport may be made about that, sport will not be and cannot be made about the purported copy letters found in Sydney Alleyne's possession involving politicians in and out of Barbados. I have never referred to them even though obviously Sydney Alleyne knows that we have them since they were taken from him in prison because they do reveal things that are better left unrevealed.

I really say no more about that but hon. members will understand that this is the genesis that activated the proposals for a Defence Force which were already in existence in the files when we took office.

Subsequent to that occasion abundant evidence revealed that Sydney Alleyne had approached relatively well-known mercenaries former members of the British Special Air Service Regiment, that he had attempted to conspire with them to carry out substantial financial schemes which indeed we can say were frauds but they did have savoury South African connections which have been fully seen and documented on television and that in the course of these schemes Sydney Alleyne intended to enter his fight against the Government of Barbados for having him locked up by persuading certain of the personnel and diverting some of the money into an invasion of Barbados.

I have myself seen the receipts for the 265 pairs of assault boots that were actually bought and took all of the indents for the assault boats and so on with the assistance of an Intelligence Service in a European country to which the Government of Barbados is extremely grateful. Steps were taken effectively to frustrate what was a mischievous but well conceived plan that possibly might have reached a stage of being mounted against the integrity of Barbados. Landing sites had been identified. A collection point inland had been paced as the expression goes by an emissary of the mercenaries who visited Barbados and made contacts with two unsuspecting politicians. I am honestly satisfied that the politicians on the Opposition side who were contacted were really quite unsuspecting.
4.45 p.m.

This was all put together, it was frustrating. However, it gave the Defence Force some anxious moments. The then state of weaponry of the Defence Force was perhaps then only marginally able to deal with the threat as we understood it to be because the weapons list of the intended mercenaries had been secured. With that sort of background, I think, that Honourable Members would have thought us at the best pusillanimous and at the most extremely imprudent, if no steps were taken to ensure Defence Force's capacity to handle the possibility of threat. Those persons who saw the television film of Monsieur Denard's invasion of Les Isles Comoros would have been aware that islands do get invaded, that accidents do happen, as one might put it and that quite small bands of men if sufficiently determined and if faced with an insufficiently inefficient Defence Force can succeed in destroying democratic institutions of countries in exactly the way that I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has suggested.

We believe that the reason why Defence Forces in Third World countries seldom have to face external threats lies partly in the fact that against the sort of threat which we are talking about, quite a small Defence Force can deter quite small offence Forces. We have seen examples in the world today which suggest to us that the spirit of offensive behaviour is not absent from national entities. We have within the last 10 years seen more than one full scale invasion of one country or another.

The citizens of El Salvador, the last time they were in the news was when they were invaded by the Forces of Honduras following a disputed football match and at the moment, of course, Iraqi Forces are invading Iran. I give two examples which are unconnected with ideology as far as I can judge. I myself think that there exists in the Caribbean Islands, a sufficient number of desperate and stupid men to constitute some element of a threat against entirely unprotected islands and I think that this will continue.

In the Union Island episode, there has been a great deal of papering over of the cracks and I must say, that on the day in question whatever was said by the Honourable Members of the Opposition, I received full support at a personal level from Mr. Maurice Bishop for the sending of troups to Union Island. But that does not obscure the fact that the leader of the Union Island rebellion Mr. Clarke was a member of the People's Army in Grenada and he put together his military expertise and his weapons on the island of Carriacou and effectively set sail from Carriacou, after being arrested by the Carriacou police was released by the People's Revolutionary Army authorities in Carriacou to return to Union Island. I think Mr. Bishop very properly and correctly disavowed him and did everything possible to bring to an end the adventures set in train by Clarke. But the fact still remains that somebody, as unstable as Clarke was in a position to join the People's Revolutionary Army of Grenada and to mount an invasion of a neighbouring territory based on the facilities which had obtained in Grenada territory in Carriacou. I repeat, Mr. Bishop had done the proper thing. He supported the military action by St. Vincent in recovering Union Island, he supported the action of Barbados, in making it possible for the St. Vincent police to retake the island and has subsequently surrendered Clarke to the St. Vincent Authorities for trial and no blame should be attached to the hierarchy of the Grenada Government for either this incident, or an earlier incident in which members of the People's Revolutionary Army commandeered their vessels in St. Georges harbour that sailed to Carriacou and landed people, I think to search for Derek Knight. Really no blame is attached, but these things can happen and these are the sorts of reasons which have convinced the Government of Barbados that it is necessary to maintain a Defence Force with a capacity to repel invasion and a capacity to understand offensive tactics which may be needed to be used against invaders once they get there.

Some Honourable Member, I really cannot remember which asked what steps are being taken to protect Barbados against a coup by the Defence Force. I would be extremely imprudent to answer that question, nor I think would an Honourable Member seriously

expect any question relating to the tactical disposition, the tactical plans, the strategic plans, the contingency plans of any area of the Defence Force, the Royal Barbados Police Force, or anything else to be revealed to anyone who is not a member of the Bodies responsible for looking after national security. I do not believe that the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition would want to know – unless he was in a position of executive responsibility, which of course can come about even without his return to power, but some kind of responsibility as a member of an Advisory Body perhaps – details of military, or police arrangements, I do not want to know them, I just want to know that they exist and I am talking about all plans. I want to know that all plans exist to meet all contingencies.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is concerned for my protection..(ASIDE) I assure the Honourable Member that he has less to fear from any possible successor to me, than he has to fear from me. It would not be a case of killing Charles to make James King. I would just say, that we have had to upgrade security within Barbados, as a result of developments in the region generally.

There is an overall plan relating to key points within Barbados and relating to strategic areas that have to be given general defence. There is a general concept on that and some of the structural works and infrastructural works which are being done in the island relate to aspects of security, as well as, to aspects of development.

Now, a great deal is made in this debate of expenditure on weapons. I am pleased to say that Honourable Members are showing their innocence of military matters by talking bravely about bullets and guns and so on. Bullets and guns really do not cost very much money, certainly not the bullets and guns that the Government of Barbados is contemplating buying and while not giving precise figures, I would assure Honourable Members that they are not even talking about $1 million when you speak of weapons. If you look at the arms' dealers catalogues you will observe that second hand, machine guns reconditioned by a modern army can still be bought for about US$100 each and weapons of less potency even cheaper than that.
4.55 p.m.

It is an unfortunate commentary on the world today that weapons in terms of hand held weapons with quite high capacities for automatic fire can be bought for very, very small amounts of money, and even the ammunition is not phenomenally expensive. But hon. members have asked for a breakdown of this Item and have spoken of this Item in terms (a) as if it is repetitive, as if it is going to be repeated in other years, and (b) as if it relates *in toto* to what we are understanding by arms and weapons, and (c) as if expenditure on this Item is something which we are in a position to decide an alternative use for. It is like if you decide we do not want to build the cement plant but we will take the money and build something else with it. There is no possibility of taking the money for the cement plant and building houses with it, because the money is available to build the cement plant, not houses, and if the cement plant is not built the money is not available. Similarly, the money under this Head is available for the purposes under this Head, there is no alternative possibility for this money.

These are funds which are strictly assigned to specified jobs under a technical co-operation and aid agreement which produces enough money for the foreign exchange costs and a good deal of the local costs of those particular jobs, and in addition, has a component of $2 million, more than 10% of the current debt, but about 10% of the overall sum, $2 million in straightforward technical co-operation in the form of personnel lent to assist the Barbados Defence Force in training.

I will give hon. members some of the items. Hon. members, if they look at Subhead 2, Item No. 21 – Structures, they will see nearly $5 million voted. Out of that $3 million is for the construction of the Coast Guard Base. It is not a question of buying guns or anything else, it is a question of converting the Pierhead to a Coast Guard Base, including the building of superior workshop facilities than at present exist in the Careenage, and to that extent hon. members may think that there is an element of productive spending.

It is impossible to do anything with the Coast Guard boats that have been bought. You cannot get parts for them, the company that built them went out of business. You have heard it all before, so you need a new vessel. The only vessel of reasonable size which can make journeys in and out of the Eastern Caribbean, which indeed can cross the Atlantic, is a vessel which actually costs some money. Seven million dollars was appropriated for it already, and included in Item 23 – Plant, Equipment and Furniture – is another $6½ million which is for conversion of the shrimp boats and completion of the fast patrol boat.

Now, all these funds are loan funds available for that purpose. The shrimp boats will have a civilian component in so far as they will carry equipment for looking after oil spills, they will also be able to do geodesic surveys in connection with petroleum exploration offshore. In the case of an air crash they will be called in to assist as rescue vehicles. I will mention that very shortly we will have to put out in the sea equipment to test the power of the waves on the east coast. This is for the alternative energy project. The Coast Guard will have a vital role in that particular exercise as well, so it is perhaps not

fair to say that this is a question of arms rather than productive enterprises. It is also not fair to ignore the fact that our territorial waters are being fished by vessels that have no licence from us and that without an adequate Coast Guard presence we can never put an end to that.

Under the Item – Structures – to return to that, $800,000 of that is being used to upgrade the standards of the women's barracks and to build – they call it a hospital, Sir, but it is really a medical aid station – which exists already but on in very small cramped quarters within the women's barracks, which will be in use generally as an aid station for the Regiment.

Reconstruction and renovation to the St. Lucy Depot, the stone barracks at the Drill Hall and the West India barracks will cost another $800,000. These are all amounts of money which will be giving employment to Barbadians, preserving some of our old buildings, and not connected directly with the arms that hon. members are speaking about.

Radios and radar equipment will be taking a quarter of a million dollars, and I am going to say something about that in a moment. There will be $100,000, stores for the patrol boat. This is being voted as Capital but the hon. member for St. Michael South Central correctly points out that eventually replacements for that will find their way into the Current Estimates, but $100,000 is the initial equipment, so it is not anticipated that replacements will be enormous. Service equipment for the aeroplane, air/sea rescue equipment and other equipment will cost another $100,000; beds, mattresses, chairs, tables, lockers for the soldiers will cost $200,000, if hon. members really want all these details. We are spending $50,000 in tents, buying a washing machine for $20,000, and I would mention in passing that we have offered other Departments of Government the services of the very well equipped laundry which will now even be better equipped at the St. Lucy depot for laundering clothes, uniforms and so on.

I could go down the whole list. Workshop tools $30,000, items such as these are all embraced in the Head. Three land rovers, a cesspit emptier – the cesspit emptier will no doubt be of interest to the Ministry of Health – a motor cycle, these are the items in the vote, and I think that the hon. member for St. Michael South is perhaps a little unkind to the British when he said that the people that are offering us military aid have never given us any tractors and equipment that will enable us to grow more food or assist in our agricultural development. He is not correct in that. The first aid agreement that the British have had with Barbados since Independence was negotiated by us three years ago and it was for tractors and equipment. A good deal of which has already been bought, some is in the service of the Soil Conservation already, others in service with the Ministry of Communications and Works. There was a very substantial instalment of British aid which was used for buying vehicles, including trucks and buses, tractors and heavy duty vehicles generally from Britain. I think it has all been spent, and I believe that the Ministry of External Affairs is negotiating further for equipment of this sort.

As far as the rather grandiose announcements of military assistance for Barbados from the United States are concerned, the only items of equipment that have been identified as needed by Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean are communications systems to enable a communications network to be set up to allow the Coast Guard to operate effectively between islands and effectively from ship to shore in Barbados.
5.05 p.m.

We intend in the future to provide all fishing boats with direction finding equipment which will enable them to be found when they go astray. This is to be integrated with the Coast Guard. We intend to have a communications system between Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica for Coast Guard purposes, and this probably will be the principal subject of the American military assistance which has been granted to the Eastern Caribbean on very favourable terms. There are no plans to buy any guns, mortars, heavy artillery, light artillery, battle ships or otherwise from the United States at the present time; maybe some small vessels suitable for inshore work in cooperation with the Harbour Police, maybe communications equipment, maybe technical assistance. These are the things which are being canvassed at the moment. I cannot even tell hon. members how far it has reached, but we are not out for buying military aeroplanes, weapons systems or anything else.

The hon. member's remarks are more properly addressed to Governments in Latin America who do tend to buy very elaborate military establishments for their actual needs. They do buy modern aeroplanes that require highly trained pilots and immense amounts of servicing, and this is where you get a bad name for the giving of military assistance from developed countries to developing. Barbados' needs for things that go bang, really if I told Colonel Lewis the Chief of Staff, tomorrow, all right, somebody is giving all the guns you need, just write a list for whatever you want, I personally doubt it would reach $1 million. I just do not see how it would get there because first of all we are not badly armed at present. We are fully aware of the fact that during the political disturbances in Jamaica the Jamaican army found itself outdone by the gunmen in the political parties. We do not think that we intend to let that happen to us, but we are not badly armed at present, and hon. members perhaps should have a sense of balance about using emotive expressions about guns and butter. All the guns that are

bought in Barbados in a year could not even amount in my opinion to 5% of the butter that is imported into the island if so much. Goering said "the guns will make us strong, butter will only make us fat", but in Barbados, unfortunately for some of us, we have already taken the choice to be fat. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central can quote Herr Goering as readily as he probably quotes himself Herr Goebbels. That really is a summary of the Defence vote. The great amount of money for the purchase of a coast guard vessel and for the establishment of a coast guard. It comes out all in one year because all the money is coming in by way of loan funds in two years: $7 million we have just voted and now we are voting the balance for the forthcoming year. It comes in these two years, one calendar year perhaps. The money goes into the Treasury, it has to be voted back out again, but the payment for the sums will be stretched over 15 years, and this amount of $14 million although voted out at one time, is not a one time charge on the taxpayer. The taxpayers will actually be paying this money over a period of 15 years. So to suggest that the taxpayers' money is being picked up and that something else can be done with it this year is to misunderstand the nature of loan agreements and the structure of our estimates. The taxpayers will begin paying for this I believe in 1982 or 1983, I am not sure how long the grace period is, and if the hon. member for St. Michael South Central's lurid predictions about inflation turn out to be accurate, by the time the taxpayers have finished paying for this, it will be a flea bite because in 15 years' time the final instalment of $880,000 or whatever it is will really perhaps at that time be no more than the cost of two Mercedes motor cars, in these days probably the cost of ten *(Asides)* I would be glad to understand the heckling of hon. members opposite, but I cannot quite get it.

Perhaps it should be noted in passing, Mr. Chairman, that the vote for Defence is only $7 million, not $10 million. The whole vote on current Defence and Security which includes the Immigration Service is $10 million; the Defence Force is only $7 million. It is a bloc vote of $7 million; the capital for the Defence Force is $13.9 million of which the biggest component is payment of the remaining instalments on the vote, and the next biggest is the building of the base at the Pierhead. Now the $14 million includes the van that picks up the illegal immigrants that I am not going to advert to under the question asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy and to provide cars for the security guards and a motor cycle for a particular security guard. To reach $14 million you have to add in the vehicles that are being bought for the Immigration and the security guards as well. Hon. members should read the Estimates carefully before they question these things. One cannot really say anything, Sir. One expects an Opposition faced with a vote of $14 million on Defence and who have very little else to talk about in a general election campaign.....

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would give way, it seems to me as if he is getting ready to complete his response, and I did not hear him allude to the question or statement made relating to, I do not wish to say "pact" because I do not think there is a treaty in existence, but the agreement perhaps if there is an agreement between the Barbados Government, the St. Lucia Government and some other Governments with the British Government. This question of the loan I take it is from the British Government to purchase the ship, and in 1979 when we raised this question he said it would not have been efficacious to discuss in these terms. I wonder if he could enlighten us now as to whether there is such a security arrangement or if there is not.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In 1979 I was trying to indicate that the Opposition misunderstood the use of the term "defence agreement" as I was using it then. Perhaps a defence agreement is slightly elaborate. There is no defence agreement in terms of agreements for joint defence between the Governments of Barbados and the Governments of Britain, St. Lucia, St. Vincent or anywhere else, or the Government of the United States. I have a feeling that in a democracy it is very difficult to make that kind of secret agreement, and the hon. member for St. Michael South perhaps in the heat and the excitement of the Union Island expedition got carried away, I would think accidentally, not deliberately. The hon. member for St. Michael South West is not going to get carried away deliberately, sometimes I think to intimidate you, Sir, but I do not accuse other hon. members of that particular feeling. There is no defence agreement. The United Kingdom probably will explain that it does not normally enter Defence agreements with former colonies, and the few exceptions are well documented.

As far as immigration is concerned, I am very grateful to the hon. member for St. Lucy for giving me an opportunity to say something about this matter at short length.
5.15 p.m.

He has more correctly brought it under this Head because the van which we planned to buy under this Head is for the very purpose which he mentioned again in a somewhat lurid way, "The rounding up of illegal immigrants" I think he said but this is a vehicle which will enable the investigators to get around.

One of the functions of the new Immigration Service which was not so easy to be carried out by the Police is to make a careful search for persons who are not legally in this country. Contrary to the often repeated

statements of the Leader of the Opposition, we are not in the business of bringing a large number of illegal immigrants to Barbados for political purposes. We are aware that there are people's jobs which have to be protected and our Immigration Laws respect them.

Equally we are not in the business of harassing decent people from St. Lucia and St. Vincent principally who have lived here for many years who have not completed the formalities which a generous Government has laid down for the regularising of their positions.

To put it very shortly, we have maintained in force the amnesty for all persons from the Eastern Caribbean who have been in Barbados illegally or unlawfully and who were ordinary residents since September 1st, 1975. If there are any citizens who have not been involved in trouble, have not had convictions, they are given an application form and asked to fill it out.

There have been investigations recently which revealed that a number of persons have received application forms and have not filled them out and that there are numbers of persons who come to Barbados illegally and some of them come in connection with the drug trafficking. We are trying to clamp down on that and the investigations are being carried out for the purpose of dealing with all of these people.

A difficult pattern would be that inquiries are made in a particular district. The Immigration Officer visits the persons who he knows and in many cases some he does not know and makes polite inquiry. I have not received any complaints of discourtesy or bad treatment and certainly no complaints of brutality.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, just on a point of elucidation. I wonder if the Prime Minister would clarify the point when he indicated that people who were in Barbados since 1975. Can you go over that point again for our clear understanding of that point? The point about those non-Barbadians since 1975.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: People who are ordinary residents in Barbados on September 1st, 1975 who have been continually resident, all those persons and I am appealing to them, Sir. They really have nothing to fear from the Immigration Department. All they have to do is to fill in the forms and regularise their positions but in the middle of these decent and law abiding citizens you do meet difficulties. Even people who have been deported from Barbados try to get back in and do get back in.

Only last Friday there was a little furore that immigrants were being rounded up. I was interrupted at a meeting in the presence for the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Deputy Prime Minister and others about this matter. Within two hours a Deportation Order for somebody who was known to be involved in drug business and who had been found and for whom a search was being made had been prepared and a Deportation Order for somebody who had been told to leave the island without a former order being made who had gone underground for some weeks, were prepared and signed.

I really do not think that hon. members would want to quarrel with an Immigration Service for doing this sort of thing. I do not think that any hon. member wants to know that citizens of other Caribbean Islands who have been involved in the drug traffic or citizens of any country who have been involved in trafficking should remain in this country nor do I think that hon. members want to know that persons who have been convicted of crimes, serving a little time in the Prison, told to leave or have been told to leave after serving their time in Prison should hide away in the Island and flout our laws with impunity.

The Deputy Prime Minister will remember that one of the persons concerned had managed to swim ashore from the boat after deportation and come back to Barbados through irregular channels. This is all that is going on and no law abiding citizen need feel any threat. Persons who have been in Barbados for those years working, perhaps with children in Barbados, living their lives as good citizens have nothing to fear and all members of Parliament, I hope, Sir, will tell their constituents who come from the Eastern Caribbean and have not regularised their status to go and get applications to do so.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask a question on the same point. Is there a policy that persons who might have been in Barbados illegally but who fall after the date specified by the Minister, is there any policy that they can be regularised outside of being married to Barbadians or do they have to leave the country.

In other words in the United States if you have been there illegally but you take steps to regularise, the policy is that they must leave the country before they can be considered. In Barbados there are a number of those persons who are here who might have barely missed the date and who have been living exemplary lives in the community, who have been working and paying their taxes etc., but they are afraid, many of them to go to the Authorities because having missed the date they fear that they might be sent back home. Could the Minister indicate what are the variations of the policy if any?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Cases are dealt with on their merits but I would point out to the hon. member that more than five years have elapsed since September 1st, 1975 and therefore we are beginning to get cases where people have been here for five years who are eligible for status but cases are dealt with on their merits, Sir.

I do not think that anybody expects that if somebody comes here on a 17-day ticket in October last year and never asked for an extension and then was found working as a domestic for $35 a week that that person is going to be regularised because we do not believe in (a), exploitation of labour. We really do not think that people being paid substandard wages who have been in the Island six months and can be paid the wages only because the employers frighten them by telling then that if they go to the Union they will get put out, that kind of situation we do not want that. We really do not want that. That sort of person will probably be asked to leave the Island but if there are grounds for making an application, he will surely make one.

We no longer have a policy that people have to leave the Island before they can apply. That policy used to exist. There is no policy in the ordinary way that you must leave the Island. If you have been here for four years, a good citizen with connections in Barbados, not married but perhaps with a spouse and all that sort of thing, you can make application and have it considered but cases are dealt with on their merit.
5.25 p.m.

We are not so generous with people who have come since 1975. Generally, they have to make out a case which would entitle them to a work permit. They have to go through the procedures of having the Immigration Department consult as to whether the skill is needed in Barbados and so on. Maybe another day will come, I do not know, when there could be another amnesty. I do not know, but it is not in my contemplation at the moment. We may be prospering, but we would not necessarily prosper under a flood of immigration and no matter what you see, what you hear about the money being collected in revenue and all of that, there is no policy of allowing in any flood of immigrants from abroad. The work permit fees come in from persons who arrive in Barbados from developed countries and the Eastern Caribbean. Overwhelmingly work permit fees come from English, American, Canadian, even German applicants, they do not come from the Eastern Caribbean.

If the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central is able to see discrimination in this, well that would come as no surprise.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to put the question formally. Is there a preference for these people that you have just mentioned from North America, Britain and so on?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Unfortunately, there is no preference. There is a preference for CARICOM people and this preference is normally exercised to quite an extraordinary extent. You would be surprised to see how much is exercised. You do not get the applications from the CARICOM people, the CARICOM people go to Canada, the United States and Britain. The Barbadians with skills go to the United States and Canada and to a lesser extent Britain. The British and the Canadians, not so much the Americans mainly come here. It is just a mutual brain drain. It is just a part of life as it is lived in these islands and as it is lived in Britain. The majority of work permits are issued I believe to nationals of Great Britain.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Rt. Honourable Minister would indicate – I am not trying to take him into the realm of details and specifics – but would for example, broadcasting fall within the ambit of special skills? Something like a Programme Manager. Would you say that these are the kinds of skills that are not available in Barbados? I wonder if the Honourable Minister could respond to that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is a new speech. You have to call this a new speech if they are asking me questions.

Yes, I am glad to say, that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has advertised more than one post; the post of Programme Manager, the post of Engineer and we have been able to get a very skilled person from CARICOM with excellent qualifications to fill one of the posts and another skilled person from Great Britain to fill a post. It is to be regretted that perhaps because of the atmosphere referred to in a speech earlier by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central the conditions up at CBC are such as to put off Barbadians rather than attracting them. Certainly, Sir, there has been enough dissention up there from the moment that the station was inaugurated until the present time that makes it very difficult to obtain and retain skills of adequately qualified Barbadians. I would be glad if we could get some more people from CARICOM in the field of broadcasting.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if the Honourable Member would take this opportunity to let the Honourable House know whether he intends to respond positively to my call for an immediate enquiry into the affairs of CBC?

Rt. Hon. J. M G. M. ADAMS: I do not intend, Sir, not at all. I do not think that it is necessary, those affairs

get enquired into every day publicly, as well as privately. It really is not necessary.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 72 stands part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A division has been called. The bell was rung.

The question that Head 72 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative the House dividing itself as follows:

The following Honourable Members voted Aye:

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, Mr. BRADSHAW, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SIMMONS, Hon. L. R. TULL and Mr. SISNETT. (12 Ayes).

The following Honourable Members abstained:

Mr. SANDIFORD, Dr. HAYNES, Mr. GREAVES, Mr. WEEKES, Dr. CADDLE, and Mr. TAITT. (6 Abstentions).

HEAD 18 - AUDIT – $120,210

Head 18 – Audit was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 18 stands part.

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

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

HEAD 19 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING – $4,833,156

Head 19 – Ministry of Finance and Planning was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 19 stands part.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg tosecond that.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chaiman, I wish to ask a question relating to subhead five Economic Planning. Some time ago, early in the life of the present Government, there was a lot of fanfare aout the establishment of a National Economic Council.I believe that it was called a National Economic Council

Now, I believe that in Britain there was a National Economic Development Council. I believe that at some stage, there was a body called Neddy and various bodies to give advice on general economic policy. In Barbados we have a NEC; National and Economic Council. Since that fanfare, about the establishment of such a body, I believe that the public in general and certainly this Honourable House in particular have been starved of any information about the sittings about the activities and indeed about the general level and tone and content of advice tendered on general economic policy.
5.35 p.m.

It is customary in other countries where there is a much freer flow of information for reports from these bodies or contents of their deliberations to be made public, but we have a general lack of any information about the functioning of this particular National Economic Council, and I wonder if the Minister of Finance could give us any information about the number of meetings that have been held by this particular body. I wonder if the Minister of Finance could give us some information about the frequency of meetings of this National Economic Council, and indeed whether the Council has considered the question of the public debt and expressed any concerns about the level of the public debt and other major matters concerning the health of the economy of this country.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, there are a few items under this Head which I would like to get some answers on. Firstly, the question of the management of the vote of Public Debt Service Charges. I have expressed my views on the question of the public debt of Barbados, these views have been sharply criticised by two members on the other side. One member seems to think that because you have to make a virtue out of necessity by borrowing under certain circumstances, that this should be the prime objective of a Government, to set about the task of borrowing as much money as possible. You borrow money because you have to borrow money, and because you cannot do otherwise. If you can reach a situation where you can generate sufficient funds to share in the Capital development of the country between locally generated foreign exchange even for development that has foreign exchange implications, and a happy mix of borrowing, I think that could be the best arrangement for Barbados, and you cannot get into a situation where you can have a Capital Development Programme of $200 million and the borrowings projected to the extent of over $180 million. That in my view may be making a virtue out of necessity but it is basically bad business, low equity in the development process of the country, and I think we need to get to a better stage.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is dealing with the management of the vote of Public Debt Service Charges. It seems to me that you are dealing with policy

matters which could have been dealt with in second reading.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister is on a point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Well, that is the point of order, Sir. The management of the vote of Public Debt Service Charges only means paying the money out on the given date, so I cannot deal with policy on this issue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is a matter of policy.

Dr. HAYNES: I completely disagree, because when you get into a situation with the kind of levels of debt which we have, I believe some time ago one of my comments on the public debt in this Chamber, Mr. Chairman, was that you would need to set up a special Department of Government to manage the Public Debt Service, and it is most important when you are discussing this particular Head not only to think of the quantum of the National Debt, but also to make sure that your repayment schedules are such that all of a sudden you do not get a whole mass or repayments coming due in the same fiscal year, and that there is an appropriate spread of your repayment schedules, otherwise a future administration could be severely embarrassed if, for example, in one year and there was not a proper spread of your repayment schedules, you suddenly found that in the year 1990 or the year 1989 you had to pay out five times as much in that particular year than the year before because of mismanagement of the public debt at this stage, so it is very relevant.

The quantum is important, the staging of each of the repayment schedules of each loan is important so that there is a spread of the burden over a given period of time. This is nothing new, this is nothing revolutionary, most Governments who have got themselves entrenched in the kind of debt status which is gradually overcoming Barbados have had to begin to pay considerable attention to how they stage their payments, and it is a matter of projecting it over a number of years, because whether the Barbados Labour Party is in power in the year 2000 or whether the Democratic Labour Party is in power, some of the loans committed now might still have some relevance at that time and it will be very important that you do not find yourself 10 years from now in a situation where you have to go to seek a rescheduling of particular debts, not because of the lack of capacity of the economy to bear the burden of debt, but because errors made at this point in relation to scheduling those debts meant that a whole heap of your repayments kind of coalesce in the same year. That is the point I am trying to make, and I will not be deterred from making that point because I think the question of a department for the management of the debt of this country was perhaps first raised by myself in this Chamber not so long ago.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there was also apart from the management of public debt service, I wanted to speak under subhead 3 – Review of and Advice to the Ministry on Taxation and Fiscal Policy and Advice on proposals affecting such Policies. I wonder whether the hon. member for St. Thomas will be taking that advice in respect of $13 million or so which will shortly be dished out in a particular direction. I wonder whether those responsible for the management of taxation policy in Barbados are aware of the implications of what has been taking place in the area of taxation. Income tax, as I pointed out earlier, has increased at an alarming rate despite of course of one or two concessions made from time to time.

5.45 p.m.

When one looks very carefully at the value of the Barbadian dollar in terms of present taxation policy, one interesting thing that emerges is that dollar for dollar most Barbadians are far more heavily taxed today than they were in the 1960s, a time which coincided perhaps with the most rapid development of Barbados, and I think that development is partially attributable to the amount of capital that was left within the private sector as well as other public sector ventures, and I think that we have to be careful if there is a general consensus of a mixed economy to make sure that the transfers inherent in our system of taxation do not lead to such a significant decapitalisation both of individuals and organisations within the private sector that there is little contribution that they can make to the rate of growth within the economy.

We are considerably worse off than we were in the 1960s and it is important to look back at that kind of period to see exactly what was happening in the area of taxation when a burgeoning middle class in Barbados was developing, and these things, I believe, were moving into areas of capital development, a phenomenon which has not taken place in Barbados since that time.

The second area of concern to me is the remarkable shift that has taken place between direct and indirect taxation in Barbados. Much of it of course is consequential on the hyper-inflation which Barbados has been experiencing over the past four years, much of it due to direct tax policies by the present administration which appears to me to be heading in the direction of placing the burden of income tax in a Thatcher-like manner, although I must apologise for saying so, because on the last occasion that I said the Government is following Mrs. Thatcher, one member on the other side got up and said

they could not possibly be following Mrs. Thatcher because they were here before her, meaning of course that Mrs. Thatcher is in fact following them, thus the other way around. But the general principal of taxation on spending rather than taxation on savings is something that we have to watch very carefully in a society of this kind. It is significantly inflationary as the level of consumption tax of course imposed in a very reckless manner in the last budgetary proposals has demonstrated, reckless, thoughtless and sneaky. Mr. Chairman, May's does not say that sneaky is unparliamentary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have asked no advice whatever from the hon. member. We are dealing with taxation administration.

Dr. HAYNES: Taxation policy, Mr. Chairman, when in the Estimates last year it was suggested that you would have an increase of $3 million in consumption taxes, when in point of fact it was well known at that particular time that the increase would be somewhere in the region of $43 million, similarly I see a very modest figure in here as an increase in consumption tax, therefore I must come to one conclusion or another, that the complaints made by this side on the effects of these consumption taxes not only on the cost of living but also on the welfare of the poorer sectors of the community have at last gone home and that a number of items will be relieved of consumption taxes, or in the alternative a less honourable interpretation would be that we are being fooled again, because if you look at the level of inflation alone in those countries from which we import goods and the predicated levels of inflation in host territories, and when you consider that the consumption tax is charged on c. i. f. plus duty and there is very little leeway for the Government to alter duties in respect of a number of items, then I would think that given the prevailing and predicted inflation levels with most of our trading partners, that these consumption taxes would yield next year far more than is reflected in the Estimates. So either we are being taken on the same ride that we were taken for last year, alternatively we can expect some kind of human response to the cries of the vast majority of people in Barbados for relief from a consumption tax that is likely to increase the incidence of tuberculosis and typhoid in Barbados. So, Mr. Chairman, these are two areas that I am concerned about: whether the tax administrators and advisers fully understand serious implications of a shift from a progressive to a regressive form of taxation, whether this will be a policy, whether it is the policy of the present administration to continue in that line, because if you were to take your revenue for example for 1974–75 and 1975–76 and you look at the appropriate Heads, personal income tax, corporation tax and the like you will see that that ratio has gradually and significantly changed over the past four years, and that there has been a relentless shift in the incidence of indirect taxation at the expense of direct taxation. So where the appropriate mix is supposed to fall is a matter which they on that side have to try to formulate. At the moment I think it is unsatisfactory, but the electorate would be given an opportunity to judge no doubt the proposals that we put forward on both sides in this particular year.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if hon. members are raising different points, it may be easier if they let me deal with them as they arise, otherwise you will get a very long and involved last speech and hon. members would not allow you to stay within the time limit in the final stage.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In other words, you hope that you catch my eye.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Well I was hoping to catch your eye. I do not know if the hon. member for St. Michael South West is rising on the same point, because it is so much of a second reading that I really am not going to deal with it. But if I can ask a favour, the hon. member knows I am only going to keep him a second. I am going to ask a favour. We are in a good mood now, Sir. Let us use language to mean what it says. Please do not tell me that there is hyper inflation in Barbados in the last four years when in the four years put together the cost of living did not go up as much as it did in 1973–74, please don't tell me that Barbadians pay less tax or more tax.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet. I never told the hon. member for St. Michael South West that he had caught my eye.

Mr. TAITT: I beg you pardon.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I really cannot deal with these policy matters, but I would like to answer the point about the National Economic Council before it goes out of my mind. The council exists, it meets, at its last meeting it did consider the amount of the public debt and considered debt service ratios; it came to the conclusion that the debt service ratios are extremely modest and likely to continue so and well within the capacity of the Government to pay. We have some concern over the bunching of maturities. A document was presented I think earlier, it was not circulated with the papers for the last meeting, but it was referred to. We are fully aware of all the problems of debt management. There is a department of the Central Bank which deals with exactly the matters that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was talking about.

5.55 p.m.

We have had some very difficult days with debt management since we came into power. We found that because of the previous regime we found ourselves in 1977 paying back $13 million in principal of overseas debt.

In 1975 we only had to pay back $2 million. In 1976 we had to pay back $2.6 million and in 1978 it was $6.5 million but in 1977 that repayment was $13 million of the DLP's debt, if you do not mind my putting it tendentiously. None of that debt had been incurred by us. That was the DLP's debt and this was partly responsible for the balance of payment crisis at that time because we had to spend our foreign reserves paying back the whole bunch of the earlier debt. The whole amount paid back in that year was $13,255,000 of public debt and partly guaranteed debt.

Remember the public guarantee debt in that year, Sir, the Shrimp Boats and so on, and in that year there was also the private debt to be paid back of $4½ million so that those funds that could be used normally to develop the country by importing consumer goods had to be used to repay earlier public debt of the Democratic Labour Party and since then we have done our very best by judicious borrowings and judicious placing of loans to even out the flow of debt repayment although we did have another bunching last year, 1980. We did have some bunching near the end of last year but we are aware of the problems.

The hon. member must not try to teach his grandmother to suck eggs. They were aware of the problems since we came into power. They will be aware of the problems now I am in power and they will be aware of the problems when I am no longer in power. The Central Bank has a Department which deals with that. It could not deal with the past. It could not deal with the mistakes that were made in the past but for the future, the presently acquired debts we are trying to straighten out.

I hope that answers the question of the hon. member for St. Michael South and those of the hon. member for St Michael South Central relating to the management of the debt.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Just one question, Sir. It is not a question but it is a matter concerning the hours of business that I am rising on. We met at 10.00 a.m., so I think it is the appropriate time to ask you to report progress and ask for leave to sit again, it being 6.00 p.m.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 7.00 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just one brief question relating to this suspension.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you speaking on the motion?

Mr. TAITT: When I came in this morning, during the course of the morning I formed the impression that bearing in mind the Rules that we started at 10.00 a.m. that we would be going to a period around 7.00 p.m. or 7.30 p.m. That was my understanding in keeping with a period no longer than when we normally meet.

If we met at 10.00 a.m. this morning, if we are going out from now until 7.00 p.m., it would seem in fact that the staff would have gone beyond the usual time which they are not supposed to go beyond. I am not attempting to direct the affairs of the House. That is the responsibility of the Hon. Leader of the House but it seems to me that that might be out of keeping with what has happened in the past. The Reporters, as I understand it, are supposed to get eight hours or something like that, Sir. I would like to hear the Leader.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 7.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
6.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the Honourable House was in Committee, to that it now reverts.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I believe, that we are on Head 19 and there are a few questions which I would like to ask the Honourable Minister, but before I do I would just like to clarify a point which the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister made and just before the interruption. It is on this question of debt which he found in terms of repayment. I think he said something like $13 million – and he went on to explain, or to make a point about, – I would just like to remind the Honourable Minister of Finance that when the Democratic Labour Party took over the Government of this country in 1961, that the Deep Water Harbour and the hospital as debts had to be secured and in fact to use his reasoning, we paid the Barbados Labour Party's debts. I do not think that the question of who pays the debt is as important as what the debt is incurred for and I believe that my colleague is raising the question, I think the legitimate question, as to whether provision is being made, or whether care is being

taken on the advice given on the necessity for debt service and bearing in mind the necessity for such debt servicing the economic measures which are taken, or the advice which is given in the circumstances.

Now, Sir, I have been a little concerned about the information which is coming out of the Ministry of Finance and more particularly every year for the last four years, three years to be more specific, we have been given an economic survey for which the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister makes claims of excuse that the urgency of its publication to meet a particular deadline resulted in errors of fact appearing in the Economic Survey. I recall, for example, the statistics regarding population and employment and unemployment. . . . .

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, if the Honourable Member would give way. The errors in statistics relate to population and unemployment, they have nothing to do with the deadline, they have to do with bad methods then being used by the Statistical Department and resistance on the part of the then acting Director of Statistics to publish proper statistics relating to population and unemployment.

Under the new arrangements, I am very satisfied with the quality of direction of the Statistical Department and I do not believe that errors like that will again be. In those days, we were dealing with people for whom method was everything and common sense nothing, but it had nothing whatsoever to do with the urgency with which the report was prepared. They could make mistakes about population that were two years old without any wish to correct them.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I was only going on the explanation which the Honourable Minister had given me then, but it is of small import apparently. I want to take this point too that in spite of what he says, there have been differences in the economic survey and the information subsequently published by the Central Bank, where there have been areas where what the two institutions have had to say have not coincided. But, I would like to take that up at a later point.

What I am concerned with, Mr. Chairman at this point is that every year... .....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a further point of elucidation, Sir. The Honourable Member may not know it, but there is only one basic set of information. If the two departments publish different information, something is seriously wrong because only one set is collected. It is collected by the Statistical Department and passed on to the Central Bank. The Central Bank has no separate information gathering section of its own, it relies on the Statistical Department's statistics and where you find discrepancies, it is usually due to a different interpretation and fortunately quite due to the same lack of common sense on the part of the Statistical Department that I referred to earlier. But, I do not like the idea getting abroad that there are two statistical gathering units and that they gather different statistics. There is only one and there are a number of users and if you look at the Ministry of Education, the Waterworks, the Ministry of Housing, the Central Bank, you will find that they either manage to produce different results from what is the same basic statistical gathering department.

Mr. TAITT: Well, I believe that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister makes the point very clear that indeed what I am saying is that different publications which come out of different Government Departments with the same statistical data base have in fact produced different results and he agrees that this is so and I am saying that since the Ministry of Finance has the overall responsibility for the advice which is given to the decision-makers on economic policy in the country, steps ought to be taken to determine what is the methodology to be used for the interpretation of certain data.

Let me go on to deal with that in another of its manifestations. Soon after this Government came into power, we noted a phenomenon that to the best of our knowledge is unique to Barbados, the giving of employment statistics in two sectors. First there were the unemployed and then, they were the voluntarily idle. Now, Sir, as seen by the practitioners of employment economics for want of a better term, there is no such thing as the voluntarily idle. If a person is not seeking employment – indeed the Bureau of Statistics, the World Population Census certainly the US Labour Department, the British Statistical Department, they all have agreed on a definition of the unemployed. We hear for example that Margaret Thatcher has something like two point something million people who are unemployed and we do not hear anything of the voluntarily idle.

Now, when we have arguments between two political parties or indeed, between professionals in the system about what is the level of unemployment, or what is the level of inflation, we then have to say whether we are dealing with unemployment put out by the Government, unemployment put out by the Central Bank, or unemployment as gleaned by the Statistical Department and interpreted by the Opposition, or some other group. I feel that it is undesirable in 1981–82, indeed in the 1980's for a country which boasts of being one of the most advanced developing countries in the world, I think that it is undesirable that we should have information which cannot be spoken of as reliable information not because it might be unreliable, but because equally reputable departments of Government are putting out results which show some differences.

I believe that it is in the area of economic planning and policy formulation that this kind of co-ordination ought to take place and the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister himself ought not to wish to have the kind of professional rumour which goes abroad among the professional classes, that there is some tampering with the statistical information at certain levels of the Government. I do not believe that any Government ought to wish to have that sort of thing said about it because it is very difficult to prove that what is being bandied about is true, or false.
7.10 p.m.

The question of information gathering does not only affect the domestic political arena, it has implications for our reputation outside Barbados, and so one ought to be able to point to a particular set of statistical information or data which are authoritative.

I will also, while I am on my feet, ask the Prime Minister if he can tell us what are the more specific responsibilities carried out by the Head of the Public Investment Unit, what are the qualifications of the officer, not personally, but what are the qualifications required for that post and how the advice of the Head of the Public Investment Unit as compared with the advice of the Head of the Economic Planning Unit is perceived by him as the Policy Director, for it is of importance to us on this side and indeed to the whole of Barbados what kind of public investment policy there is in the country and if the Head of the Public Investment Unit has a different view of public investment from that of the Head of the Economic Planning Unit, for example – and I am not necessarily saying that this is so – then the kind of information which the political directorate will put out to the community could in fact be misleading through no fault of their own. I feel therefore that one ought to have some better information on what – I do not think I can say who – but what constitutes the Public Investment Unit.

I see here that there is a Council of Science and Technology. As far as I am aware I have not been privy to this knowledge before, that there is a Council on Science and Technology, and it would be useful if we could get some information on what it is, what it does, what the advice is all about. It says here the combination of all technical assistance programmes, again it says this work is undertaken by a staff headed by the Manager, Public Investment Unit. I think you can begin to see, Mr. Chairman, that the technical assistance programmes coordination and the public investment policy of the Government all seem to coalesce on the Public Investment Unit.

Now the reason why that is important, Sir, is that we wish to know what is the policy, if any, regarding the large amount of revenue which has been collected in Barbados between 1977 and projected for 1981–82. For example, Sir, in 1977 the Minister of Finance said in his Budgetary Statement that a budget is more than a mere recital of fiscal measures designed to raise revenue to meet the cost of Government services, and he continued: "We view this Budget as a major vehicle for implementing a package of policies....." – a package of policies, Mr. Chairman – "which will harness the human and financial resources of the community to the task of eliminating poverty and unemployment." Now, Sir, in 1977–78 he collected $35.1 million, in 1978–79 he collected $98.5 million, in 1979–80 he collected $137.5 million, in 1980–81 $229.1 million and in this year it is projected at $266.9 million, a total of $767.1 million. Bearing in mind that in 1977 he had indicated – and the Public Investment Unit was in its embryonic stage at that point, Sir, – he had indicated that the revenue collection was for the, and I am quoting again, Sir, "implementing a package of policies which will harness the human and financial resources of the community to the task of eliminating poverty and unemployment."

Now I would submit, and this relates to my point about the voluntary idle and unemployed, the data base and the kind of information which comes out, I would submit, Sir, that there has been no significant change in the unemployment situation between then and now despite the transfer to the voluntary idle category. The Economic Planning Unit must be giving advice and must have recognised that there is still widespread poverty in Barbados which is due in no small measure to the continuing and increasing price levels which restrict the quantity of goods and services consumers can afford to pay for.

There has been in Barbados a declining food production base. I think we all are agreed now, irrespective of the source of the information, that inflation in Barbados is approaching the 20% level, and of course, Sir, my colleague said earlier, we have a National Debt of half a billion dollars or $500 million as of December 1980. In other words I am saying, Sir, that the four Budgets which we have seen with the advent of this administration would appear contrary to what the Minister of Finance said in his first Budget in 1977, would appear to have been more fund raising than they were the basis for implementing a package of policies.

Mr. Chairman, lest there be any doubt in the minds, say for example, the hon. member for St. James, on page 10 of the Quarterly Report of the Central Bank, September 1980, Volume VII, No. 3, here is what the Central Bank has to say: "Current revenue of $100.6 million during the second quarter was 26.7% higher than that for the same period in 1979. In spite of budgetary concessions which exempted workers earning less than $90 a week from paying income tax after April 14th, and which would entitle sugar workers to a tax-free May, receipts from personal income tax were 4.6% higher than for the

second quarter last year. In addition, corporation tax receipts more than doubled while import duties increased 33.1% as imports continued to rise. The yield on the consumption tax increased more than twofold over the same period last year and the tax, the scope of which was widened in the Budgetary Proposals was responsible for 31.8% of the increase in tax receipts."
7.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to go on *ad infinitum* because I recognise that we are in Committee, but I think I have given enough to suggest that the policies coming out of the Ministry of Finance and Planning as seen by us or as heard by us articulated by the Minister of Finance and Planning seem not to be dealing with the fundamental issues of developmental change in the society and the maintenance of a high quality of life for the people of the community so much as there have been on the other hand spectacular statements on formulation. When you say to someone that we have a balance of payments surplus of $33.8 million or $49.6 million, that does not deal with the problem of the ordinary man who is having a difficult time making ends meet, and indeed, Mr. Chairman, as I have had occasion to say at another place, to talk about Barbados in terms of the per capita income levels is not to deal with the realities of certain levels of existence in the community.

I would think that the policy formulation in the Ministry of Finance requires some readjustment in the sights. It may very well be that the policy advice is coming through, but the Minister of Finance has other ideas. It may very well be that, because there is nothing which I have seen or heard which suggests that the quality of advisers has lessened or has dropped, and hence if in the light of what I have said and the information which is available the policies continue to see such things as a complete shift away of the tax burden from those who at least appear to be able to bear it to those whom we know cannot bear it, if that is the sort of thing which we are going to see, and if we agree that the quality of the advisers has not dropped, then it means that perhaps the Minister of Finance is not taking the advice which he gets from his advisers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before you speak, may I ask if there is any other hon. member who may want to make a contribution?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member who has just sat down has made a very cultured in voice but very drastic accusation which I would really like to deal with on the Statistical Service. I really do not intend to enter into any long argument about unemployment.

I came into office, I found that some years ago the Ministry of Labour used to estimate unemployment, that in 1975 with the aid of an expert from overseas, an Indian gentleman I think from the UNDP, new methods of estimating unemployment had been devised. They produced such startling figures, when translated they suggested that in the quarter October to December, 1975, – they now suggest, they were not calculated at the time – this is what the figures show, that of a work force of 98,000 something like 22,000 were unemployed. The Statistics Department, all of this in 1975 and early 1976, then introduced a new category of person, the voluntarily idle who are represented in North American statistics just by the blanket coverage "not in the labour force" and who also are partly accounted for in statistics kept in northern countries by the indices of seasonality, because in winter we do not include a building site labourer as unemployed if his work temporarily takes place in Minnesota. In winter it is assumed that he either has saved up enough during the summer or that he would go and look for other work.

There is seasonality indeed in Barbados. You should not call a canecutter or a panboiler, a better example – a panboiler can make a year's income in four months, a very good income – you do not call him unemployed because he is not working in September. These seasonality indices are used in the developed countries, nearly all of which exist in places where there is quite considerable seasonality by reason of climate, and to some extent they take the place of the voluntarily idle, in sample surveys, that is. In places that keep sample surveys like Great Britain which measure unemployment purely by registration at the Employment Exchange – if we had that in Barbados you would be sure that we would have no unemployment at all because very few people ever register at the employment exchange – but in Britain that is how it is measured. They take some account even with registration of the voluntary idle because they do give you one set of statistics and then they say "corrected for seasonality and for those who have not yet found a first job."

Now there are people really in Barbados who are voluntary idle and who come into the voluntary idle category. Something like two-thirds of all unemployed males at the last going down had not got their first job yet, were people in a very junior age group waiting to get their first permanent job. Quite a large number of unemployed women, certainly all women awaiting work and all men who are not working have never worked. Of men it is always more than half, perhaps even in 1975, I am not sure. 1975 would have been quite low because there were adults unemployed at that time. There are virtually no unemployed adult men in Barbados at the present time, but some adult unemployed women. This category of voluntary idle with whom the Democratic Labour Party has made so much sport was introduced

under the Ministry of the hon. member for St. John and was already by the time of the budget debate a well established phenomenon in the statistics, because if you read the Budget debate of 1976 you will see quite clearly that the then hon. member for St. Michael North West, Mr. Greaves, had the relevant file in front of him in which he could have read the transition from the unemployment figures of 1975 and the unemployment figure for 1976 in which there was this new category. It is not a necessary category, it is an advanced way of keeping statistics. It is not a bad way.

I am the first I believe to weed out all the cabinet hypocrisy from statistics. If I see foolishness in front of me, I say get rid of it. All you have to do is not to count those who are not actively seeking work in the labour force. You ask people certain questions; have you ever worked before? When last did you actively seek work? Within the last six weeks whom did you go to to ask for work? What other steps did you take to seek work? If somebody answers "no", they have not sought work, they have not been to anybody, they have not answered an advertisement, and then they are asked "do you want work?", when they say "yes" you put them in the category of the voluntary idle because you cannot put them "not in the labour force" if they express a general wish to be in the labour force, but they are voluntarily idle because although they want work, some time in the future, they are not looking for it now. That is the explanation of the category. It consists overwhelmingly of very young people, people age 15, 16 and 17; it does not consist of generally speaking adults. The hon. member can criticise it as much as he likes.
7.30 p.m.

Let him rest assured that if I believe it serves no useful purpose and it serve only to ostracise, I would have swept it out along with a lot of the DLP's rubbish which was inherited.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Speaker. The point I was making was not whether I wished to criticise it because if the hon. member is of the view that the statistics should be kept one way and I am of that view well we are going to hold our two views until one of us changes.

The point I am making is that it was a category introduced for the first time for what ever reason whomsoever might have originated it but it came out to the Barbadian public and hence to the population beyond the Barbadian public, professional and otherwise, and it appeared, let me go no higher than this, as if an attempt was being made to reduce the unemployment rate by statistical means. That is how it appeared.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member is wrong. That is how it appeared to him. An attempt to reduce the rate by these means was made by Mr. Greaves in here when he held up the file and said that what I had said about unemployment being 2% was not true. It was only 17% and something. (ASIDES). I said 28%. In fact it was 28% among the women. I have been given only the women statistics. The overall figure is 22%. That is correct.

Mr. Greaves said "No, it was not that." Now that is the occasion when the voluntary idle statistics were first used. It is to my mind trivial. If you think that the people would vote against the Barbados Labour Party because I used the statistics called the voluntary idle to reduce the number of unemployed, try it. I cannot tell you more than that. I know a lot of people know they have work.

I also know that now that proper population figures are kept and now that a ratio estimation which the Deputy Director, III of the Statistical Department before he was promoted to Director did and all that he said could be done he always said was the technique of ratio estimation.

In other words, come and get a fixed base for something. Come and get a population count. Once you know the population let everybody work to that. Everybody knows that the population is 251,650 in such and such a month and it rises such and such. When you do your sample survey, once you are satisfied that your percentages are correct, you reduce your fixed numbers to the number of known population. In other words, if the sample survey tells you the population is 275,000 you know that is foolishness so you use a fixed base of the population of 252,000 and adjust all your other figures to that.

The sample survey margin of error is greater in a very small place like Barbados than actual counting. In the United States it is the other way around. You get better results from a sample survey than you get from trying to count and in Barbados you get a better result from counting than you get from taking a survey. (ASIDES). The only thing that sample surveys get right is the percentages and if it says that somebody's percentage is going down and somebody else's is going up it is unlikely to be wrong. Sample Surveys get percentages right. Counting gets absolute numbers right so I tried for two years to get the Statistical Department to marry the two systems.

Mr. Chairman, I would not be human. I would have the hide of an elephant if I did not respond to the strictures levelled by the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John and the hon. member for St. Michael South West when they

saw the figures in the First Economic Report and rightly poured scorn on them when the hon. member for St. John had to comment and said they seem to have a Statistical Director who thought of samples like one of the sweeties we used to get when you went into the Park at the Exhibition when we were all little boys together when he pointed out that they were actually going around to the hotels and counting the people in the hotels and so on and so forth. It is to stop that foolishness and introduce a little commonsense into the statistical system that I tried for more than two years to get proper percentages and proper absolute numbers.

Mr. Chairman, I have had a lot of hard labour with some of the hard seeds in Government Departments over these things. I came in and I found some planning there in the Ministry of Education for a number of schools to be built and you know what they were doing, Sir? They were projecting forward from an analysis made since after the 1970 census making certain assumptions as to birth rates, fertility rates and they were producing figures of 6,000 and 7,000 children waiting to go into the schools in 1978 and 1979. I said "Are you idiots? Why do you not go and ask the Registrar how many children were born". It cannot be more than that and that was the aegis of the whole World Bank primary school system and that is the basis of the fact that there are now fewer children in the schools than there were in 1970 although they are going to school for longer. They are going until 16. If we had listened to the idiots who used statistical methods which were laid down by the United Nations but if we had listened to them we would have had a school in Fernihurst instead of the houses that was not needed for the number of children who actually required Secondary schooling.

These are the difficulties, not anybody's wickedness. Just lack of a grasp of commonsense in dealing with figures and statistics. We are very nearly – we came within an ace and if the DLP had been returned to power we would have done it with building something like 25% Secondary school accommodation than could not possibly be needed into the 21st Century, assuming that there was another population surge – at some time in the future which I think very unlikely because we are over the hump of births and we are getting over the hump of fertility of the number of births. The population trends are probably pointing downwards.

These are the things I have had to deal with and that explains just a little bit of the successes that the Government has had, the fact that people have tried just a little bit harder to understand what was at stake.

We have had it with the Waterworks Department. The Waterworks cannot believe that the problem now is to get water actually into the people's homes rather than into the yards. They still have a very fancified belief, for example, that 16% of the households in Barbados need water because they cannot understand that if a woman has a hair-dressing parlour in her house and has a commercial water license that she is also using water to wash her face with and to cook with. They think that that is not a domestic service and will not rate that house as having a domestic service.

These are the statistical problems which the Government has to shake into certain people's head in the bureaucracy and they naturally give rise to all the contradictions. The Central Bank and the Department of Statistics usually correspond very closely. The Central Bank has a fair amount of commonsense although the area where they have shown less than commonsense is the same area of inflation.

7.40 p.m.

But all parties are now agreed on an honourable settlement. (ASIDE: He says that is his Bible.) It can be anybody's Bible, it was our Bible in Opposition and it is their Bible in Opposition, now. I never forget holding a meeting at which I asked the Central Bank people to come and justify to me their continual putting into the head of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central the idea that inflation was 20% where the facts showed it was 10%. They told me a whole fancy story about splicing and I said, bring me the text book and it was a text book by R. G. D. Allen who was grinding out text books when I was studying Statistics. At about page 18 or 19 Mr. Allen opened all his remarks to say that the techniques he is now able to present are highly suspect, but are the only things which will do in difficult situations and so on and so forth. It is on the basis of these highly suspect techniques that the hon. member has been misinformed for over a year. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central..... (ASIDES: What is the real position, who are you to accept, you, Allen, Central Bank?) You find that all God's children are singing one song now, Mr. Chairman.

At present I do not know, the year end figures have not been published, but I think that if they had been published they would not be as high as 14%. Were it not for a surge during December, real surge in prices occasioned by the Statistics Department picking up the fact, that wages of carpenters and masons had increased greatly they did not put in water rates until December, water rates which should have gone in early in the year were not put in until December, very unusual, Mr. Chairman.

Sir, the price of food, increases in the price of food are lagging behind increases of the prices of other services, so the old index now would be giving a lower

inflation rate because it did not give the same weight to other services, for example, the month just ended the price of food increased by I think .8% but prices overall increased by one percent something like that or 1.1% in that region. The old index would not have gone as high as one percent. If the price of food only went up .8% the old index would show the overall increase as .9%. But the new index shows it as 1.1% something like that.

Mr. TAITT: The hon. member has given way, Sir. It stands to reason that if you take the population base and the percentage of their income that is expended on food, as opposed to the other services, it would be proper to take the larger sector for the food expenditure up to a certain point in the population base because as you know, it tends to reverse as you get higher up the scale. So that, you are going to have that parallel use of the old and the new at least for two or three years, otherwise we are going to be back to the same..... I will hear you.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member is very percipient perhaps he is allowing his knowledge to break through the veneer of political arguments. The hon. member is perfectly right, but in fact, in Barbados we only collect lower income statistics. We do not average out income statistics above certain levels. It tends in times when the price of food rises more quickly than the price of other services, it tends to exaggerate the rate of inflation, in times when the price of food is rising less than other services, it tends to minimise it. It is possible to collect statistics for the whole population, but we do not and I do not think that we are ready for it yet.

The coverage is really so wide, I think that if I remember correctly the coverage is just over 90% I have forgotten what it is, household income of $1 500 a month or something like that. We only collect for people below $1500 a month household income. It is 92%. Anyway, it is up there, it covers nearly everybody, people like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central obviously does not spend 46% of their income for food. Perhaps they only spend 4.6% on their food, but we cannot construct an index which will give a true indication as to his comparative wealth in 1976 and now.

I thought that I would deal with this because I am quite sure that again the Opposition would wish to question the Statistical Base from the sincerity and integrity of the Statistics. We never found it necessary to do so, but we have other things on which to criticise the Opposition, so we do not have to scrape around at the bottom of the barrel for foolishness. I myself now have great confidence in the integrity and professional capacity of the Statistical Department, great confidence.

I think that the Statistical Department of the Central Bank gets too theoretical at times and then, they are too fond of elaborate equations which they have been taught in the course of getting their higher degrees and everything else. They prefer a nice equation to a more simple way of doing business. But, I also think that they are totally sincere. I am completely satisfied also, very satisfied with their integrity. It is just that some of their assumptions are more theoretical than the assumptions of the Statistical Department, people who actually collect the statistics and translate them. The departments of Government and even the United Nations Year Book do not always show the same information. I cannot be responsible for that. Sometimes it is definitional.

I discovered that by the standards of Venezuela the percentage of the population in Barbados which has access to piped water is 100%, access to Government pipes is higher than in the United States because the United States has not got 100% access to Government water. Nothing like it. But, it still appears in the Year Book of 58% in rural districts and so on because it has not been brought up-to-date and because out here we are just simply using assumption and different definitions for years and years now, anything like 40 years, maybe more.

Barbados has been announcing that it has 97.2% literacy. I personally have not for a long time seen anybody who cannot sign their name. I cannot believe that that percentage of literacy in Barbados is still 97.2%, if it was 97.2% in 1938. I cannot believe that, I believe that it must be 99.4% or something like that. There are probably only a few thousand illiterate people. General Elections tell, you have to assume that all illiterate people really are old and therefore are of voting age. It is a safe assumption to make. In General Elections how many people ask the Returning Officer to mark the ballot for them? I am sure not more than 100 in every constituency, which means perhaps less than 2 500 in the whole island, which means a lot less than 3% of the population, if you assume that everybody is a voter. Perhaps that is not such a wise assumption.

But, you see all kinds of statistical confusions arise because people use different assumptions and different data base and so on. This is well known in all countries. You have huge arguments about it. I personally think that the percentage of unemployment in Britain is much higher than that in Barbados. I really do think that, I think that our statistics have from the time that they have been collected under the sample survey system, over estimated unemployment. I think that statistics in Britain have under estimated unemployment, I can only go by the figure, but if I were asked to give an intelligent guess on the basis of observation, I would say that there was never 22% in 1975. They are all the figures put out by the Statistical Department, they are all the figures that I,

as Minister of Finance am justified in using. They are the published figures in my files supplied to me, by my economic advisers. But, I think that it was less and unemployment measured by the standards of developed countries is in single figures. I do not see this to be a country at the moment of 11% unemployment, no more than I can see Jamaica to be a country of 35% unemployment which is the figure they are putting out.
7.50 p.m.

I think that the Trinidadians who recently carried out a survey and found that unemployment in Trinidad is at 7% and have refused to publish that survey, because they do not think the public will believe them, I think that the Trinidadians have the right figure, it is 7%. Observation of Trinidad tells you that Trinidad could not be a country with any double figure unemployment, just observation of the place, and therefore there will always be argument about these things unless you make definitional points which set out clearly what you are doing, and our definitional points are that the population consists of retired persons, students, housewives, the voluntary idle, the unemployed and the employed. That is our definition. I think that many people tell the statistical officers that they are unemployed because they are not paying tax or National Insurance and they fear that if they say that they have a job – they do not believe the Statistical Act – that their names will get into the hands of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. I have had examples of this point out to me. A statistical officer went to a house, a man was in the house and said he was not working, he had not worked for six weeks and he wanted a job, he was looking for work, and as the officer was going away a neighbour said: "That man is lying. At weekends he is working down at Buccaneer Bay on the extension and during the week he is working for Mr. So and So, the contractor."

You cannot deal with second hand information, but hon. members remembering that the survey covers a few hundred people will realise what one says, that he is unemployed when in fact he is working, will do to the other statistics. It is more than half point in the ultimate statistics. If three people do it it is 1½% or 2%, so I think that there has always been a little less unemployment in Barbados than we are assuming. I think the Ministry of Labour which carried out the studies in 1960 and 1970 was accurate in saying that unemployment in 1960 was something like 7.9% and in 1970 8%, and I think that we are erring on the high side now that we have the sample survey but they are personal opinions, Mr. Chairman, outside the ambit of my duties as Minister of Finance. All I can assure hon. members is that the system is not tampered with, the figures are delivered once their integrity is satisfactory to the Director of Statistics, the Permanent Secretary of Planning and the Minister of Finance. Once the integrity of the methods used is satisfactory to those three officers, that is the end of that. There is no tampering and members can be satisfied that I do not think they were tampered with in their time, and I give an assurance they are not tampered with in mine.

On the question of the Public Investment Unit, the Head of the Public Investment Unit must be an officer of a certain number of years experience, with a post graduate degree in Economics. There is no conflict in the advice given by the Head of the Public Investment Unit and the Head of the Economic Planning Unit, because there is no more Economic Planning Unit. The Economic Planning Unit has been abolished, Sir. I am sorry to embarrass the hon. member for St. Michael South West, and he should tell his colleague, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, not to turn away and laugh at him.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order. The Prime Minister is doing very well, I wish he would not spoil it. I do not wish to get into any argument with him when he talks about embarrassing me, Sir, I am not in a position to be embarrassed on this subject.

If one looks at the Estimates which we are looking at, Sir, the description says "advice on general economic policy". It says under Subhead 5, Economic Planning. We know, Sir, that the Ministry of Finance and Planning has in it, whether he chooses to call it the Economic Planning Unit or he chooses to say that the Director of Finance and Planning advises on planning, it really is not in keeping with the image which he is trying to project when he is replying, to try to suggest that my saying Economic Planning Unit would embarrass me. There is a Director of Finance and Planning and I believe that his portfolio includes advice to the Prime Minister on economic policy, a thing which the Prime Minister needs.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member has begged too sweetly, so I would not worry with him any more on that. There used to be an Economic Planning Unit and it was abolished some years ago, I dare say when the hon. member was in the Cabinet. It is probably one of the things that passed over his head.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. That is not true, Sir. The Prime Minister is obviously mistaken, and mistaken very badly. What occurred was that the Ministry of Finance was divided into two Sections, one was the finance and the other one was planning, and the people who were in the so called Economic Planning Unit continued to function on planning and they had a Director. They were headed by a P.S. (Planning) and a P.S. (Finance) and there was a Director of Finance and Planning.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member obviously belongs to the school that believes that any

answer, however fraudulent, is better than no answer. I really cannot help that, he has given no answer. The hon. member can be forgiven in the strenuous intellectual efforts he has had to make in the last few years for forgetting that the Economic Planning Unit was abolished. The Public Investment Unit deals with basically projects. It is the area in which projects start, the Head of the Public Investment Unit supervises the first pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, projects and handles all that aspect of the Ministry of Planning under the Permanent Secretary of Planning.

The present Head has been appointed Manager of the Agricultural Development Corporation, I think he has taken up his duties, and there is an Acting Head at the present time. I do not know if the hon. member is interested in the personalities, but the Public Investment Unit acts as a Secretariat for the Planning and Priorities Committee of the Government and prepares the PPC papers and advises generally on all technical aspects. There are some very competent officers in the Public Investment Unit, Sir, unfortunately we cannot pay them enough and constantly we are losing them to the very projects which they have supervised during their time in office, but fortunately we have been able to replace them with similarly qualified officers in many instances.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I asked that question not to be facetious. If one looks at the Personal Emoluments, the Manager of the Public Investment Unit is listed as Salary Scale C at 32052 and when one turns to Scale C one finds that there is an A Scale, a B Scale, a B1 Scale and a C Scale. I am not sure I heard the Prime Minister correctly, but did he say that the present Manager of the Public Investment Unit is a P.S. in his Ministry? I am not sure I understood his explanation. Could he go over that again please?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Manager of the Public Investment Unit is so to speak a technical officer, a little below Chief Technical Officer. He deals with the project financing, the Permanent Secretary (Planning) has other duties and is the superior Manager of the Public Investment Unit. The Manager of the Public Investment Unit does get $32052 per annum plus no doubt some travelling and other allowances, but I am not familiar with his emoluments. There is a Permanent Secretary (Planning) who is in charge of the Public Investment Unit.
8.00 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, are we continuing? Are we finishing now?

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Yes, we said 8 o'clock. If this is the last speech on that side on Head 19 so that we can finish this and wrap it up or do you have others? *(Asides)* We cannot finish it then.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting be now suspended until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, 17th March, 1981.

You will recall that today we deferred Obituary and Congratulatory matters, and we would like to deal with that first thing tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
8.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that yesterday it was decided that we would defer an item Obituaries and/or Congratulatory speeches and other matters until today. I think that it was intimated that Honourable Members of this Honourable House, at the Sitting this morning, first thing would pay tribute to the late Edward Keith Walcott. Sir, The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister will speak, Sir.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the late Edward Keith Walcott was one of the dominant political figures of our time just as the late Sir Grantley Adams occupied a particular position as being the pioneer of a new order, so did Edward Keith Walcott occupy a position as being protagonist of the old order.

He was born on October 29, 1892 and was educated at Harrison College. He went to the First World War and was a member of the British West Indies Regiment and served in the Middle East as part of the occupation force, the first christian troops to enter Jerusalem in 900 years and after the war qualified as a barrister, he formerly being a solicitor. He passed very high on the bar list. Indeed, I am told, he passed higher on the final list, than anybody had before, or since and returned to Barbados to practise law. Very soon after his return having qualified as a barrister at the age of 34 or 35 and in those days standing as a Liberal in the then politics of the plantocracy and merchantocracy, he was elected to the House of Assembly from the parish of St.James. He very soon made his mark in political life and indeed, continued to be elected to the top of the poll. In those years, it was annual and then bi-annual Elections until 1946.

His career in many ways paralleled that of Sir Grantley Adams. They returned to Barbados just a couple of years apart. He first ran for the House of Assembly two years before Sir Grantley Adams – then G. H. Adams – ran and was elected eight years before Mr. Adams, as he then was, was elected. By a coincidence, both men got married within a period of a couple years and both bought large houses in Spooners Hill to move to. They lived in Spooners Hill, a quarter of a mile apart, but the political world which they occupied came to be infinitely apart in ideology and in power terms.

Mr. Adams entered the House in 1934 and early came into conflict with Mr. Walcott, who became Attorney General in succession to Mr. Allan Collymore, as he then was in 1936. The position of Attorney General in those days is now a forgotten one. Very few people, except students of the constitutional history of Barbados realise that effectively the Attorney General from the days of post Confederation Parliament until 1946 was virtually the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Premier of the island. He was the leader of elected members, sat by right in the Executive Committee during the years of Executive Committee Government, effectively was leader of Government and introduced all Government business into the House of Assembly. If the Attorney General lost his seat, he would have to lose his post of Attorney General, the same way as when the Premier lost his seat, he had to cease to be premier.

The two philosophies therefore met head on after Walcott's appointment as Attorney General and after particularly the foundation of the Barbados Labour Party dedicated to broadening suffrage and introducing a popular Government into the country. The decade of 1936 to 1946 saw a continued clash between Walcott and Adams in the House as the political future of Barbados was fought out. The two men however never engaged bad personal relations.

I well recall Mr. Speaker, as a little boy going to Jamaica in 1947 when the Barbados delegation assisted by Mr. Walcott, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Crawford went to the Closer Association Conference that led eventually to the West Indies Federation. I was surprised in the way that I think many citizens of Barbados are even today surprised to see the reasonable friendship and mutual respect which existed between protagonist and antagonist. Mr. Walcott, I remember had many kind words for a boy and I grew to respect him very much indeed, although disagreements with his politics continued. I would like to mention that the House for the first time was liberal by the period of which I am now speaking.

He had of course come to be regarded as the chief of the Conservatives, but conservatism underneath E. K. Walcott was never a reactionary doctrine of a last bastion type supremecist holding on to a narrow political base. At all costs, he was a man of great wisdom, extreme prejudices, Mr. Speaker, although I would not say that his prejudices were personal, or racial. He held his opinions very largely and in an extreme way, but he was rational when it came to understanding the political, economic forces, indeed the racial which were at work in Barbados in the 1940's. He excited great loyalty, the dominance which he exercised, for example, over that part of the electorate of St. James which live in Fitts Village, Prospect can still today be discerned as having some effect on the electoral fortunes of the party which he opposed for so many years and his dominance of the St. James constituency was such, that year after year, the waves of the Barbados Labour Party broke in vain against the rock which Mr. Walcott had erected.

We brought Mr. Talma, we brought Mr. Crick, we brought others and religiously, Mr. Walcott and Mr.

Wilkinson were elected to that constituency. In 1946, however, this changed, the Colonial Office bowed to the inevitable introduced a different composition to the Executive Committee of what was called the Bush Experiment and decreed that the post of Attorney General should in fact be a Civil Service one. Mr. Walcott was therefore obliged to retire from the House if he wished to continue in office and as Attorney General, this he did. His dominance in the constituency sufficiently remained to allow him to place his brother Mr. Stephen Walcott, a proprietor in St. James in the seat as Senior Member for the parish which Mr. Walcott himself occupied for so long.

When he returned to politics in 1951, he ran once again in harness with Mr. Wilkinson, who had become the Leader of the Opposition for the Barbados Labour Party Government to the slogan of "one gone" was too strong for the Conservatives. But it was the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Wilkinson, who lost his seat and not Mr. Walcott. 10.45 a.m.

He remained in Parliament from 1951 to 1956 still a giant politically, still effective in Opposition but overtaken by the times. Those of us who have read Patrick Lee Firmer's book "Travellers' Tree" will remember the chapter in which Lee Firmer described attending this Chamber and compared the styles of the two men whom he regarded as the then giants of the Assembly, Adams and Walcott, and effectively commented on how fortunate Barbados was to have politics of that quality, the antagonists becoming protagonists and the protagonists becoming antagonists, as long as 30 years ago.

Mr. Walcott retired from politics in 1956 and gave way to the new generation in the Conservative interest which by then had become Barbados' national party and remained on the sidelines yet with an intensive political interest. Although he was retired he yet had further service to render to political life in this country in so far as he was able to reconcile the dispossessed Conservatives to the new politics and particularly to reconcile them to the rise of the Democratic Labour Party which he correctly foresaw could and would become a stable and responsible party fully capable of giving Barbados good Government in the interest of all its citizens, just as I think by the time of his death he aptly recognised that the Barbados Labour Party had also become a party fully capable of giving responsible Government to its citizens.

I do not wish in any way to preempt what the Rt. Hon. the Leader of the Opposition will say, but I do think that the associations between the present Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Walcott however much at the time they may have seemed to the Barbados Labour Party to be time serving were not that at all, they were serious efforts to channel the political life – I regard them as such and I am speaking in a historical sense – serious efforts to channel the political life of this country into an acceptable version of what was best in the Westminster model, and I think that his efforts which may embarrass us somewhat today, so far as conservative interests in this island feel free to choose between the two Labour Parties depending on the state of politics at any particular time, yet it has been shown that neither of the two Labour Parties will come to extinguish the other and introduce effectively a one Party system into this country.

Mr. Walcott's contribution to the political life of our island when history books come to be written in a more balanced and more knowledgeable way will be placed as high as the contributions of all but three or four of us who have occupied dominating political positions in the country since the days of emancipation. For myself, of the political Attorney-Generals who have presided over the destiny of our country I would place Mr. Walcott above both Sir Conrad Reeves and Sir John Sealy. Mr. Walcott's interests were of course not only political, he was one of the outstanding lawyers of his time, referred familiarly to around the Courts as "Dove", a nickname much in vogue among his admirers. His persuasive ways with juries from the prosecution's bench ensured that Assizes in Barbados were no mere formality on the way to acquittal. Indeed one wonders if there has ever been a more formidable prosecutor than Edward Keith Walcott who was expected to prosecute at every Criminal Assize as well as carry out his public and political duties even in the years when elections were held every year and life was very busy then for politicians.

In his civil work he also occupied a dominating position sharing the leading roles at the Bar with Mr. Jubie Reece who was by his side as Solicitor-General in the House of Assembly and in the electors associations of other Conservative Parties.

At Harrison's College, Mr. Walcott had been Head Boy for what I am told is a record number of years. He was a keen and very good footballer, he played football for the Army and his exploits included the British Army playing in a medal winning side in the Middle East. He was President of the Football Association in Barbados for many years. In the field of cricket he was one of the founders of the Y.M.P.C. Club and remained its patron until his death, and he was for many years President of the Carlton Cricket Club. A man of small stature physically he was of outstanding stature as a human being, as an achiever and as a person.

Mr. Walcott's wife died two years ago and he is survived by three children and eight grandchildren. To his children, his grandchildren, his nephews, on behalf of the Government and on my own behalf I offer them very sincere personal condolences, and I beg to move the following Resolution, Mr. Speaker:

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its profound sympathy at the death of Mr. Edward Keith Walcott of Her Majesty's Counsel, a former member of this House and Attorney-General of this Island.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his relatives."

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Resolution which has been so ably moved by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. I think that I am the only member of the House who had the privilege of serving as a member of the House with the late member for St. James from 1951 until 1956. During the time when he sat on the Opposition benches there were perhaps one or two occasions on which some members on our side may have attempted to glory in the fact that we had a majority and to rub it in that the Conservatives were no longer in power.
10.55 a.m.

Mr. Walcott sat down with a smile on his face, and in the process of time the members who had newly arrived in this Chamber ceased to indulge in that kind of acrimonious debate, so that for the rest of that session, though there was a fairly strong conservative position in the House, I should say that we had a reasonably healthy atmosphere of debate. We frequently assisted, both sides, without trying to make it appear that we were any wiser than they were. The Government draughtsman sometimes would make mistakes and some of the legal people on our side would say, let us get together and try to see if we can straighten this out.

The office of the Attorney General was not as well equipped with personnel as it is today, and that would bring me to the point that when Mr. Walcott was Attorney General, as the Prime Minister has adverted to, virtually running the Government of Barbados at the same time he had an office on this floor of the Public Buildings which was next to the Legislative Council, and with one diminutive ex-Harrison College yachtsman rejoicing in the name of Mr. Aubrey Roberts, he actually ran the Government of Barbados. He was the Public Service Commission, he was the Appeal Tribunal for civil servant grievances, he negotiated salaries, he was the Minister of Finance, he introduced all Government Business into this House, and the Prime Minister has referred to him as a dove because some of the people around the courts thought that he used to coo when he was pleading with the Jury, but this name that he had went all the way back to Harrison College when he was known as ground dove, because he darted about and flitted about. I remember sitting as a junior in the courts with an equally brilliant if not even more brilliant legal luminary than he was carried on a banter at the Inner Bar, one referred to the other as pigmy, that was the late Mr. Cecil Henderson Clarke, and the other one referred to the other as ground dove, and Sir Allan Collymore said "we would not have any of these diminutive references when you are addressing the Court in front of me", but those were terms of endearment between Mr. Cecil Henderson Clarke and Mr. Walcott which went back to their school days, ground dove and pigmy, probably two of the most brilliant lawyers or the most brilliant lawyers that we probably produced in Barbados.

One thing about the law courts in those days, Mr. Speaker, was that your political persuasion had nothing to do with the briefs which we received. Clients were anxious to win their cases, and I was flattered that there was a very fierce competition existing between the now late departed Sir Grantley Adams, Mr. Walcott and Mr. W. W. Reece to see who would get their messenger to my door first for my services as a junior. I do not think that this was any tribute to my ability as a lawyer, but it is a tribute to the fact that I was prepared to work on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings when all the other barristers were playing tennis and enjoying their games of cricket, and therefore I felt that they knew that they could get some work out of me, and at times the competition between Sir Grantley and Mr. Walcott got to the stage when they did get in the court neither one would be speaking to the other, and sometimes neither one could be speaking to me although I was supposed to be briefing one of them. Anyhow, we got over that despite the fact that I was Sir Grantley's junior in politics and Mr. Walcott's junior in the law courts. I learnt a lot from both of them and I have no hesitation in saying that, Sir.

When I mentioned in another place that Mr. Walcott was a Barbadian and a soldier and an officer and a gentleman, I think that the quotation should have been that he was an outstanding Barbadian, an outstanding soldier, an outstanding officer and an outstanding gentleman, and if you can combine all of those attributes together with his outstanding legal ability, I think that you would have a composite picture of a truly great Barbadian. Some other historian one of these days, someone other than Mr. Alexander Hoyos, will make another contribution and review the work which has been done in this Chamber in the 20th Century by the political figures. I am not in a position to say whether Mr. Walcott was a greater Attorney General than Sir John Sealey. I have never been a great admirer of Sir Conrad Reeves; I really do not know enough about him, but I think we cannot be too harsh with people like Sir Conrad Reeves, because they were products of their times. Sir Conrad Reeves would probably be an anachronism today, but Sir John Sealey was probably born before his time, and West Indian historians are not noted for their objectivity, so I am not in a position to say whether we have even now

been able to assess the contributions which have been made by those great Attorneys General to the political legal and juridical life of this country.

In so far as the late Edward Keith Walcott is concerned, two of us here in this Chamber at least can speak with personal knowledge, that is the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and myself. Probably I myself because I sat in this Chamber for five years with him and worked at the Bar with him and against him, and I am not saying this with any sense of immodesty. One day when I had managed to win one of my first cases against Mr. Walcott who was prosecuting, he had a way of referring to people as "boy". He did not mean anything by it but he passed me by the door apparently a bit disgruntled and then he turned back and looked at me and said "Boy, you know the trouble with you? You have one problem as a lawyer." I said "What is that, Sir?" He said "Sometimes, you don't really know how good you are, and that is why you beat me today." And he turned and walked off. I thought that was a very generous statement for him to make that he could turn and tell him that he did not know how good he was. I really do not know how good I am. I can only know by the number of people that I have assisted from time to time. I never considered it my duty to deprive anybody of anything, but merely to represent the people who paid me to do so and even those who did not pay me to the best of my ability, and that is a lesson which I learnt from Edward Keith Walcott. I do not think that he ever exacted from the people for whom he worked the kind of fees that counsel can command today. I do not think he was really concerned about making money. I do not think that people like Norman Washington Manley, Grantley Herbert Adams and Edward Keith Walcott ever made fortunes at the Bar.
11.05 a.m.

I would go to the other extent and say that they hardly made any money at all. What their followers, and I am carefully choosing my words, people who have come after them, not necessarily their successors in title, made in a year they probably never made in their whole careers but they were dedicated professional people and I would like to say that Barbados is a poorer place for the passing of people like Edward Keith Walcott.

I understood people like Edward Keith Walcott. We did not see eye-to-eye politically. We never saw eye-to-eye politically but he never tried to persuade me that I was wrong and he was right. He accepted the fact that I belonged to a different generation and that I saw things in a different light from the way in which he and the people of his generation saw them.

When we got outside of the debating Chamber we could discuss anything under the sun. The only thing I could not discuss with him was horse-racing because I knew very little about horse-racing although I like animals and therefore I do not attempt to argue with the President of the Barbados Turf Club on horse-racing but on any other subject he wants to discuss. We discussed without any fear of being misquoted on political platforms or hearsay that on such and such an occasion Mr. Barrow said so-and-so as the case may be. I think that this is a real test of political maturity.

I therefore join with the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister particularly as I served in this Chamber with Mr. Walcott. I consider it a privilege to be able to second the motion to be moved by the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to be associated with the condolences expressed by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister on behalf of the Government and by the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition on behalf of the Opposition in respect of the passing of the late Edward Keith Walcott. I want to say that for me he was the perfect gentleman. To me he was a friend and much more than this over the years.

I only ask hon. members to stand with me for two minutes in silence in respect of his passing.

(Members stood in their places for two minutes' silence.)

A Resolution as moved by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and seconded by the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition will be sent to the sorrowing relatives of the late Mr. Walcott as instructed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we suspended yesterday Government Business was being taken. We were considering the annual Estimates.

I beg to move, Sir, that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. ODLE resumed the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

M. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central was speaking when we terminated. Does any other hon. member wish to make a contribution under Head 19?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask the Prime Minister under Subhead 1, Supervision of the work of all of the Divisions and Departments, etc. – and it appears that there has been a policy or practice during the past few years, I believe since the hon. member became Minister of Finance – I do not know if it is at

his direction or not but one assumes it that so soon as the Estimates are passed, within three months of the passage of the Estimates a directive goes out to the respective Accounting Officers in the various Ministries which by its very nature restricts the spending of monies which have been appropriated without the apparently expressed permission of the Director of Finance and Planning.
11.15 a.m.

If this is so, Sir, it raises – this was sent out by circular letter to all the departments as I understand – if this is so and if it is the intention to continue, it means in essence, that when we pass these Estimates in this Honourable House, while we may have a figure of nearly $500 million which the population assumes will be spent on various services that in essence the real spending which takes place may be substantially less and the outturn figures seem to substantiate this position and it puts the Government in a position, where they are able to, shall we say, claim a surplus at the end of the Financial Year. Now, I cannot begrudge a Government that particular method of handling its finances, but it raises a question as to whether, after Estimates have been appropriated by Parliament, whether it is proper and indeed, whether it is legal for the Honourable Minister of Finance to withhold such spending, through his directive to his departments and thereby, with administrative techniques do what he would be unable to do according to the constitutional arrangements under which we function. The result of that is management in a number of areas which we will deal with as we come to the specific Head

But, it seems to me, that if that is the case, both Honourable Members in this Honourable House and the population at large ought to be aware,that when we have appropriated a sum of money here that that is not necessarily the sum of money which will be spent on the particular service. I should like to hear the Honourable Minister's response to that. In fact, I had better sit down and see if I get a respons to that before I go any further.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr.Chairman, I really have great temptation of breaking one of my father's most sacred political precepts, he told me that in politics, never be sarcastic, but the question raised by the Honourable Member really deserves an offensie answer.

I remember hearing once, when I was a youh about somebody carrying a case to old man Walter Rece that somebody had bused him and told him to kiss a certain part of his anatomy. Mr. Reece said, wel leave some money with me and I will tell you what to do about it, come back on Tuesday. When he came bck he showed him and said, I looked in all those books and I looked in these too and I can tell you this, he cnnot make you do it.

Well, the answer to the Honourable Member is that the Estimates are permissive not mandatory, nobody can make the Honourable Minister of Finance spend one cent other than the Statutory expenditure that does not have to be appropriated and if the Honourable Minister of Finance in his wisdom chooses to restrict cash flow for other purposes by quarterly allocation, or otherwise by directives such as went out in August 1974, saying not to pay any expenditure, other than statutory, if the Honourable Minister of Finance in his wisdom chooses to do that, it is a part of the management function assigned to that Honourable Minister.

This Government does not have to under estimate revenue and over estimate expenditure in order to pull a surplus out the hat like a magician dealing with a white rabbit. We estimate the services and we get services. We do not have to use devices of underspending to achieve it. It is much more likely with votes which do not relate to personal emoluments and indeed, some that do, that you restrict expenditure so as not to burst the Estimates. I have never, as I recall it, restricted expenditure so as to spend less than was granted. I can never remember that not with Current, with Capital, or Government spending. But, I cannot ever recall having to say, well do not pay the National Insurance this week, or do not pay the electric bill, sometimes you have to say, do not pay the electric bill because there is no money in the vote but never, do not pay the electric bill, so as to achieve a surplus.

The only purpose of the question that I can think of is to allow the Honourable Member to show off the fact that he is aware of the quarterly allocation system and that some civil servant must have told him about directives that go out from the Director of Finance and Planning and he wanted to let us know that. We know it now.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I shall not fall for the bait which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in his usual manner seeks to put on the table. It is clear, that the Honourable Minister of Finance has the authority, the ability, the capacity and the legal right to determine not to spend one cent of the Estimates. What he does not have is the moral right to give the population the belief that he is going to spend $500 million on certain services and then, proceed thereafter to spend $350 million on those services.

My question, far from any desire to demonstrate my knowledge which will take a lot longer than five minutes, or fifteen minutes was a question seriously to find out if there is an overall policy in the Ministry of Finance, which would lead to that kind of directive. I really do not care if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is sarcastic today, yesterday, or tomorrow. He does not

move me when he is sarcastic, he does not even move me when he is not sarcastic. I have no difficulty with that.

What I can promise him is this, that whether he wants to deal with it in terms of the anatomy, or whether he wishes to deal with it at a higher level, I can match him sarcasm for sarcasm. There is no need for him to show off in an arrogant manner, the fact that he is Honourable Minister of Finance. We all know it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to the debate, Estimates, now.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. The question will be how long?

Since it is clear that he does not intend to deal with the matter at the level I have hoped, I will move on Sir, but I take note and I am sure the rest of the population will take note that not all that is said when these Estimates are presented is in fact the case.

Mr. Chairman, I have a few other questions, but I think, that they would better be asked under the administrative Heads later.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, since we are dealing with Head 19 here, there are a few matters which I would like to raise under this Head. I notice that this Head touched a number of departments and therefore I take it we are debating Head 19.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are still at Head 19.

Mr. GREAVES: There is mention in the note here on page 14 about the Caribbean Economic Community and I believe that this is as good a time as any to raise questions about the function of the Caribbean Economic Community particularly with reference to the Heads of Government and whether or not the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is satisfied with the way in which the Caribbean Economic Community is functioning in the absence of any meetings of the Heads of Government in the Caribbean for, I believe, almost if not more than seven years.

11.25 a.m.

It seems to me and to a number of observers who are keenly interested in this question of Caribbean integration that CARICOM is just ambling along and as if it were waiting for that final day when it will no more exist. I wonder if the Prime Minister could give some general indication and indeed some reassurance of a position which would make us feel satisfied that the Caribbean Economic Community has a future in terms of Caribbean affairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I may interrupt at this time, the subhead under which you speak, Caribbean Economic Community, deals with matters relating to trade liberalization and the Common Protective Policy.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I can read and understand and I am at liberty and I believe I am permitted under this Head to raise this matter, since even if it is about the liberalisation of trade the mere fact that the Caribbean Economic Community is mentioned I am at liberty to raise that point, and I am raising it.

Yesterday, as I recall it, Mr. Chairman, a question was asked about the Council of Science and Technology and I do not think that the Prime Minister responded to that question, and I wonder if on this occasion when he is replying if he could give this Hon. House the benefit of any of the deliberations of this Council and the kind of impact which it is making on the whole question of science and technology in this country.

Still on Head 19, I think that the member for St. Michael South West wants to raise something on the Data Processing Unit, so I will leave that for him to handle, but if we could move on to the section relating to the supervision of the insurance industry, I have a particular question which I would like to raise, and it relates to a Resolution which I introduced in this Hon. Chamber in 1979 and which was unanimously passed relating to the First Federation Life Insurance Company, the folding up of that Company, and the Resolution called on the Government to evolve a scheme to aid the local policy holders who suffered as a result of the collapse of that Company. I am not aware of what has been the progress of this matter and many of the policy holders who are aware that I had raised this question have been asking me what further developments have taken place, because the last time an enquiry was made an indication was that no kind of settlement was reached in this matter.

I am aware, and I think that the Prime Minister had indicated that the Company had an area of land here and that some provision would be made, if I remember correctly, for making some kind of arrangement which would possibly put a little money into the pockets of those policy holders. I wonder if the Prime Minister could throw some light on this, because I believe that since the Resolution was passed unanimously in this Chamber, there was a general commitment and indeed appreciation for the point which was raised in the Resolution, and I think that we should not let it just go as a Resolution having been passed and words having been spoken. I think that like the policy holders I myself would like to see some action in this particular area.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The work of the National Scientific Council – I will answer that first, and I am obliged to the hon. member for giving me the opportunity to publicise this very important organ of Government which was set up three years ago under the

Chairmanship of Sir Sydney Martin, Pro Vice Chancellor – the Council consists of a number of persons, I have not got the list of the membership to hand, but there are mainly persons with scientific qualifications, electrical engineers, chemists, a great number of persons with both theoretical and practical backgrounds in science, many of them from the University and numbers from departments of industries which deal in technical scientific matters. It has a Secretariat and it has a Secretary, I think his office is in the National Standards Building, Mr. Smith. It works under the direction of the Permanent Secretary of Planning and it is the Government vehicle for dealing with Barbados' relations with international scientific bodies. For example, a delegation will very shortly be attending a very important scientific technological conference in Nairobi relating to Third World development in science and technology.

Within Barbados the areas that it looks at are quite wide. They have advised the Government on such things as reducing the unpleasant effects of the afternoon sun in the Treasury Building, and at the other extreme the lagoon scheme for the East Coast, upon which some scorn was poured by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, has been assessed over the last two years by the National Scientific Council and it was the Council which commissioned the study that has led to the Government's decision to have a pre-feasibility and a feasibility study of the scheme. Much of its work has indeed revolved around alternative energy. There have been submissions on wind power, there have been submissions on the saving of power. It was a National Scientific's paper that made me realise for example that the production of sugar is one of the most energy intensive industries in the world and that two-thirds of our energy in 1960 used to go on producing sugar. Fortunately, of course, the sugar cane produces its own energy in the form of burning bagasse for electricity generation.

The Council has also put forward suggestions relating to possible areas of small business activity in Barbados such as paper repossessing, and it has done a great deal of work in the area of alternative building materials. Another very important study by the Council which relates to the better production of coral stone blocks is currently being worked on by Government. Indeed I would particularly like to thank the Council, because that is a real example of a practical approach to a problem without too great expense. For a few thousand dollars the Council was able to identify a stone cutting machine, identify virtually all the sites in Barbados which could sensibly be used for the production of coral stone blocks and give actual cash figures for the investment to reopen a quarry or use an existing quarry for a greater expanded output of coral stone blocks.

I am satisfied that after a start in which the Council perhaps spent a long time working out its own parameters it is doing excellent work in scientific and technical enquiry in Barbados and is a most useful advisory arm of the Government.
11.35 a.m.

In respect of the hon. member's second point about First Federation Life Insurance Company, I understand that efforts are being made to dispose of the company's property in Barbados so as to pay all the existing claims. A purchaser I understand is being sought for the company's land. Perhaps the process can be speeded up if one of the policy holders would apply to the High Court when, as I understand it, it is possible that an Order for sale of the company's land would be made, but the matter is receiving attention.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there were some questions to which the Prime Minister did not reply in respect of CARICOM.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I did not respond to CARICOM because I really am not prepared to use the Estimates to make a general statement on the Caribbean Community, but I will give an answer. The answer is that I am satisfied that the Caribbean Community can run and is running without a Heads of Government Conferences being held.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I wish to consider Head 19, sub-head 13 – Supervision of the Insurance Industry. I believe it is quite a long time now if my memory serves me right that we have been able to discuss in any depth the whole place of insurance in the business and social life of this country, and I believe that this opportunity of the Annual Estimates does provide us with an opportunity whereby we can look at this most vital area in our economy. I believe that the Insurance Act, I think it is called, does make it a responsibility of the Supervisor of Insurance to provide an annual report and that such report should be laid in both Houses of Parliament, and I am trying to get hold of a copy of the most recent report, and I am at a slight handicap at the moment because that has not been produced for me yet. But I would like to start by asking for a general statement from the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in respect of the policy of his Government relating to the operation of the insurance companies in this country both local and foreign. We are, I believe, at a disadvantage in that the Governor of the Central Bank quite rightly and in the interest of the free flow of information does provide certain members of the public with copies of his speeches, and hence we are able to follow from that important public official his thoughts and his observations on a variety of matters. We are not so fortunate in terms of the very important speeches and comments made by our premier public official the Prime Minister of this country. I do not recall the last occasion on which I have personally received a copy of the many

addresses and speeches that he makes from time to time, and I believe that as part..... (Asides) You cannot tell me his speeches do not have any content; I would not believe that. That is not true. What I would say is that I would think it is certainly not in the interest of open Government that we have spoken about that he should keep his pearls of wisdom only to himself and the immediate audience to whom he may be addressing his remarks.

I seem to recall, and I cannot quote or refer with any accuracy, and I am certain my friend the hon. member for St. Thomas and Minister of Finance will forgive me if I have got the drift wrong, but I seem to recall vaguely that some time ago, it must be last year or the year before, there was some important address made to the Life Underwriters of this country, and that speech was such an important one that it had an immediate impact upon the insurance industry. I believe that the Prime Minister did indicate or suggest or jawboned that there should be localisation of foreign insurance companies, and I believe that he may have on that occasion singled out two local insurance companies, and that as a result of the publicity coming from that high source, those two companies increased their sales significantly and the other insurance companies suffered or their sales slumped dramatically and I believe there must have been some statement shortly after that trying to correct the impression that pressure would be put on the foreign companies to localise immediately. But the speech apparently did have some deleterious impact on the state of insurance in the country and I believe that the effects are still being seen today.

It is my understanding that certain companies, at least one company has gone out of industrial insurance altogether as a result, well not as a result, but because of a chain of events subsequent to the speech made by the Minister of Finance, and that other companies in the area of industrial insurance may be in a state of uncertainty about the true position and about the regime within which they may be able to operate. So I am really asking for a clear statement to this Parliament from the Minister responsible for this particular subject, the matter of localisation of insurance companies. I would like to take this opportunity to refer to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados.
11.45 a.m.

I do not conceal my own particular position. I am a policy holder and I support that very local Company in some regard and so I declare my own particular interest in that but I believe that the Insurance Corporation of Barbados is one of the initiatives of the Government and I do not certainly deny that. I think that is one of the projects of the Government. It is one of their projects conceived and developed, the Barbados National Bank. There are three, yes, and MP 1. Those are the three major policies so I think that Company as far as I can gather itself made a significant impact on the Insurance Scheme in Barbados and I wish to think that it can provide an even bolder lead in certain areas of Insurance in this country.

For instance, there has been a spate of fires in this country over recent years and these fires have particularly affected the very poor in our country, those who own chattel houses. Again, I think the Prime Minister adverted to that particular problem recently but I would like to think that the Insurance Companies of this country, particularly the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, that particular Corporation might be able to take a lead in developing a special regime of coverage for the poor people of this country who own chattel houses or live in chattel houses and I would like to make this public call.

It is one thing to start from the position of indicating that greater care should be taken in the homes, and the supervision of the young children, and that electrical wiring may be at fault. All of that is true and precautions must be taken but I would like on behalf of the masses of people in this country who own and live in chattel houses, I would like to call upon the Government through its Insurance Corporation of Barbados, to develop a special regime of coverage for the owners and occupiers of chattel houses in this country.

I believe in the face of the human suffering, the loss of property and now the loss of life that some special measures in this particular regard should be taken that would cater not only to those who may be on Government property but also in the country as a whole to do something about this major problem.

Mr. Chairman, I have been waiting for a copy of the Report of the Supervisor of Insurance.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I realised you have been waiting for some time.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Under the Act the Supervisor who is also an outstanding Public Officer is required to file an Annual Report. I believe it is soon after December, 31st, but I am in some difficulty in finding a copy in this Parliament. I am not blaming the Supervisor of Insurance because I am certain that he has carried out his duty, nor am I blaming the staff of Parliament, nor the Minister himself, but the fact is that as a member when we are discussing this important issue I am unable to get hold of a copy. I think I will reserve any comments on this particular matter. Maybe the Minister himself can tell us what is the state in relation to these Reports and so on.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on the question of Insurance I would like first of all to endorse the public call of my colleague for a special regime perhaps

spearheaded by the Insurance Corporation for the holders of Insurance policies for chattel houses.

There is another matter relating to Insurance which I would like to see some Government action taken. Recently the Commercial Insurance Companies of Barbados apparently met in caucus and arising out of that I saw in the Newspapers announcing a substantial increase in the cost of Motor Vehicle Insurance.

Now, Sir, the methods used for calculating the cost of Insurance is something which has not been vouchsafed to the general public of Barbados in any large measure and while I am not able or perhaps willing at this point to accuse the Insurance Companies of any form of collusion or willing to suggest that there might be any monopolistic tendencies in this regard, I do believe that it is the responsibility of the Supervisor of Insurance to ensure that the rates charged for any Insurance in Barbados are reasonable and commensurate with the economic status of the people who pay such Insurance in Barbados.

It is well-known that throughout, certainly the Western World, the whole question of Motor Vehicle Insurance has been one that has been plagued with practices which while they might not be described as sharp could certainly not be described as dull.

There are a number of statements made apparently authoritatively and they appear in the Newspaper regarding Commercial Insurance and because of the natural ignorance of the vast majority of us in this country about the ways this Insurance business works, we allow these demands to pass and it seems as if the Insurance Industry is a law unto itself and the people have no redress because the law requires that you carry Insurance of your motor vehicle and if you go to an Insurance Company "A" and they refuse you and you go to Insurance Companies B, C, D, and E you are unable to use a motor vehicle in the country.

It therefore stands to reason that since Insurance Companies have a virtual monopoly in this area and since the concept of price fixing is not alien to them all over the World, it behoves the Supervisor of Insurance to give the public information.
11.55 a.m.

I am calling on the Honourable Minister to indicate whether this is the case, whether it is contemplated and if so, let the public information sector be clarified by the Supervisor of Insurance, so that we can rest in the knowledge that these insurance rates are reasonable.

Mr. Chairman, if you take the statistical probability of accidents of the average person in Barbados, you will find that a 50% no claim bonus as adumbrated add up to nothing more than normal increase in insurance rate and which you would have paid anyhow. It is like telling a man, you are going to.... remember Sir when we were young they used to say, think of a number, double it, add 10 to it and then you go on and put in a number of other steps and then you tell the person, subtract the number you had thought of first from that figure whatever it is, then you say, divide it by two. You are a magician because you are able to say that the answer must be five because if you add 10 to the original number, subtract the original number and divide it by two it must come out to five. That is what the no claim bonus turns out to be.

They tell you that the insurance rate is $700, but if you had no claim during the year, you pay half of that. When you examine in any detail, the rate really should have been half of $700, or just over. So, when they tell you that you have had a no claim bonus, that to my mind if it is not dishonest, it is at least immoral because you are duping the population in the community into believing that something fantastic has happened and then they use the moral argument of accident rate has gone up, insurance is now more expensive. So we get an Honourable Member like the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central, who has not had an accident for the 25 years, I think, or any Honourable Member on this Side. I do not think that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South has had an accident in the last 20 years I have to take those who have been driving for a long time because of their age, Sir.

But, seriously, those persons are given the illusion that they are getting a saving every year. They pay more each year for the insurance and I am satisfied that if the Supervisor of Insurance does not have that authority, and or that power, that we have to take a look at giving that kind of power to the Supervisor of Insurance and I am saying that in the same way we called on the Government to introduce a measure of price control for the citizens in Barbados for basic items; I am saying that in Barbados today, a motor vehicle of some kind is no longer a luxury. Almost everybody in Barbados is driving a motor cycle, an auto cycle, or driving a car, or making a living from a mini bus. In some form, he or she is using a motor vehicle.

It is true that when we came into power in 1961 that that statement could not have been said, by the time we left in 1976, it was axiomatic. We had brought the country to a stage, where motor vehicle travellers no longer consider it a luxury. In these circumstances, it behoves the Government to take a look at what is happening in the insurance industry and especially the commercial insurance industry because Sir, if we insist that there must be Third Party Insurance by Law and if under the concept of borrowing, there must be

comprehensive Insurance, then it stands to reason that we ought to take a look at controlling the insurance industry and to what extent it is possible. The Government ought to examine and if they do not, we will examine shortly the whole concept of no fault bonus, of no fault insurance.

In the United States, for a long time, they used to have this system which included the concept of fault. You first had to go to court and you had to prove that it was the fault of somebody before the insurance company would pay. That, I believe, is the situation which exists in Barbados and I believe, that a lot of legal practitioners do a substantial part of their legal work in this area of discussion between insurance company 'A' and insurance company 'B'. I believe that if a simple, or perhaps I should say, a complex form of claiming for accidents for the insurance companies had been introduced, or is introduced, that two things would happen. People who had legitimate claims from insurance companies would get them more speedily and the premium would more than likely be reduced, or at least, Mr. Chairman, they would remain static, or rise at a lower rate.

What we have in Barbados is the situation where, although we accept that motor vehicle travel is now a fundamental part of our way of life, we have a situation where in 1971, a Datsun 1200 cost $4,500 and the Insurance Premium for Comprehensive Insurance was probably $200. Today, Sir, that Datsun costs in excess of $16000 and that is without any options and the Insurance Premium now is almost for Third Party $600 and for Comprehensive Insurance we are in the ball game park of $1500 depending on if you had a claim before and if they gave you the so-called no claim bonus. When they have finished writing up the policy, you have to go and get an expert to explain what the policy says and you only discover that when you get into an accident and you can tell that the $16000 that you are comprehensively insured for has suddenly depreciated.

The other thing Mr. Chairman, this is one on which I do not think that there should be any political difficulty, the kind of contract which people are required to enter into with insurance companies in Barbados needs to be reviewed and the Supervisor of Insurance ought to prepare perhaps, a model contract for ordinary persons so that we do not have the problem which we have now of having so-called insurance without knowing what it is you have.

Mr. Chairman, it is on record in the cases that insurance companies and similar institutions are notorious for having contracts which are one sided and because it is not well known, or well publicised in a place like Barbados where people contest these kinds of contracts. A number of persons who have such contracts and who ought to go to court for such when the time comes for claiming on such contracts assume that they have no rights in the matter, assume that the Insurance Company is generally right and usually settle for a much lower figure than they ought to by right. I am not here saying that there are not people who through their lawyers manage to get what is due to them. I am saying, that the whole industry, insofar as it applies to the commercial insurances is in need of a very careful and a very indepth examination.

Now, a number of companies from overseas have deferred to local ownership and I think, that this is a step in the right direction for all of that type of business in Barbados and indeed in the Caribbean and what has tended to happen is this. Those companies who have headquarters in Britain and the United States for example, having made substantial profits from the Caribbean over the last 20 years, are now in the process of turning over their assets to local buyers, have managed somehow to get substantial capital gains, while retaining substantial ownership. Capital gains in what are now essentially local companies.

12.05 p.m.

Sir, the local company is still operating in the monopolistic way where they establish in either Jamaica or Trinidad and Tobago and they create the same kind of multi-national corporation mentality which had existed prior to their announcement that they had gone local and the result is that we are getting the same, it is business as usual under a different flag or under a different cover. That is why it is easy for me to agree with my colleague that under the aegis or indeed the initiative of the Insurance Corporation we should have a special regime for the chattel house and other similar owners of insurance.

We believe that so far as motor vehicle insurance is concerned they ought to be a re-examination of the whole underpinnings of the insurance industry in Barbados; and finally, Sir, we believe that the concept of no-fault insurance ought by now to have been introduced in Barbados, and we on this side give the assurance that what we have said on this side will be implemented this year or as soon as we get the mandate from the people to implement them.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I wish to address myself to subhead 3 – Review of and Advice to the Ministry on Taxation. Fiscal and Advice on all Proposals affecting such Policy.

Mr. Chairman, there can be no doubt that in Barbados today the twin effects of uncontrolled inflation, particularly the domestic component of inflation, and excessive taxation have combined to impoverish our citizens to a considerable degree and is creating difficulties for the entire community and in particular lower income groups. The Government by its policies has

been able to enrich itself both collectively and individually at the expense of the entire community. This situation cannot be allowed to continue and the general policy thrust of Government in respect of its inability to control even the domestic component of inflation and its tinkering with income tax policies, and indeed its constant and relentless move to shift the burden of taxation away from those who have to those who have not must be stopped.

I must take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, on the floor of this House to call upon the Government to bring before this Hon. Chamber as soon as possible comprehensive proposals for massive income tax reductions in Barbados. The people can no longer be a burden of the levels of income tax and at the same time the very massive levels of indirect taxation, much of which in many cases represents taxation upon taxation. I can give you an example, Mr. Chairman. When an item comes into this country which is dutiable and you pay duty on that particular item on the c.i.f. value, and then on top of that you slap a consumption tax on c.i.f. plus duty.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. This matter was carefully canvassed in the last Budget. It was justified then, I do not remember that anybody spoke against it, but it was embodied in an Act which was discussed and passed. The Hon. member is not at liberty to reflect on that Act without a substantive motion, in my respectful submission.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I myself recognise that it is probably the second or third time I have heard this very speech in this Chamber from this very hon. member.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as far as I can recall on previous occasions I have set out the existing disadvantages in relation to taxation in respect of the various income groups in Barbados. What I am doing today now is following the analysis which I have done on previous occasions and making a firm and decisive call on the Government for substantial reductions in income tax and relief in terms of direct tax.

To continue on subhead 3 on the question of the Rates and Taxes and Valuation Department.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I may interrupt, subhead 3 note 3.

Dr. HAYNES: I am sorry, Sir, it is page 17 subhead 12, Land Valuation, which is still Head 19. Now, Mr. Chairman, if you were to look at the incomes derived from taxation on property in Barbados you will see that this has virtually doubled over the past four years or so. This, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit is largely due to taxation on the inflated value of houses which occurs with every revaluation for the purposes of charging property taxes. It creates serious hardships for people who may have built a house for $20,000 twenty years ago, now suddenly to find that the house they have been living in that they built for $20,000 is all of a sudden being assessed for a value of $120,000 and $130,000. This particular kind of hardship is felt by many people who have reached the age of retirement and they have extreme difficulties in getting any kind of abatement of the charges which they are called upon to pay.
12.15 p.m.

It is true that you can appeal, it is true that you can make representation to the effect that you cannot pay the particular burden of taxation, but that is a long drawn out process and indeed it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to prove that their property is not worth what it is valued for. The only problem is that in this society people cannot afford to pay the kind of taxes that they are being called upon to pay, and I think that we have to be very careful when we set about revaluing property to remember that you just simply cannot say that because a property is in the Rockley Area and because two or three hotels have sprung up around the property, and because the area has changed from primarily a residential neighbourhood to a commercial neighbourhood, and the land value which was $1.00 a square foot is now $20.00 a square foot and has a super structure on it therefore a house that was $20,000 is now $¼ million because the only way that a person living in that house could cope with that situation would be to go on the market, sell his home and probably move into some area and let some person who is capable of buying a property at that price move in and pay the existing rates.

I would hope that in any revaluation for the purposes of tax rates on property one should be very careful not to build into that valuation costs which would be purely inflationary. It is a very dangerous thing to do; it causes a considerable amount of hardship, and in this society we have to be careful that we do not allow the problems of inflation to cause more and more hardship to people in a manner where it relates to food or relates to the house in which they live, for Mr. Chairman, we have to remember that for the vast majority of people not only in Barbados but throughout the world, the only thing that they ever succeed in owning is the house in which they live. Not everybody has the benefit of a salary of approximately $185,000 a year and a whole lot of perks and so on. The vast majority of people have to work to find a deposit to pay down on a house, then they have to pay their mortgage over 15 or 20 years which in fact is a kind of rental basically when you take that into consideration, and then at the end of that period, what they wind up with is a house, and then if the state comes along and by its taxation policies creates misery for the person living in that house by over-taxing the person, then indeed particularly at a stage in their lives when usually those persons to whom I am referring are people who have

reached the retirement stage, whether on fixed incomes, they are the people who suddenly find that they are being taxed on a property valuation not of $10,000 but on $120,000 as happened not so long ago in a particular area of Barbados where there have been massive increases in the valuation of owner occupied properties and properties occupied by people at retirement age and on fixed incomes.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that whoever is responsible for advising the Minister, if he listens to advice from anybody, would recognise that this is a very sensitive and a very dangerous practice. It is dangerous because when you take not only the taxes but the cost of electricity, water, the cost of bottled gas or natural gas with its consumption tax incorporated, when you add up these various components, the individual has not started to eat yet; these are just the basics, just utilities and taxation, and that can amount to a substantial proportion of the income of most Barbadians. Now, Mr. Chairman, I revert now to Subhead (2).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have one minute more to wind up.

Dr. HAYNES: On Subhead (2), Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw attention to Government Financial Statistics (including liaison thereon with the I.M.F.) I listened to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister last night who is quite satisfied with the operation of the Statistical Department. I have listened to his views of how statistics should be compiled and collected and the kind of criteria that should be used for accepting them and so on. I have no doubt that he has some understanding of statistics having himself been exposed as a research fellow for one year to the discipline of statistical training, but it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, as though he is now a Director of Statistics in Barbados and no doubt he is pleased because the statistics coming down are statistics that suit him. I am not suggesting that there is anything improper in the methodology. All I am saying is that much of the statistics that come out particularly in the area of inflation and in the area of unemployment would seem to me to be at variance with the experience of the vast number of Barbadians in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Dr. HAYNES: I will come back again.

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

Mr. TAITT: Is he responding to this part of the debate now, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just want to ensure that all other hon. members have a chance to speak who may wish to speak.

Mr. TAITT: Sir, on Subhead (11) Data Processing Department, it has been some time since we have had any indication from the Government as to what is the status of our Data Processing Department, that is to say I should like to know from the Minister what is the extent of the hardware which we now either own or rent from IBM or from any other company, and I would like to know what percentage of governmental operations capable of computerisation has been computerised. More specifically I should like to know whether the plan for the computerisation of the Customs Department has in fact gone any further, what are the probabilities for example of our having the access and exit or import and export of materials and goods and services into Barbados being computerised, so that for example the Ministry responsible for Trade and Customs Department can have a kind of liaison in their information which would help to make the statistical information coming out of the Government Departments more accurate.
12.25 p.m.

It seems to me from an administrative point of view that if as is done in a number of countries the Customs Departments can have for the import, especially of goods and services into Barbados, if they can have computerised information of this that it would make for a more efficient operation which will mean that it will be less costly but more improved. It would help us to get accurate information on the actual prices of items coming into the country.

In that connection also, it seems to me that there are a number of areas which have not yet been considering data processing which could assist considerably in reducing the cost of administering the Government. For example, Sir, I do not know to what extent the Central Purchasing Department's Stock Control is now computerised. It seems to me that that is one of the simpler areas of control which can be exercised by the use of the computer and a number of the long tools which now form part of the experience in bureaucracy can be eliminated if there is monitoring and control that has been the subject of the computer techniques but there is another area which is particularly susceptible to computer techniques.

Mr. Chairman, there has been the statement from the Prime Minister and there have been statements from the Minister responsible for Health that the so-called National Drug Plan - I see in the papers today that it is coming into effect on April, 15th. That is probably one of the better jokes of the year, Sir - that it is coming into effect from April, 15th.

Those of us who know a little bit about what is going on know that apart from the talk that there is really nothing happening that can be described as a change from what was, that there is really no Drug Plan

that is functional. Maybe there are plans for drugs but I do not think one can say we have gone further than that but more importantly, Sir, the supply of drugs in the Hospital if it were subjected to monitoring and computer control would go a long way towards removing the difficulties and alleviate the suffering which has resulted from the attempt on our part on the persons brought into the administrative scenes which have resulted in a shortage of very important drugs in this community.

If the Data Processing Department had been consulted, if the question of the supply of drugs had been the subject of computer techniques, then the shortages which are occurring and have occurred would be nearer to solution. I believe that for a very small sum of perhaps less than $20,000 that the whole Drug Plan can be computerised and would make us absolutely certain. (ASIDES).

Name the shortages? The Chairman would not like me to name them. The Minister is saying *sotto voce* that I name some of the shortages. At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital recently, Sir, there was a shortage of Insulin and when the authorities at the Hospital went into Bridgetown where they would normally go to check to see if they had Insulin there, they had no Insulin and we had seven phials of Insulin normally used in this country, we had seven phials in Barbados and then the Hospital authorities had to use a higher quality Insulin that is used for different purposes and that cost seven times or more as much as would normal Insulin and they had to use that for normal purposes. Then they had to fly some in which cost four times as much so altogether, Sir, we had a situation where the life and health of people were threatened because of a shortage of Insulin.

We had a situation where we had to use high priced Insulin and we had a situation where we had to import it by air. We do not know how many people may have died as a result of that. (ASIDES). She wants me to name some more, Sir. I can but I will under the appropriate Head. I do not wish Your Honour to have to tell me that I am off track but if the Minister insist on my naming them I will name them all for her. If she allows us to debate Health in here I will name them all for her.

The point I am making is that that Drug Plan needs the techniques of the Data Processing Department applied to it. If that is not done we are going to continue to have a rather scandalous situation which my colleague alluded to yesterday and it cannot be denied by the Government where there are shortages of drugs in Barbados in the kind of manner that has never been the case before and that ought not to be the case in a country where we say we do planning.

I am saying that I would like the Minister to indicate how many Departments are making use of the Data Processing Unit, techniques and the Data Processing Department so that we would be in a position to assess whether the Data Processing Unit has met the objectives which were set out for it when some seven or nine years ago the then Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in the face of heavy abuse from the then Opposition and strenuous Opposition from the Barbados Labour Party persisted in bringing the first computer to Barbados primarily through his own individual efforts, the reaction to computerisation was so strong.

I need not go into the details of the great efforts which we had to go through in order to get computerisation into Barbados nor do I have to go into the reasons why the Head of the Data Processing Unit, one of the trained persons who could make the system work efficiently had to leave that Department to go and find his fortune elsewhere.

What I am saying is and what I would like to know is what generation of computers we are using at the moment, whether that generation is the most efficient for us, whether we are putting the computer time to the most effective use and to what extent Government Departments who still fall behind of what can be considered normal efficiency may be improved as a result of improved techniques and the application of the computer system.

I think at this point I would wish to hear from the Minister in response to some of the things I have raised and I will await his response.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, back to Subhead 2, Government Financial Statistics. It is not, Mr. Chairman, that I do not trust the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas. As a matter of fact it is not because he is not trusted by the vast majority of people of Barbados but as a positive step in the right direction I would like to suggest that the Government Statistical Department be removed from the Control of the Ministry of Finance and be set up as a separate independent body probably of the status of the Central Bank, and that kind of legal status and that kind of relationship to Government and it is for this reason, Mr. Chairman, that I make this kind of suggestion.
12.35 p.m.

Some time last year in one of the quarterly reports of the Central Bank, I do not have the exact report here now.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind talking about statistics, but there is a Head 21 which is about the Statistical Services and the Statistical Department. Is it not possible that if we are dealing with

the organisation of the Statistical Department that he could wait until then? I object to anticipating Head 21.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking under the Head, Government Financial Statistics. I sat down patiently here last night for almost an hour and listened to the Honourable Member talk about how he has reorganised and how he has directed the department to adopt certain methodology, in relation to the collation of statistics, in relation to unemployment, *et cetera.* That is what I am responding to. This is a debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you dealing with subhead 2 now?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Subhead 2, Head 19 Government Financial....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Subhead 2. What page are you on?

Dr. HAYNES: Item 6, Government Financial Statistics including liaison with the IMF. That is what I am talking about.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. There is no item in the Subhead which deals with the statistics – the description here – I suppose it would be possible by reading the descriptions in Item 5 of General Administration since the word furniture occurs, it would be possible to talk about policy relating to the import of furniture outside of CARICOM, but clearly, that is nothing to do with the Subhead which we are discussing. The mere fact that the word statistics occurs is not in my respectful submission relevant to the Head which we are dealing with.

I do not mind listening to the Honourable Member Sir because I am not going to say any more than has already been said, but I do not know if there are Honourable Members who may wish to contribute something meaningful under this Head.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, is it to be suggested that I should be denied a speech on the same matter which that Honourable Member spoke on, on more than one occasion and for more than one hour yesterday? If that is so, please let me know. I am sure that your sense of justice is such that you would not seek to deny an Honourable Member of the right to participate in and continue a debate.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. Sir. Let him talk about whatever they want to talk about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. What I am certain of is that I will not allow a full debate on the Statistical Department as such because we have ample opportunity to do this in another Head.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir. I wish to draw to your Honour's attention and to the attention of this Honourable House what I consider Sir to be a great discourtesy of the Honourable Minister responsible for Finance in this Honourable House getting up and walking out, when Honourable Members on this Side, whose duty it is to raise questions with him and his Government regarding the manner in which he administers his department getting up and saying, "let them talk of what they like" and walking out.

Secondly, Sir, I draw to your Honour's attention...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. TAITT: .....that last night....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I would like to hear the Honourable Member and I am sure that the.....

Mr. TAITT: Reporter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: ....Reporter would like to do so also.

Mr. TAITT: I remind Your Honour, that it was last night when I was discussing under subhead 1 the question of the different results which come out of the statistics of the Central Bank, the Labour Department and others that the Rt. Honourable Member said that he had brought them together and he has directed them, *et cetera.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not a point of order that you are on. I guess that you are trying to explain a situation. I take your point anyhow.

Mr. TAITT: Thank you, Your Honour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No Honourable Member will be deprived of this right to speak, but certainly, you must do so within the rules of the House and I do believe that the whole matter of the discussion of statistics would be better left for a more appropriate time, another Head, where it could be properly dealt with.

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were ordered to be expunged from the Record by Mr. CHAIRMAN)

Dr. HAYNES: Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, the problem is that from time to time, we read reports of international bodies such as the IMF, and of international bodies,

who as a matter of courtesy regurgitate out in their report the kind of information which they derive from the Government Statistical Department. It does not mean, Mr. Chairman, that they necessarily believe the information.

For example, in support of an argument yesterday on the Government's published figures on inflation, it was suggested that because reports were incorporated because a given rate on inflation was incorporated in reports from several international bodies that because a newspaper in Washington, or maybe in Florida and in New York would publish the same information that is put out by the Government Statistical Department; that is brought into this Honourable House as evidence that the position given by this Side on a statistical matter is necessarily wrong, but the point is that all those reports rely on one central set of information, the Government Statistical Department. Now we have a situation where the Central Bank which has to liaise with all these institutions, international bodies have rejected, totally rejected the figures put out on inflation by the Government Statistical Department, under the directions of the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to say and point out that the Honourable Member is going head on to a debate on the Statistical Services of this country.

Dr. HAYNES: I am debating the relationship to Government financial statistics.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, let me make my point. Even if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister may have in your opinion led us into it, the Chair has no intention of allowing it to continue. There will be ample time when we will discuss that department, not under this situation. 12.45 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, do you mean I cannot discuss the matter of international institutions such as the IMF in relation to Government's financial statistics? That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are very much out of order when you pose questions to the Chair of that nature.

Dr. HAYNES. To continue on subhead 2 – Government Financial Statistics (Including liaison thereon with the IMF). What I am saying is that the officers at several of these international institutions are embarrassed by the kind of statistics coming out of the Government Statistical Department. They are embarrassed, and whereas .....(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: They told you so?) Yes, they told me so, you go and see who you can fire up there now. There is not a single institution, a single international observer that has come to Barbados and has not come to the conclusion for example that the rate of inflation in Barbados is far higher than is reported. I have the opportunity of speaking to them from time to time too when they are here on various missions. I have my contacts too. I talk to them and I know that they tell you the same thing too.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member has said that he has information from officers of international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and others, that they are embarrassed by the kind of information they get from the Statistical Services, implying very clearly that he is in possession of information that the Statistical Services falsify the figures. I call on him to name the people who told him so, when and where, otherwise the public can only come to the conclusion that those statements by the hon. member are the statements of a person who has no regard for the truth.

Dr. HAYNES: Like you, because if you had any regard for the truth you would not associate yourself with that type of publication.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will get back on to this matter. It is a matter of concern and I think I would like to repeat my call under this Head to have an independent department of statistics in Barbados, legally established as such, independent of the kind of interference and direction which the department is presently subjected to by the present Minister of Finance.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Now, Sir, the hon. member must withdraw that. He is stating in the context of his speech that the Statistical Department of Barbados is subject to illegal.....(ASIDE) If you say, Mr. Chairman, that international institutions are embarrassed by the statistics coming from the Statistical Department and then you go ahead and say that the Statistical Department under the interference and direction, are you not implying that the Minister of Finance is forcing the Statistical Department to publish false information?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW rose.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not finished, you cannot get up when I am not finished. I am making my point, you must wait. I beg your pardon, Sir, I am on my feet, I take second place to no man in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order. I will have to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The member for St. Philip North said he was embarrassed by political interference, so what is wrong with the Statistical Department having political interference?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In the context of saying that it is false?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: False means not true.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: When you have a twisted mind like yours you would accept that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Let both of us sit down.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.00 p.m.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
12.55 p.m.

On resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Dr. CADDLE. Mr. Chairman,.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Before the hon. member rises, I wonder if he would give me an opportunity as I have been doing with other hon. members before he came in the House, to reply to what has gone on before so you do not lose the trend of debate.

Dr. CADDLE: I am going to deal with some of the same things, so you can reply one time rather than repeat the same things over again.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the hon. member would just bear with me for a moment, I am sure the hon. member would not object to this, I am only going to be a second. All I want to ask is exactly what the hon. member for St. Michael South Central wishes to say about the repudiation by the Central Bank of statistics put out by the Government. I heard every word he said, but I just want him to repeat them.

Dr. CADDLE: I am objecting this time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I heard every word he said; I just want him to repeat if he will, what he is saying about the variance between the Central Bank and the Government over this. I would like him to repeat it.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I draw to your Honour's attention that the question of the statistics is a matter which the Prime Minister himself adverted last night. He is the one who told us what he does and how he does it. He said that the Central Bank and others are theoretical, but he has commonsense and he applied commonsense. I do not understand why he comes in here now. What has happened: Is it because the Governor of the Central Bank comes in he wants to show the Governor that he was not saying anything against him last night? He said the Governor does not have any commonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, and the point of order which I am taking is that the hon. member is untruthful when he says that I said so. The hon. member knows perfectly that the remarks he ascribed to me were not made.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, the hon. member for St. Thomas .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There can be no point of order on a point of order. Please take your seat. I will entertain the hon. member for St. Michael North Central.

Dr. CADDLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it seems that the Hon. Minister of Finance flatters to deceive. Yesterday I sat on this side and very carefully and attentively listened to a rather cheerful display and elucidation of what goes on in the various departments under his control, how each Department uses the statistics as turned out maybe by the Statistical Department or from elsewhere, and I would like to tell him that I feel a bit flattered to hear him say that there is no political interference in these departments and he has assured us that we can take it from him that there is no such political interference; but I am certain that the Hon. Minister of Finance is well aware of the fact that certain sections of the Barbadian community have been disputing the veracity of the various data coming from the departments in the Government, whether they are directly under his control or not, and I believe that just as he has taken time to assure us that there is no political interference, it is time that he takes time off to assure the public at large that this is the case, because it has been contended in many circles in this country that the figures

or the date in general being put out has been so fashioned to create a favourable impression towards the party in power, and I am definite that he is aware of that. It is further contended and put abroad in the Barbadian society that there has been serious differences between the Hon. Minister of Finance and the person who has been acting Head of the Statistical Department, and those differences reside in the fact that the way in which the Hon. Minister of Finance wanted certain formulae to be used and inputs to be put into these formulae were seriously resisted by that particular acting Head, and the result of that has been that that Head has either been forced to resign, or having been forced to resign, resigned voluntarily.

We have to be concerned about these things because when you take a formula that is used to compute the cost of living and you do not put in the required inputs as detailed by that formula, you are going to get two types of figures being channelled out, and it is left to the people outside based on their day to day experience as they go about their own business and making their livelihood either good or hard to believe what is going on in this country.

Sir, it has already been pointed out on this side the grave differences between the various departments like the Central Bank, the Data Processing and other departments of Government putting out data relating to certain important functions or activities in this country, and it is a bit refreshing to hear the Prime Minister say that all that information or the basic information is to be provided by one department, then various departments using the same basic information give rise to different interpretation. It is even more disturbing to hear the Hon. Prime Minister recounting a case where on a survey taking place in this country under the same Statistical Act where we are made to believe that any information gained thereby must remain confidential, and we could hear him on the floor of this House making remarks about certain information which an investigator had collected from a particular person on a particular occasion. If he is now aware of that information by whatever source he may have come by that information, it makes people believe that when people go around asking them about information about their household activities or their personal activities, it may not remain confidential, but somewhere along the line it is going to end up in the hands of various Ministers, and that very same information may then be used to the disadvantage of the person supplying the information. We had him here admitting that yesterday. We had him here admitting that the hard-seeds he has been able to get rid of, that his views about how these things should be done are different from the people who have taken years of training and maybe acquired worthwhile degrees in that area, and to come in here as we have been told yesterday and to hear him say that he is a better authority of how these things should be done than the people who have been spending years getting that particular discipline at their fingertips is wrong.

I want the Prime Minister to come back at some time whether here or outside and assure the people of this country that the type of rumours or reports that have been going around in this country in relation to what has been going on in the Statistical Department and the way in which a particular gentleman has been treated in that department are without foundation. If he can assure us here, I think he can go a bit further and assure the public of this country that this is really what he is saying. I am going a step further. I am getting a bit disheartened by the way he likes to get up in here and reply to people on this side. He seems to think that the House of Assembly belongs to him and he has a right to get up in here and tell you or any other person in that Chair how they should interpret the Rules of this House and how they should accommodate him.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: No, Sir. The hon. member has made a clear implication that you in your capacity as Chairman....*(Asides)* and the Rules of the House say that members must be heard in silence; a member is not entitled to talk sitting down. *(Asides)* Neither are you. There is a clear implication that you are a weakling as a Chairman and you must call on him to withdraw.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael North Central has suggested that the Hon. Prime Minister attempts to dictate how things are being done. That is the opinion of the hon. member, but certainly not of the Chair.

Dr. CADDLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not accusing you of anything, I am just stating what goes on in here, and even today you can hear the Prime Minister on his feet making certain assertions about what should be permitted. I am not saying that you take his advice. I am not for one moment saying that. I think that is wrong. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please!

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, one of the worse dogs is the dog that bites the hand that feeds it. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I would like to be heard in silence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please!

Dr. CADDLE: I know some people like to bark and their bark is worse than their bite.

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

Dr. CADDLE: I agree that we should get on with the debate. You are always barking, man. Go out in Grazettes at Prestine and bark at her door.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. Don't lose your cool.

Dr. CADDLE: One of the things you can say for the hon. member for St. James is that we would have believed the House of Assembly would have done something for him, but it seems he has done something to the House of Assembly.
2.15 p.m.

What I am saying as I move on from this question of data as we will deal with it under the appropriate Head that in turning to the matter dealing with the land evaluation it is clear that there is going to be a revision of the valuation of properties in this country some time this year. In fact, if one goes by reports it seems that this evaluation is nearing completion.

What I want to draw to the Minister of Finance's attention is that the last time when this was done when the people were notified of the new evaluation of their properties there was not enough time between the occasion when they were notified and the issuing of the notice from the Tax Department so the time was too short whereby they could put in any serious objections. I am hoping that they will be given enough time on this occasion whereby if they disagree with the new evaluation of their property they can put in their appropriate objections and get this matter clarified before the new Land Tax bills are issued.

I am going further. When you look at the amount of taxes that have been put on the people of this country over the years, I would like to invite the Hon. Minister of Finance to consider whether on this particular occasion it is worthwhile to increase the valuation of the properties in this country knowing full well that the end result of that will be that people will have to pay more by way of land tax to the Government.

Once you argue that the rate at which the tax is going to be will be the same but if you are going to be charging .625% of $100 that will be a lot less than if you charged .625% of $300 or $400 and the people of this country have to be concerned about this amount of tax because of the other increases which they are saddled with in relation to their properties. Cement has gone up. Labour has gone up. All building materials have gone up. In addition to that the maintenance of their properties have gone up. When you consider that with increased taxation you will find that people will have it rather difficult to meet the demands of maintaining a decent living in this country.

It is something that I feel the Hon. Minister of Finance should well consider because they always like to point out that they have the interest of the people of this country at heart and they are more concerned in being kind and helpful in this country than the previous regime has been. (ASIDES).

I take it that having put more money in their pockets that having put it in their pockets you take it away from them. You make sure that the pocket has in a hole before you put in the money so that when the money goes into the pocket is must come out.

Sir, one more point under Head 19 I want to raise and I hope the Hon. Minister of Finance will be able to give us the true facts about these duty free concessions because these are another area of public concern. We get the impression that only selected people in this country get these concessions and there is a feeling in this country that there is some corrupt practice going on around on the issue of these duty free concessions and I feel that the Prime Minister owes it to himself, to his Party, and to his Government to get up and clarify this issue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue. Order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member has made a very serious allegation and I would like the hon. member to specify. He has talked about duty free concessions. I am not objecting. I am only asking the hon. member to be more specific so that we can answer him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am now trying to see under which Head the member can be discussing duty free concessions.

Dr. HAYNES: If I may help you, Mr. Chairman, it is Subhead 3 (4).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael North Central, please.

Dr. CADDLE: I am saying that you owe it to the public to clarify this matter because there is concern in this country about how these duty free concessions are being given, (ASIDES) at the Grantley Adams International Airport, for example and the Harbour. Come out and say so and tell the public.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Maybe if the hon. member had said processing he would not have caused a stir.

Dr. CADDLE: Bring the file.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross-talking.

Dr. CADDLE: Bring the file to reassure the public what is going on in this country because the public have their view about the majority of things in relation to

how this Government is functioning. You can bring as many files as you like.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. CADDLE: Sir, I am looking forward to a reply on these matters because I do not feel happy to hear these types of things outside about the activities of the Government and I would like the Hon. Minister of Finance as he took time off yesterday to assure us that there is no political interference in the Statistical Department I hope he will also do likewise today to assure us and also the people outside that these things are above board.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that there are a few matters which a reply should be made to instantly. It is obvious that the Opposition for some time has been concerned with the rate of progress and genuine economic growth that has taken place in Barbados.

Every commentator on the economy of Barbados using all well-known indicators and checks of economic performance have come independently to the conclusion that the economy of this country has improved considerably over the past four years. Faced with the irrefutable evidence the only conclusion that the Opposition could come to was that they must impeach on the integrity of all and make these statements, hence, today we can hear a vague attack on the Statistical Services, their integrity and their competence.

We have heard a statement from the Hon. member for St. Michael South Central that he has had contacts with the officers from the International Monetary Fund and other such institutions who come to Barbados and they have told him that they are embarrassed when they have to accept figures provided by the Statistical Services because they know they are not true.

Now, that is a very, very serious allegation. It is either the most irresponsible lie or it is a very, very malicious statement to be made on the floor of the House of Assembly.

I say this that unless the hon. member can give the public the names of the officers who told him so that the Government would be in a position to protest to the Board...(ASIDES)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member has been caught. He is caught. The irresponsibility of the hon. member is being exposed. It is no wonder that the hon. member is trying to resile from his statement.

2.25 p.m.

There is no question of victimisation. I say this and anybody from any of those institutions, any professional person, anyone whose duty in accordance with the terms and conditions of the job is to report objectively to his Board of Directors not to the Government of Barbados. We do not hire him. If he has within his possession, evidence that false statistics are supplied to them and he does not so report those facts in black and white and put them in a report, then I say that the integrity of those financial institutions will be seriously questioned all over the world.

Of course, if the Honourable Member is in a position, chapter and verse to document his allegations, then his integrity is not questioned. The position is very clear. There has been no difference of opinion on the basic facts between the Central Bank and the Government Statistical Services. Statistics is the subject of interpretation. You get hard, raw data, then different people can draw different conclusions from that data.

I know that in an area such as Tourism, that for some period of time during the administration of the Democratic Labour Party, there has always been a question as to how much tourist spending is and how much is left in Barbados. Indeed in a speech recently, before the Hotel Association, the Governor of the Central Bank stated in that speech that for some considerable period of time, there has been the view that the errors and omissions column in the balance of figures could be explained by the fact that the tourist earnings in Barbados were larger than what they were attributed to be. This is not a matter in black and white.

He pointed out that the World Bank had been saying that we were underestimating our tourist earnings and that preliminary data from the study.....(ASIDE: Dr. HAYNES: What has that got to do with it?) What has it got to do with it? Your head is such..... There is nothing wrong with his head, there is something wrong with his character, that is the difference. Nothing is wrong with his head. The effect of this is very clear, it refutes, it is diametrically opposed to the argument that the Honourable Member is making. It is not that the statistics are justified, it is that there is always scope for difference of opinion on the interpretation of the hard, raw data.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central, whose appearance in this Honourable House is as rare as a visit of the English Cricket team to Barbados, has come in here now and he is now under this Head questioning something to do with Duty Free Concessions. There are a number of statutes under which duty free concessions are awarded in Barbados, under the Fiscal Incentives Act, under the Customs Act. In both cases, both the Fiscal Incentives and the Customs, it is a well

established procedure. There is a Training Centre's Committee which is a combination of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Finance. A recommendation is made and an Order comes before this Honourable House. It is published in the Official Gazette, the certified authority is specified, the Comptroller of Customs and the conditions under which he can issue a Certificate for Duty Free are all set out under the Fiscal Incentives Act. It must be a recommendation from the Industrial Development Corporation which goes to the Ministry after publication. This is Law.

Now, when he talked about the airport, the tenders for the award at the airport were published in respect of each and every concession in there. Now, the Honourable Member is going to get up and state and to show you how monumentally ignorant he is on the facts, he is going to get up in here and say that you have to be connected with the Labour Party to get a concession. Mr. Chairman, I want the public to know – I have never said it – that the drugstore concession in the airport is owned by Errol Walton Barrow's sister. If this Government were a vindictive Government, as the Honourable Member would have the public to believe, do you think, that Errol Walton Barrow's sister could get the drugstore concession at the airport?

But you see, Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a good thing that I am a true and loyal Barbadian, otherwise when the Honourable Member talks this foolishness and exposes his ignorance of what is going along.....

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.)

He walks into the House of Assembly and makes a wild allegation when the facts do not possibly justify it and he has not the decency to check the facts.

They talk about Tri Star, as the Honourable Member behind me has said.....

The Honourable Member comes in here and talks, he repeats the political gossip. That is what he does. But the gravamen of my complaint is that he is so unmindful of his duties that he does not check the facts first because if you check the facts, all the facts surrounding the award of tenders at the airport, he would have known that the facts cannot justify a charge that the only way you can get an award at the airport is if you are a member of the Labour Party. I drew it specifically to satisfy and for the attention of the public and if you trouble me any more on this aspect, I am going to bring the files and show you where members of the Barbados Labour Party did not get any concessions at the airport and members of the Democratic Labour Party have them.

You talked about the tender in relation to the liquor. One man called Milton Pierce, your candidate in St. Michael South East is the Secretary and the Director to the company Tri Star.

2.35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I have always said in relation to my Ministry that as far as I am concerned the airport should be a commercial operation and that commercial considerations ought to be the sole criterion and I intend to stick to that policy. If they bid the best and they are reputable – because they have some people who bid the best but have no intention of paying the rent – if they bid the best and they are reputable, and their bid comes within the terms of the thing, they will get the tender, so the hon. member has used the wrong area. He should look carefully at your activities and then he will know which area he should use. Do not forget it is the same hon. member that said something about you already. I would not repeat it in here. Do not forget it is the same hon. member that said something about you and the hospital.

Mr. Chairman, we know that this is a political year, we know that this is election year and we know that it is their duty, according to their philosophy, to give statements which will create impressions. They do not have to be true. The hon. member has said in here that the true test of a good politician is to leave impressions in the people's minds, the truth does not matter.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is a blatant lie.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I need hardly make any specific reference, he who is guilty has already identified himself. We know that it is necessary for the Opposition in the course of the next few months to attempt to paint our record black. They have to do that, that is what sustains you in Opposition. You have to keep yourself before the public, so we know that, but the truth of the matter is, I really hope that in the conduct of our affairs that we must at least agree on one thing, that we must not try to fly in the face of facts. We must not try to create ill will in the Public Service, it is not necessary to do that. Everybody knows that the Public Service in Barbados enjoys greater freedom of political activity than ever in the history of the Public Service in Barbados. I have in my department people who canvass against me, I know that, because the Public Service Commission has been established by the Constitution of Barbados to insulate people from political victimisation, but I think that sooner or later all political parties have got to face up to this fact, that public servants owe a duty of loyalty to the truth and that the sooner we promote this concept

in Barbados the better for public service productivity in here.

I am satisfied, Sir, that the accusations made by the hon. members on the other side are only accusations which they are making in order to catch the headlines, that is all. The facts are very clear. There has been an increase in the standard of living of the people of Barbados by any economic measure over the course of the last four years, the private sector and the public sector. You do not need a big time statistician to tell you that in construction, in agriculture and in many other areas today there are more job opportunities available than there is labour. What do you call that? You cannot say there are no jobs available, a substantial dent has been made in unemployment in Barbados. The hon. members on the other side cannot convince the public of Barbados that more people are not working than there were in 1975 and 1976. They cannot do it. What we should be bending our minds to is this, trying to encourage people to take advantage of the job opportunities that are in existence at the present moment, at least temporarily, while they are training for the jobs they would like to have. I have never heard the hon. members on the other side ever advocate that yet, I have never heard them advocate to the young people of this country to go and do as a first job even whatever job is available and in the mean time train themselves for the jobs which they would like to have. That is not their class of politics, their politics is not the politics of constructiveness, their politics is the politics of destruction, hate and false statements. That is their politics. That is what their politics is it is not the politics of the nation, it is the politics of the individual, it is the politics of how they will advance themselves in their minds and in the eyes of the electorate. It is the politics that we can do without. That is why the public opinion polls – you talk about the Statistical Services – the public opinion polls show what they think of them.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir.

Mr. TAITT: Is he replying, Sir? I thought the Hon. Minister who just sat down said he was replying on certain matters.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Prime Minister is on his feet. He caught my eye first.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal first with the decent part of this debate. It was so long ago since we have had a decent speech we have almost forgotten that the hon. member for St. Michael South asked a sensible question couched in decent language about a subject on which there are grounds for general apprehension and on which the air has been reasonably cleared with courtesy and politeness. This relates to the question of the Government's policy on overseas insurance companies.

I take the hon. member's point about the supply of speeches, and I will ask the Government Information Service if it will cause any inconvenience to ensure that hon. members of the House of Assembly and the Senate are all supplied with copies of Ministers' speeches which are going to be made on policy matters.

With regard to the particular question he raised, it is the Government's policy as far as possible and in proper time to localise the insurance industry of Barbados. We do not feel that all the risks can be insured locally, there will have to be some reinsurance abroad indefinitely no matter how far the companies are locally registered. It would be most unwise in a small island in the earthquake zone and subject to hurricanes and to substantial flood where the majority of the houses are made of wood, and the national crop is subject to burning to attempt to place and cover all its risks locally, and we do not intend this.

2.45 p.m.

As far as general insurance is concerned, we see little reason why foreign companies would need to continue in operation in Barbados, and in fact the general insurance industry is now localised. The Government gave some thought to its organisation at this stage where the general insurance is largely localised, where of the four largest companies two were entirely local but were owned by local big businesses, one was the Government-owned Insurance Corporation of Barbados and one was the oldest insurance company which some years ago had been sold abroad. When the time came for the major company to be re-localised, the Government took a deliberate decision that it should not be borne by one large group in Barbados; it should not become a house company, subsidiary to other business interests; it should become a company owned as far as possible by a wide cross section of the Barbados public. We achieved this and so we have a general insurance profile which consists of a Government-company, a company owned with some foreign participation by local interests spread widely and two companies owned by local businesses seeking to insure primarily their own property and seeking other business, and we have also held on to various other foreign companies.

As far as motor premiums are concerned, the hon. member for St. Michael South West has not drawn the conclusion which follows naturally from his own analysis on the increase in the number of motor cars. An increase in the number of motor cars has brought an increase in the number of accidents. There are many more drivers, the risks have increased and insurance premiums have therefore gone up, but also since 1970 or whenever he is speaking of when premiums were much lower, the

hon. member seems to have forgotten that the Insurance Act has been changed and that the range of insurable liability has been extended. You have to insure for more things. You now have to insure for when you go off the road and knock down somebody's house. In the old days under the Democratic Labour Party a car could drive off the road and mash up a chattel house and the chattel house could get nothing. At this time now you have to cover it for $10,000 in damage, therefore the range of insurance has been extended and therefore premiums will have to go up when the roads are improved, because there is no doubt that the narrow roads, while they do contribute to greater caution for most of the day, they do also encourage at certain times the taking of chances which result in accidents. A quite well-known accident in Barbados is going off the road and hitting either a wall, a house or utility pole. This is an accident which is virtually unknown in the United States. I would venture to say that more cars hit houses in Barbados in any given month than hit houses in New York with over two million motor cars. This type of risk which arises from narrow roads also contributes to the high insurance charges.

Roads will be improved and also the forthcoming Road Traffic Act will deal with, perhaps not immediately, the question of driving under the influence of liquor and people who are repeated offenders and so on. It would impose penalties on bad drivers and it will provide for record keeping relating to bad drivers which will perhaps allow good drivers to have slightly lower premiums. In other words the Road Traffic Act will try to create a data base on which insurance companies can distribute their premiums more evenly between their risks.

Now as far as life insurance is concerned, there are a great number of companies in Barbados carrying on life insurance, most of them, not those writing a greater portion of business, carry on what is called industrial insurance. Under industrial insurance a salesman comes around, sometimes he gives you the impression that if you are sick you are going to stay in the best wards in the hospital and everything will be paid, your salary will be paid. Unfortunately when you fall sick you find that the policy does not go so far. Many people who take the industrial insurance policies understand neither what the salesman tells them nor take the trouble to read the policies. These companies are all foreign as indeed the largest life insurance company in Barbados is also a foreign company.

The Government having localised to its satisfaction the general insurance company is aiming ultimately at localising life insurance business and industrial insurance although it recognises that this is a longer term goal than was the case with general insurance. The first phase of this is to regulate the foreign companies. Some of the foreign industrial insurance companies, Sir, not one alone, are definitely carrying on business in a manner which does not give satisfaction to the Supervisor of Insurance. Some of them are subsidiary companies of a holding company with no assets, in another country, and a holding company under circumstances where it is impossible to say who is the real owner. Some of them operate on such a basis that 60% of the premiums ultimately go into management expenses which means not only the salesman's salary but the profits of companies abroad, and of course they hold very few assets in Barbados.

On the occasion of the dinner of the Life Underwriters Association I took the opportunity of warning the life companies that they should not think themselves exempt from the thrust towards localisation. I intended that the companies that carry on business outside the framework of the Insurance Act would find the Supervisor of Insurance was going to pay a very careful look on all their activities. I would just mention, Mr. Chairman, because of the question of confidence of the public that there are no more secret files in any of my Ministries than the files relating to insurance companies. They are sealed in envelopes with sealing-wax which are then put in other envelopes with sealing-wax and then put in a third envelope so that the final envelope does not even get opened until I see it. They do not even have the names on the outside. All you have is "Supervisor of Insurance" and a secret stamp on the cover, so you cannot even see the name of the company. But some companies' activities are embraced in these secret files. We do not want the public to become alarmed, and I am satisfied that there is no leak from within the Ministry of Finance, not at the Permanent Secretary, Finance level, Director of Finance and Planning or the Ministers' level in respect of these particular companies, if that is one of the alarms being raised by the hon. member. We are giving those companies the benefit of the doubt while their affairs are under investigation. We do not want another case of First Federation Life, but what we have heard is this, and I am going to call the name of the company in order to reassure its policy holders and its management; we have heard that salesmen of a local life company have attempted to cry down the Manufacturers Life Association Company by telling people who buy Manufacturers' policies that they had belonged to a foreign company and the Government was soon going to invalidate them and so on. When I first heard this I had to tell the person who reported it to me to report to the Head Company that employed the salesmen that two of the best known cases of what is called vicarious liability arose in Australia in connection with salesmen of one insurance company who libelled the policies of another and whose employer had to pay libel damages for the damage which he did.

2. 55 p.m.

The Government regards the Manufacturers' Company as being an outstanding Life Company. It has invested its assets in Barbados. It has complied with all of the provisions of the Law. As far as we know it is the largest and certainly we can say that there is no Company any better run or whose business is carried on in a more satisfactory way than Manufacturer's Life Insurance Company Branch in Barbados and we are no party whatsoever in trying to drag that Company down.

Its policies are offered in Barbados with the full confidence of the Government in their security and probity and we deplore any salesmen of other Companies who try to put Manufacturer's salesmen out of work or try to drag the Company down. Our goals in this matter are not impinged on at this present time or indeed in the foreseeable future by the activities of this Company.

I hope I have given the hon. member as complete a consensus as I can in respect of the questions which he raised.

Mr. SANDIFORD: If the hon. member would give way. You have raised some very important points and some of them will give us cause for further research and that is precisely why I had asked about reports from the Supervisor of Insurance. We cannot find any in this Chamber.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: No Report has been laid by the Supervisor of Insurance as yet. The explanation being that the staff in fact has not been upgraded to the level which would enable all of the provisions of the Act to be carried out but a staff re-organization as to the Supervisor of Insurance Department is underway. We consider that the level of supervision calls for a level of expertise and indeed of sheer numbers in staff which are not being met at the present time in the Supervisor's Office.

We are accordingly proposing to upgrade the post of Supervisor of Insurance and create a post of Deputy Supervisor of Insurance and strengthen the Department so that all the statutory requirements can be carried out. I think hon. members would bear with us when they consider that we have virtually transformed the reporting aspects of the Government Departments in the four years that we have been in power, especially in the Ministry of Finance. Accounts which used to be 18 months behind hand that should be provided in a month we are now pretty well up-to-date and so on so that you will understand that when you pass an Act requiring improved performance it is also necessary to provide the staff and having failed to do this they might be some excuse for the Supervisor of Insurance Reports not reaching Parliament.

It is not the fault of the Supervisor of Insurance, not the fault of the Clerk of Parliament nor the Librarian of Parliament nor the Government Printery if you cannot see the Reports. It is the fault of the Minister. Obviously the Minister has to carry all of these things on his shoulders. I accept the reproof and I will now deal with it.

The question with regard to discipline, when I asked the question about Statistics obviously I should not have otherwise members would have come in with as little to talk today as they did yesterday. We have had a lot of harsh debating as we have had yesterday. They did not have to be taunted into making speeches today. Instead they regurgitated all the cold soup that they attempted and succeeded to swallow yesterday.

It is really very amusing. I quite clearly stood upstairs and heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central say that the Central Bank had repudiated certain statistics provided by the Statistical Department. If the hon. member was to give an example I would gladly give way and let him tell me how they are repudiated, if they are documented or is it merely at a meeting or what, what statistics were repudiated, what form did the repudiation take and so on. I do not wish to embarrass the hon. member but it is obvious he cannot get up and speak of any such repudiation. He can only say that it happened but since it never happened he cannot honestly and truthfully give answers and specifications.

I drew the Governor of the Central Bank and the Permanent Secretary of Finance together and asked them "have you been at any variance over your figures? Is there any place where there has been a repudiation" and the Governor of the Central Bank said "I believe there is a variance over the inflation rate." The hon. member would be glad to hear this. I said "what is the variance." And the Governor said "We say it is 14.5% and the Statistical Department says it is 14.4% variance". The hon. member is right and truthful. There stands the Apostle for truth and light in the seat for St. Michael South Central. Fourteen point five percent as against 14.4%.

In fact, even that small variation, that arithmetical division of variation has been resolved as being the difference between the annual average and the point. Because they were so close perhaps it was not realised that that was what it was and so it would be true to say there was a variation. It reminds me of something I once saw about the President of the United States being briefed on the location of a Russian Missile Base. He had read an earlier Intelligence Summary which said that the Base was as Krasnoyarsk and the General now told him of the said Base of Bednoransky and he said "no, it is not there." It's at Krasnoyarsk" and the General said "You are perfectly right, Mr. President. You are absolutely

right. Bednoransky is all 1½ kilometres from Krasnoyarsk.

Well the hon. member is no doubt right. He can go and tell his constituents that he challenged the Prime Minister on the variance between the Central Bank and the Statistical Department and the Prime Minister had to admit that there was a variance, 14.5% as against 14.4%. I hope the hon. member can live with himself when he says things like this. I hope he can live with himself when he thinks of the impressions he tries to create to the Press, the public and the House and has to face the facts, not the impressions when they are presented to him.

Now the second point is that the World Bank Officers, I think he said IMF officers are embarrassed because of the statistics presented by the Government. Now he made it pretty clear that he was speaking of the statistics presented by the Government so the first point I would make in amplification of what the Deputy Prime Minister said is that the Agency of Government with responsibility for liaison with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, is not the Ministry of Finance. It is the Central Bank. It is the Central Bank from whom the IMF, the World Bank, obtains their statistics. That is point one. The Minister of Finance does not present any statistics directly to the IMF and so on.
3.05 p.m.

The hon. member is asking who gives Central Bank. His ground is shifting. He was saying that the Central Bank, as an independent agency can be relied on to present accurate statistics, but the Ministry of Finance and the Statistical Department cannot be relied on. Ground cannot be shifted like that.

(Certain remarks made by the Rt. Honourable Member for St. Thomas were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member for St. Joseph did come and tell me that he had a diagnosis which indicated that his life span was so limited that he did not feel that he could make any useful contribution to politics and that he was going to the United States to have further medical attention. I know that before he went, he went to Dr. Ashby and Dr. Ashby told him that nothing was wrong with him, that he should take an ounce of gin at dinner and eat properly in future and the man is alive and doing well today. I do not know who the first doctor was.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 19, please. (ASIDES)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: And the hon. member for St. George South. We are getting back to IMF.

I asked the Governor of the Central Bank, "has there been any criticism between IMF and any financial organisations and the Central Bank, as to statistics? He said: "Yes, they tell us that we under-estimate our tourist earnings and we under-estimate our real growth."

I am going to draw the attention to the Honourable Member to an extremely wise and sensible speech made two years ago at Estimates in 1979 by the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition. At Estimates, I said that we estimated a growth during 1978 to 2.8% and there were also some little statistical refinements and the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John, the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition said, that it was not in his place to tell the Government that it was doing better than it claimed, but that it was impossible in a year where we had a surplus of the size which we had, we had faced a public sector wage increase, we increased our foreign reserves, we virtually I think doubled foreign reserves from 1977 for Economic Growth only to 2.8%. The Rt. Hon. Member was absolutely correct, the economic growth in 1978 was a gross under-estimate. The island advanced during 1978 much, much more than it has advanced indeed since, in my opinion, of real growth. Maybe 1979 shows a bigger increase in real growth, but our statistics for that year were inadequate to demonstrate the prosperity which began to return to the island and the levels of recovery which we enjoyed in 1978.

I, myself must tell you that I am seeing them come with growth figures of almost 5% last year. I do not believe that we had as little real growth as 5% last year. I think that we have under-estimated and that the World Bank which continually gives us bigger figures for our growth, than the Central Bank and indeed the Statistical Department gives the smallest that it is interesting. The Statistical Department's interpretations tend to give the smallest figure for the growth. The Central Bank tends to give slightly bigger and the international agencies come perhaps within the figures that are least up-to-date tend to give bigger figures still.

The Government does not falsify figures for growth, unless you call being careful and modest falsification. We do not say that we have 10% growth when we have 2%. We are much more likely to say that we have 2% growth when we have 10%. As I said yesterday, I have no doubt that there is less unemployment than the figures show, but we go by the figures which are professionally obtained and of which we are professionally advised.

The Other Side, Mr. Chairman, is going through a very bad time in statistics and figures. Nobody, not any Honourable Member, not even the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John can feel happy when a public opinion is published and republished and republished and which shows that the support for the Democratic Labour Party in the seats that it currently holds is no higher than the support in the seats that are held by the Government.

Nobody can be happy with that. I have a seat with a large majority and if I thought that my Party could only find 9% of the people in St. Thomas saying that they support me and that in St. Michael South West my Party found the same 9% I would be a very worried man. Do not doubt it. A very, very worried man. So, when you see statistics that the Barbados Labour Party is just as strong in the Democratic Labour Party seats, as it is in its own and running at something like two to three times the strength of the Opposition Party and as the figures grow, the support for the Barbados Labour Party is getting more and the support for the Democratic Labour Party is getting less, you have to be worried and you know who they are taking it out on, Sir? They are taking it out on statistics generally. It is as if statistics is a person and you have to hate all statistics, you have to discredit all statistics in order to give yourself the optimism to fight an election (ASIDE).

They hate an OMNIPOL look how often they have mentioned the OMNIPOL. They hate the OMNIPOL, they hate any statistics which show that Barbados is advancing, they hate any statistics showing that inflation is less than they say that it is. They hate all statisticians. God help a statistician in the path of the Honourable Member if he passes G103 on a dark night by the side of the road when nobody is looking. God help them. Not all the expertise of Bethesda and Delaware combined will bring that poor man to the state where he will ever write again, that this country is doing well under the Barbados Labour Party. I see the Honourable Members for St. Michael North and South Central making common cause, Sir, anything can happen in politics.

I never forget the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central giving the Honourable Member for St. James a brief which he still has to criticise, attack, abuse and if possible get struck off as a doctor the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central – I never forget that. Difficulties make strange bed fellows. The second most powerful man in Barbados, perhaps Sir, not even the second most powerful man in the Opposition any more because I confidently expect the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West to make his bid.

The same way that he could tell me that the man could not even talk on a platform until he taught him how. (LAUGHTER). Honourable Members are laughing. He did not only tell me that, he said, that when his hand was removed and he withdrew himself from the meeting, the man showed what a fool he really was talking in public and if Honourable Members on that Side have so little confidence in the arguments of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, why should anybody else have any?

I will tell you something, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West has been offensive in many of his speeches today. He has not been foolish, except one very slight instance which I would not repeat, over the Economic Planning Unit. He has not been foolish. He has merely been offensive, but we have had to put up with every speech.
3.15 p.m.

When we get to Soil Conservation the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is going to say the statistics for Soil Conservation are being falsified by the Government and you want to reduce taxation on agricultural equipment. You must reduce all income tax, nothing has been done for income tax payers, you must reduce all consumption tax to avoid the hyper-inflation in the number of mango trees being grown at Haggatts. I am waiting to hear that, all of that we are going to hear. At an earlier stage he said he was not qualified to talk about something, he was not covering something during the Second Reading speech. I bet he is going to talk about Education when we get there as well.

I cannot deal with those points, I only know that President Reagan is putting forward a three year plan to reduce income tax by 30% and this is regarded as a phenomenal revolutionary step the likes of which the United States has never seen before, and I know that in a certain little Caribbean Island not too far from here that income tax was reduced by 30% in the last Budget. That is what I know, and nobody has said it is revolutionary, but some idiot now is heard to say – unfortunately it was repeated in here by someone who is not an idiot – some idiot now is heard to say that income tax must be drastically reduced as if it has not been reduced every year since the Government has been in power. It must be drastically reduced, something to say, something to catch the Press, something to enable him to get in the dining room and brag how he gives $500 to a certain member of the Press to publish his speeches in the Advocate.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member by the trend of his discussion has left no doubt in this Hon. House that he was suggesting, although he did not call my name immediately before he made the remark, he left no doubt whatsoever, he identified me by the nature of the contributions that I made in this House today and before, and he is suggesting that I bribed somebody.

Certain remarks made by Dr. HAYNES were ordered to be expunged from the record by the CHAIRMAN at this stage.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Well, Sir, I have myself heard the hon. member say with my own ears about the Democratic Labour Party not needing a news-

paper. I wonder if the hon. member remembers what he said after that, I wonder if the hon. member remembers using the phrase "you can always get a journalist." Do you remember using that phrase?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party is suffering from its own success. No political party finds it easy to fight against a Government which is praised by newspapers all over the world and praised by the domestic public, which in public opinion polls consistently gets a rating between 55 and 60% of its handling of the country; a positive response, no political party can fight against that. No election in Barbados is ever cut and dried, we thought we would win in 1971 too. No election is ever certain and that is as it should be because a party that loses it heart cannot really be expected to contribute to its responsibility of maintaining the two party system, but I could wish that the casualties could be confined to politicians like us who can take the blows, who can give back the same or a little more than is dealt out. I could wish that individual civil servants and the Civil Service as a whole or Departments has a whole could be exempted from the rough and tumble, the cut and thrust.

When an hon. member comes in and mentions the Acting Director of Statistical Services, if he pushes it enough he pushes the Minister of Finance into a situation of perhaps calling for a file indicating things which will reflect on the man's employability not by the Government but other people, not by the Government alone. When the attack is continued it is a necessary reflection on the incumbent of the post, the person who has been appointed by the Public Service Commission to fill the post, when the attack is continued. When the attack is made on divisions between the Central Bank and the Statistical Department, it must unnerve the individuals in the two institutions who have to face day to day cooperation and to meet their statutory and administrative responsibility. Yesterday evening I spoke of letting a little common sense break through in the approach to statistics. We hear today that that is distorted into alleging that I said that the Central Bank had no common sense. My precise words were that the Central Bank's approach to statistical problems.....*(Aside)* Not the Governor, I never said the Governor, the Governor was not even mentioned. Do not be malicious, do not be mischievous.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of explanation. The Prime Minister obviously did not hear what I was saying. He is saying now that he heard it said that the Central Bank did not have any common sense, and I was saying *sotto voce* that I accused him of saying that the Governor did not have any common sense. That is all I was saying.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Well the hon. member has made his point of malice and his point of mischief, he must think that he and Eric Sealy are once again lifting Racketeer Clarke's coffin into the grave. If he wishes to get down there with Eric Sealy, let him get down there. He could have gone in the grave with Racketeer, they are three of a kind. The comment which was made related to the Central Bank's theoretical approach to a narrow technical problem. I even referred to R. G. D. Allen's book, I think I said page 36, the theoretical approach which was solved by a meeting to avoid the very problems of which the Opposition accused the Statistical Departments of Government. The problems of disagreeing about statistics which cause difficulty in economic planning. I drew the example of the Ministry of Education.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, Sir, on a point of explanation. We have been led based on what the hon. member said to certain confusions, and the actual words he used last night after a long preamble, he said that he called them together and now everybody is singing the same song. Those were the words he used. He told us that he called them together and now they all are singing the same song.

3.25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I cannot see anything to apologise for. You are responsible for the Central Bank you are responsible for the Statistical Department; is there something to apologise for in asking them to achieve consistency. What is there to apologise for in that, to achieve professional consistency without compromising in any way your professional integrity?

I can quote things that were said at the meetings. Mr. Cox of the Central Bank said we have to be sure that we present a profile and he used the word "profile" to the International Agencies which we can defend on standard professional grounds. I cannot remember the precise words. I do tend to remember conversations, but I can't tell you I remember the exact words which Mr. Cox used, but that was the argument which he used. There was a to and a fro and a fro and a to, but you arrived at the end with a conclusion consistent with the highest professional standards. I ask for them for my Ministry and I make no apologies. Anybody who has responsibility in the Ministry of Finance must bring the highest professional standards of competence and integrity to his work. I make no apology for that and I expect all technical officers working in the Ministry to obey and observe those standards, and where we get variances and difficulties I expect the highest professional standards to be used in resolving them. Good wine needs no bush.

I do not have to tell, in fact I could not tell somebody standing up drinking brandy in St. Mary's row where some years ago he could not even drink beer, about the World Bank, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Governor of the Central Bank.

All he knows is that he is driving a motor car and drinking brandy and turning his house into stone. That is what he knows. I cannot tell him, and hon. members opposite had better know that when you go in what was a rum shop and find it is a gin shop, a brandy shop and a beer shop, when you go in there you cannot tell them any foolishness about Tom Adams is only fooling you, you are well off, he is manipulating the statistics. Do you know what Dr. Johnson said in connection with Bishop Barclays' theory, that all matter was perception, and when Boswell said to him, how do you answer the Bishop's theory, he kicked a big rock in the road and he said I answer it thus, and kicked it again. That is the answer to the hon. members. You go and you stand up in Brittons Hill in the lady's shop at the corner of Villa Road and tell the people there they are worse off than when you were in power, and do you know what they will say, "have a brandy, skipper!" That is what they will tell you; so run around in circles seeking to drag down civil servants, create strife and disorder to create hostility, to rise to power on a wave of hatred, and the answer of the Barbados Labour Party will be peace, love and prosperity. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I must say in respect of the speech before the last one that I had said to my colleague earlier that one of the best rebuttal spokesmen in Barbados is the hon. member for Christ Church South Central. If you have a weak case or if the cards are stacked against you and you have put the case and then you need to bring something out of the barrel, you can always rely on the hon. member for Christ Church South Central to come in, change the perspective of the discussion and then proceed from there. I admire his technique, but when you look at what it says here, duty free concessions,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Processing of duty free concessions; is that where you are?

Mr. TAITT: Head 19, Sir. When you look at that, it is nothing really to do with the allocation of drugstore space. In other words, Sir, it is just like saying in the other dispensation when it used to be argued from this side that certain things were happening at the airport, the Government side would then get up and say "but look who has the contract for cleaning!" Do you understand? It is that kind of red herring, and when you have this red herring drawn across the trail you can lose your perspective. The hon. member then went on to make a speech which we have heard over and over again and which once again the Minister of Finance in his double-barrel reply to the points that have been made in which he carefully and studiously avoided responding to certain matters raised, went on with a speech that continues to be made that says they are doing very well, forces the newspaper, for example, to publish that the people in Barbados and the civil servants are getting the best salaries in the Commonwealth. I am sure that the hon. member does not wish that to go abroad because he has to go to other places.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The statement I made was that the best sugar wages in the Commonwealth barring Australia, and I defy anybody to tell me otherwise, are paid.

Mr. TAITT: We cannot quote a newspaper, but it says in the newspaper that civil servants get the best wages in the Commonwealth. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You attack the competence of the newspaper.) I am not prepared to speak on the competence of the newspaper. If the other side would deal with the competence of the newspaper, that is their problem, because next thing that they would be saying is that we have paid the newspaper people. We are not going to talk about the five persons who comprise the panel that write Henry Christopher. We are not going to include that in the debate at all. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I am not going to call Nigel Barrow's name in here at all.

Mr. Chairman, I am moving on. What I am trying to get at, Mr. Chairman, is that I am merely in the context of this Head dealing with matters which have been raised by the other two speakers before me. I crave your indulgence in order for me to frame my responses and questions properly that I would have to allude to points which they have adumbrated into the debate. Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect I would feel that in order for any fair-minded person who is hearing this debate to come to grips with the thrust and cut, they would have to hear this side deal with some of the matters which that side raised in response to us.

Now the hon. member said, for example, that the people in Barbados have more money in their pockets. Numerically speaking, they might be able to identify persons who have more money in their pockets. What I am saying, Sir, is that when you look at who are the people who have more money in their pockets, you do not begin to deal with the realities of Barbados. He said they have more money, they have more this and more that. I am saying also, Sir, that in Barbados today we have more marasmus babies than we have ever had. *(Asides)* Don't tell me. You do not know what is going on in health anyhow. *(Asides)* We do not quote figures. We do like your Prime Minister says; we go by observations; we go in the country, in St. Thomas, St. John and St. Philip and we see the marasmus babies because we cannot trust the statistics. We cannot quote the numbers because the statistics put out are not in keeping with the realities with what we see out there. I am stating categorically on the floor of this House that there are more babies who can be described as marasmus babies in Barbados today than there were three years ago. I am saying, Sir, that while they talk about prosperity

in Barbados, we have typhoid in Barbados which the Ministry is not dealing with and which we cannot get any response on.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, you know I came in a little late today. Are we dealing with health or are we still on Finance and Planning? And secondly, Sir, I would like the hon. member to tell me what part of St. Philip he saw the marasmus babies. He went out in the country and he mentioned St. Philip. I would like him to tell the House.

Mr. TAITT: Sir, when I come to the Ministry of Health I will give him chapter and verse and detail. I am not able to give him that now in the context of this Head. I am merely referring to it because prosperity was referred to in the context of this Head and I am rebutting that.
3.35 p.m.

In the context of the question I wish to ask now I am saying that while they are saying, both speakers before said how much prosperity there is, I am saying and I am making my point that matters such as typhoid do not suggest that there is prosperity. Maybe it is prosperity for the Prime Minister who can afford a $54,000 car but there is no prosperity for the people in my constituency who are now having to worry about whether they are going to contract a disease which I am going to discuss when we get to it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sure the hon. member is capable of not being irrelevant.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect. Please stop the hon. member for St. James from shouting.

Mr. Chairman, all I am saying is that to respond to legitimate questions which are asked over here by getting up and shouting the kind of thing like a recent plantation man jumped up and shouted "Don't stop this Party", that is not a proper response to the debate. We want to know from the Minister of Finance as we look at these various subheads under Head 19 some of the questions which were asked.

Now, Sir, my colleague said that people outside are making a number of statements regarding the administration of duty free concessions. I submit that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member spoke about rumours outside. Are you speaking about rumours?

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you have facts on this?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. People in my constituency told me and one person wrote down for me that when the concession for the duty free liquor came about that the BMC got one and there was a special arrangement there and that a Company called Tri Star got the other one. Now they say from that side that they know who the Secretary is and Director of that Company. I am totally disinterested in who the Secretary and the Director may be.

What we are asking is this. I would like to know if it is true that the Tenders that were offered for duty free concessions in the liquor shops other than the one which the hon. member for St. Michael West controls, whether in fact there was an offer of $850,000, another $500,000 and another of $250,000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member imputing improper motives to another hon. member.

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir. I am asking a question for clarification of what I have been told by members of my constituency and I am asking if it is true so I will like the Minister responsible for Civil Aviation or the Minister of Finance to bring the files down and tell us, if he can, what were the offers made and whether it is true that the person who got the concession did not make the highest offer.

Now I have seen, Sir, that when it comes to Tenders the Government always has the option that it is not obliged to accept the highest bidder. I am aware of that. However, when you are dealing with something that is revenue bearing and when the thing that you are dealing with and the people who make the application have by their previous experience demonstrated their capacity to carry on a particular activity, then if you take a lower bid you must have good and sufficient reason.

I am merely asking the Minister of Civil Aviation or the Minister of Finance or both that, if they can please tell us on this side (a) if it is true that what I have said is so and (b) if it is true, what is the policy consideration that would have allowed them to take the lower bid as opposed to the higher bid. It is as simple as that.

Now to drag in who has a concession for the drug store or who has a concession for the taxis or who has a concession for the mini-buses will not deal with the question as put and to suggest that my colleague was being mischievous to raise questions that informed the people in our constituency and hence informed us, I do not think that would be reasonable, Sir.

Let us look at this question of the polls, the statistical situation. Now, I am not one who will quarrel with the result of any poll having myself participated in

polling and polls which show a diametrically opposite view to that which has been published.

I am aware that in 1948, for example, there was a man who went to sleep one night as President of the United States according to the polls and woke up the next morning to find that he had barely missed the boat just like the Barbados Labour ~~Pary~~ may well delude itself that it is the most popular party in the Caribbean and that it has done all these wonderful things such as improving the Balance of Payments and improving the per capita income. If they wish to delude themselves into believing that in this day and age that constitutes without more, an improvement in the quality of life we wish them to continue to delude themselves.

We know that our polls do not show that and so it is only the electorate, what I call the all- conquering jury out there who on the day will make their judgment known who can determine for us. What I say to the Prime Minister, Sir, is this. Do not let us wait so long, come now. Bring the election and let the people decide.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: I hear a strident voice which could not possibly belong to any hon. member floating across here. Maybe he is in so much pain, Sir, maybe he has so much pain facing him that he has to make these noises from time to time. In due course we will deal with that.

We would prefer to hear that the statistics on child abuse are accurate as opposed to our discovery in the community that while the Ministry or the Government Information Service suggest that there is not much child abuse in Barbados when we have gone out into the field we discover that there is a substantial amount of child abuse going on in this country.

One would prefer to see that the statistics are not used merely to be praised in the newspapers overseas and in passing let me say this, Sir. It is silly to send a story from Barbados to the Wall Street Journal written by a party hack or a person who has been paid specifically to write these stories and then when the story is published to say look how well we have been praised in the Wall Street Journal. It is foolish to do that. We have people in Barbados who have managed to get professional rewards from writing a particular story. That story has been published in the Wall Street Journal and then the Government says "Look what the Wall Street Journal says about us."

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation.

Mr. TAITT: No, I am not giving way on a point of elucidation; on a point of order. He has to try again. Look at the New York Times. Mr. Chairman, do you really believe that any journalist in the New York Times has any interest in the Tenantries Bill in Barbados?
3.45 p.m.

But the New York Times is known to carry a story which alludes very warmly to the Tenantries Bill. I do not know who wrote it. (ASIDE) I would prefer your Rt. Hon. Prime Minister not to heckle me and talk about CBC. I believe he does not really wish us to talk about CBC and the dishonourable immoral behaviour connected with CBC. I do not believe that he wishes to talk about an Honourable Minister whose behaviour is second to none in the history of Ministerial Government in this country. I do not believe that he wants us to talk about that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have time when we come to that Department. Please do not be carried away.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will not allow the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to provoke me to talk about Nigel here, Sir, not now. I am going to talk about it outside, me and the Honourable Member for St. Philip North are going to talk about it outside. Mr. Chairman why do they not leave me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for that moment of levity Sir, but I wish to return, well, not to more serious business because that is serious business, that is dangerous business.

I think, that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North is a man of high integrity, no one can doubt that, and I agree with him 100%. I hear the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister talking about politics make strange bed fellows, but CBC produce some interesting bed fellows, some very interesting bed fellows at CBC. I do not know if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has any input in this sleeping arrangement at CBC. I do not know if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has any input or output.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will get to that in due course. I' notice that his magazine has taken a rising upwards as I started to talk about this, but I can understand the situation. (ASIDE). I did that, that is a fact. I admit to it. I am not like you, I have never beaten anybody. (ASIDE) I admit to mine, I want you to come out and admit to yours.

I never had the power to send that man down to the United States, but you had power to send Gonsalves out of Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on.

Mr. TAITT: I apologise, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister keeps provoking me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please let us get on.

Mr. TAITT: I am not about to discuss why he sent out Gonsalves. The Chairman says to get on with the debate. (ASIDE) I know that you are going to call for time now, as soon as I get back into these interesting and more intricate matters. Now, as soon as I hear the Honourable Leader of the Honourable House talk about time, I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Health does not want us to get to Health yet. I do not know why you are pressing the issue.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask another question. I see here that the Data Processing Unit has a sum of money and the notes which relate to the Estimates are not as explanatory, in my opinion as they used to be. It says here, that the Data Processing Unit is responsible for certain administrative arrangements in the building. Do I understand that they carry all of the vote for the total arrangement of the National Insurance Building and if that is so, can the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister indicate whether cost of maintenance is prorated, whether Data Processing Unit is the largest occupier in the building and what is the situation regarding the National Insurance because the National Insurance is the Statutory Board for which it was intended that the vast majority of the space would be made available. I really cannot follow the note which attaches to this particular Head because it says here Two, Administrative Services in respect of the National Insurance Building.

Now, I see also under the same subhead 11, Maintenance of Property, we budget $138 000 and it says also rental of property $450 000. Is that the Computer hardware which is being described as property? If it is, I would submit respectfully, that since in Barbados people usually associate the word property with real estate that we might clarify the Estimates, so that we will know that it is $450 000 for the rental of the computer and $138 000 for the servicing of the contract. If the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister could give us that information, I would appreciate it because I would wish to know what in fact is the cost of maintenance of the National Insurance building and if for the purposes of the budgetary arrangements it is being spread across the board for all of the agencies which are used. I will tell you the reason I am raising this question, Mr. Chairman.

As you know, the National Insurance funds are not to be contaminated if you pardon the expression, by mixing with the funds of the Central Government. The National Insurance funds according to the Act are to be specifically used and dealt with in a particular way. So that, now the National Insurance is paying its contribution for the service, if paying any is a matter which we would like to know so that we can assess truly the cost of manning particular services. Having spoken earlier about Data Processing and having in mind – the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister I do not think alluded to what I said earlier – recommendations of the introduction of other computers Sir, of a very cheap type not in excess of $20 000 for the control of certain aspects of governmental activity, for example and you may take note of this, for example, the Drug Plan. (ASIDE: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is no longer a Plan, it is a Service.) I did not think that she was so monumentally ignorant of what is going on over there. The only person who is getting served over there is Turnbull. Mr. Chairman, I will get to that. The Honourable Minister keeps provoking me.

Mr. Chairman, let me just wind up by saying that I believe that if we get information of this kind we would be better served in terms of the recommendations which we wish to make about certain administrative arrangements.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have listened today to various attacks made on positions taken by hon. members on this Side. These remarks, Mr. Chairman will not in any way deter us from pressing on with the substantive point which we have sought to raise in this debate in the national interest.

Mr. Chairman, based on a Mr. Hyde or rather Sir Dr. Jekyll type of presentation in this Honourable Chamber yesterday, we came to the conclusion that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has identified several errors and several defects in the methodology, in the interpretation and in the collation of information by a department under his control. 3.55 p.m.

Specifically, Mr. Chairman, he referred to the fact that because of not only factors of collation but factors of interpretation that some of the commanding and important economic statistics in this country might have been vitiated before his time and after his time. He specifically referred to the fact that employment rates of 28% and 22% to which he had committed himself when in Opposition, perhaps were far too high and that those unfortunate figures were brought about because of defects in the system of collation of information as put together by the Department under his control.

We on this side, based on a large number of comments made by the Hon. Minister, felt and we feel and we repeat that we feel it is in the national interest and it is a Department in which all consumers in Barbados must have a specific interest, it is in the interest of the nation, and in particular of the consumer element of this nation, that we should have a Statistics Department which functions in accordance with the best professional ability and the best professional information available to it at any given time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me remind the hon. member there is a rule about tedious repetition. I just want to warn you at this stage.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am responding to what the hon. member said. If you are bored, I will sit down, but I can defend my position.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is totally out of order. Please sit.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. There is a rule which says that members who persist in tedious repetition of their own or other members' arguments may be asked to desist from their speeches. I would respectfully suggest... (Mr. CHAIRMAN: Discontinue their speeches) Yes, discontinue their speeches. I would respectfully suggest that the hon. member is repeating at length what he has said, in my reckoning, at least four times already on this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is exactly why I drew it to the hon. member's attention.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, that is the reason why we took that position, not out of any viciousness, but in the public interest. Now the hon. member has asked for any instances where it would appear that there have been problems in the collation, interpretation or otherwise of statistics by one or other bodies. I would like to draw to his attention, in the June 1980 Quarterly Report of the Central Bank of Barbados there is a report there suggesting that the annual average increase in retail prices in 1979 was 13.2% and by the end of March the average increase in retail prices for the twelve month period, April 1979 to March 1980, was 19.3%.

I have sought to get the September Quarterly Report but it is not available to me, but to the best of my recollection – and I speak from recollection, I had a look at it yesterday, it cannot be found and made available at the moment – there was a statement in that Quarterly Report, to the best of my recollection, that the rate of inflation for the period ending, I think it was June, for the twelve month period was more than 21%, over 20% as far as I can remember.

The next document that is available to me is December 1980, where there is a clear statement that the increase in prices from March to September as measured by the new retail index was 5%. Now, there are some interesting things happening here. The Central Bank of Barbados has been giving a continuous picture of the rate of inflation based on the information presented to it. All of a sudden there is a complete shift of blunt statements of a position in relation to the rate of inflation which does not marry with anything that precedes it. In addition to that, there is a clear statement made by the Governor of the Central Bank, addressing an organisation in this country not so long ago, that the new cost of living index has rather blurred the position in relation to the rate of inflation in Barbados. I cannot remember the particular club, I think it was the Toastmasters' Club or something like this.

So that if he wants a specific instance, as he has asked for, where there seems to me to be some confusion in the area between the Central Bank of Barbados and what is going on in the Statistics Department under his direction and control, I will say the story is told quite clearly by taking those three reports, the three last reports available of the Central Bank of Barbados, use your common sense and see whether or not the Central Bank's position that the inflation rate should be....or at least you should have a dual publication, probably for a year or two of the old index and the new index and that there should be a properly agreed formula for any marriage at the point when that marriage might take place.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member has now given the sort of example that allows a proper answer. He is calling for a dual publication of a year or two. He obviously has not seen the February 1981, which does give such a dual publication, on pages 76 and 77, and provides by anybody's standards an adequate means of marrying the two statistics, and if he uses his head he might realise that perhaps in one or two of the Quarterly Reports, which are not the authority, it is the monthly reports which are the authority, he might have realised that is was while the Statistical Department was obtaining statistics to satisfy the demands of the two agencies for a proper base on which interpretation could be mounted, that no statement was made in the Quarterly Report.

It is monstrously unfair to suggest that you should have an overlap when the meetings I have been talking about came to the same conclusion, and the overlap is already published. The hon. member for St. Michael South has it there and he can show him, all he has to do is look at pages 76 and 77. That is the end of that.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, there is no question. I said I accepted the Central Bank's position that there

should be a dual publication, and there was a lot of resistance towards that position taken by the Central Bank. You see, the hon. member feels that by coming in here and making all sorts of allegations about people's professional competence, and making all sorts of remarks that are very derogatory and insulting, that he can drag you away from the meat of your attack on the Government in a very crucial and vital area, but I will not be deflected in that way, because I am pretty *au fait* with the dialogue that has been taking place over the past year between the two institutions, so just get that straight. I am pretty *au fait* with the dialogue that has been going on and the kind of problems that have been encountered, and he himself has come to this Hon. House before and admitted that the Central Bank was a bit reluctant to accept certain suggestions in relation to what he referred to as to how the matters can be satisfactorily spliced. Those were his exact words.
4.05 p.m.

He himself said so in this Honourable House, yet I am abused because I raised the question on the floor of the House in the public interest.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No hon. member abuses another hon. member.

Dr. HAYNES: I said I am abused; I did not say anybody abused me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said no hon. member abuses another hon. member.

Dr. HAYNES: Thank you very much for reminding me, Mr. Chairman. On the question of agencies or persons attached to agencies having discussions with me and my right not to call their names to protect their jobs because of the particular relationship between international agencies and any Government, there is no way that anyone would induce me to call the name of anyone on the floor of this Honourable House.

The final point I was making is that on that side the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister himself has highlighted many defects within the Department which he says he is trying to correct in his own way. His criticism of the activities of a department did not constitute an undermining of the Civil Service, an undermining of the fabric of society, but when we on this side make even more valid criticisms – and perhaps the most important contribution that we have made is the isolation of that particular area of activity from the direct interference by people like himself – then he gets up inside here and does anything to try to abuse you all afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has said he has made his final point.

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, I want to add a small but I hope meaningful contribution to the debate which is going on. I want to deal with a number of points which may be considered to be technical points, but I think they are of some importance, and if I may be said to be speaking on any particular Subhead, it would be Subhead (3). The question of the taxation policy in relation to corporation tax is something which has caused me some little concern for some time. During the Budget debate last year, I mentioned the question of group relief in the corporation tax for companies which are members of the same group of companies where one of those companies is making a profit and its sister or brother company is not making a profit. I would wish to know what is the Ministry's policy in relation to companies in that sort of situation. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that if one is to further encourage employment and further encourage the entrepreneurial spirit in Barbadians that there might be some entrepreneurs who might wish to engage in new ventures which are risky, and who might take the view that if they were able to set off the profits of company A against the losses of company B, within the same group that they may be able to risk creating new employment and getting into the new venture if the policy were changed. It is not yet the position as I understand it in Barbados, and I suspect that it may require a change of policy on the part of the Ministry before we can find such a change creeping into the Laws of Barbados.

The other point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, relates to the question of the depreciation base which is used for the purposes of the corporation tax. As I understand the position, the historical cost of assets is used as the depreciation base. The point which I am making has already been adverted to by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister earlier this year, but it is a matter which again requires a change of policy, it requires a study at the policy level and to some extent the Ministry has already begun to look at the problem, because in the Budget last year there was a change from one type of depreciation to another type. The companies were permitted a shorter write off period for depreciation purposes. I am wondering whether the Ministry is considering, having regard to the impact of inflation and from the cost of replacement of assets, a shift in the policy so as to enable companies to use a base other than the historic cost basis. This may appear to be a dry and technical subject, but in fact it can have very serious consequences for the entire economic future of the country if the present situation continues and if inflation continues as it is continuing, and we find that in 15 to 20 years the very companies and business places in Bridgetown find themselves in a position where they cannot replace vital capital equipment because of the nature of the policy which is written into the present Income Tax Act.

Another point I wish to deal with, Mr. Chairman, is the question of the policy in relation to these double taxation treaties. I know that I have mentioned this before. It appears to be something of a pet topic, but it is becoming a matter of absolutely crucial importance. We need to define or activate the policy quickly so that we can get a number of treaties with some of those countries with whom we do not yet have treaties. I suspect we are moving a little slowly on it. Some of our competitors in the Caribbean have been renegotiating their treaties with the United States, and in fact have completed their renegotiated treaties, and perhaps our biggest competitor in the offshore banking area which has to do with taxation policy, the British Virgin Islands, has signed its renegotiated treaty with the United States of America. I think, Mr. Chairman, these are matters of some concern, and I would wish to discover what is the Ministry's thinking on them.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the matters raised by the hon. member are under consideration. As far as the data processing business is concerned, as the major user of electricity in the National Insurance Building, the entire utilities vote for the building is centralised under data processing. Centralisation has also been extended to the telephone private branch exchange and so on as maintenance of property. There are centralised janitorial services for the entire building and normal repairs for certain machines. The rental of property does refer, as the hon. member for St. Michael South West suggested, to key punch and other machines that are used in the data processing undertaking. When we use the expression "rental of property", even for Barbadians it generally means real property, but this is a convenient classification used for the Estimates.

The question that the sum of $4 833 156 under Head 19 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

HEAD 73 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Head 73 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I have a move-in under Item 1, sub-head (3) – Object Classification. This amount should be changed to $15 288 125. We want $750 000 to put into the Pine Hill Dairy, Sir.
4.15 p.m.

The note should be amended to add the words "Pine Hill Dairy, Barbados Dairy Industries Limited" to be precise, added between "Barbados Feeds Limited" and "Caribbean Food Crop Corporation". These shares will be taken up on behalf of the farmers and small producers by the Government on their behalf. I believe eventually it is intended that they will be able to buy them. Government will be quite happy to make them available to individuals. We will take up the issue ourselves initially. It is really on behalf of the workers and the small farmers.

We have a change in the totals. Capital Investments and Contributions to the Financing Agencies has to be changed to $20,680,570 and the total $25,010,239.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will recall that when the Government first came into power and the Prime Minister was I think presenting – I cannot recall whether it was his first Budget or his first Estimates, but he, if I remember correctly, made some rather scathing references to the previous Government's system of allocating funds for Capital Investment and the explanation which had been given at that time was that it was felt that projects such as these were better handled from within the Ministry of Finance because (a) more and better expertise was available to that Ministry and (b) that Ministry was the one which had to get the funds and since then I have noticed that the Government has very quietly and without any fanfare returned to precisely the position which they had quite a bit to say about.

We do not question the use of public funds for the investment in certain projects because we believed when we were the Government, we believe now and we hope to implement when we become the Government again, the attitude that there are certain Governmental projects in a community of this size which can better and perhaps only be undertaken when Government financing and Government expertise are brought to bear on these developments. It is for that reason, Sir, that we are very pained at the long delay which has been occasioned on the whole question of the investment of the Government of Barbados into the Cement Plant.

Now, Sir, you will recall that over the first two years of the encumbent administration reign, quite a number of quite silly, unfactual and misleading statements were made about the capacity of this country to participate in the development of a Cement Plant.

I believe that one distinguished Minister, who is no longer in the administration except in serving overseas, that Minister suggested that he was going to build three Cement Plants as a substitute for the original concept of the Cement Plant. He was going to build three small-sized Plants. I think he called them Mini-Plants. That was the time when the Prime Minister and the then Minister, I think he was Minister of Constitutional Affairs or Housing, I think it was Housing and he went to the strangest of places to find out about the establishment of a Cement Plant.

What is pathetic about our situation, Sir, is that the same professional expertise which was involved in advising the then administration is available and presumably is still involved in advising this administration and five years later with the price of cement being doubled and going towards triple, the Prime Minister on the eve of Election now announces that he is going to have development in the North and that he is going to put up a Cement Plant at precisely the same location which he had been objecting to.

It is in the Bible, Sir, that the same stone which the builder refused shall become the corner stone. (ASIDES) You wish me to give a quotation? The Minister of Education says that I am misquoting but I have to say it in a way that even the Minister of Education can understand, Sir.

The fact is that they have now come around, five years later, to the same project except that the cost has now been multiplied to a point where, when the final result comes in 1983 or 1984 because when we take over the Government later this year we will then be forced to look over their plans to see how their plans coincide with modern techniques and whether the decisions they have made will be in keeping with the concepts which we had. We would have necessarily to take a look at what they have done but we promise the people of Barbados that we will move quickly into the creation of a Cement Plant.

Sir, what we had planned at that time is that the Plant would have had a ranging output of 250,000 tons per year of Portland cement and the utilisation of output which was envisaged at that time was set at 150,000 tons of clinker to Guyana. Our needs were seen at that time as 50,000 tons and we would have 50,000 tons available for export to other Caribbean countries.

I now believe, Sir, that the use of cement, the consumption of cement in Barbados would have risen or ought to have risen to the point where that 50,000 tons available for export would not be available.
4.25 p.m.

But since we have not heard from the Government that they intend to utilise the clinker in the same way because I think that they have disallowed the arrangements with Guyana, then it is likely that they will be producing only the finished produce and that we are going to have only cement and we will have cement available for export to these territories. So we set up a Technical Committee which comprised officials of the Ministry of Finance staff of the Guyana Bauxite Corporation representing the Government of Guyana and they had been working and producing a pre-feasibility study on the establishment of the plant to produce clinker and the finished produced cement. That was completed in November, 1974 Sir and the feasibility of a cement plant in Barbados was established to my mind, beyond any question.

We were satisfied that the principle constituents of cement, that is, limestone and the secondary constituent clay were available in sufficient quantity in Barbados as to make the production of cement feasible. We had looked at some of the difficulties. I remember the hon. member for St. Lucy, in his indefatigable representation of his constituency raised questions regarding the environmental control which would attach to the establishment of a cement plant and to that end, a company called Bergstrom. I think Bergstrom Associates, a Guyanese attached company I do not know too much about them to give details to the Honourable House, but this company which had been responsible for studying cement works in other areas had in fact looked at a number of cement works in North America which demonstrated clearly that the output from the cement plant, the effluent and other environmental hazardous material could be controlled in such a way as not to create a hazard for the population in the north.

Furthermore, Sir, we had worked out the wind directions and currents surrounding the area of the northern coast of Barbados, near the tip of Barbados with a view to ensuring that the dust and other particles coming out of cement production would not be harmful. We had looked at the method of transportation from St. Lucy to Bridgetown, as well as, the transportation from St. Lucy to Guyana and on the advice of some technical people in the United States, it will be recalled that the then Ambassador to Barbados Theodore Britton had been instrumental in assisting the Government in getting a ship..... (ASIDE) ..... My friend, if they carried shells to South Africa, I would not know about it..... a ship that was capable of transporting the clinker to Guyana. As a member of the Cabinet who sat on the decision, that is the information which I had and if the hon. members, by their contacts, they now have additional information, more power to them. But I really do not wish to get engaged in that contentious debate in here. I am prepared to do that out there in the hustlings.

The point I am making, Sir, is that we had reached the point.... (ASIDE) .... Mr. Chairman, if I can hear his asides, I am asking you to protect me from them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is making a good speech, why do you not go on?

Mr. TAITT: They are trying to stop me from making a good speech, but they know that they cannot stop me here Sir.

By January, 1976, we had reached the stage where we could proceed to phase Two where officials of the Ministry of Finance felt sufficiently satisfied that they could recommend to the Honourable Minister to proceed to Phase Two of the development of the cement plant. The work in Phase Two would have required detailed geological and geotechnical investigations, it would have entailed preliminary engineering designs and cost estimates, it would have required a market study and certain economic and financial analyses.

I recall Sir, that a gentleman, I know that I have not given you an indication that I would be calling his name, but I am not calling in a derogatory manner, Mr. Freddie Clarke, a reputable and distinguished son of Barbados and a man not unknown to for example, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central with whom he has had a number of business dealings from what I hear, who was an Adviser to the Jamaica cement company and who was involved at almost every step along the way in our development of a cement plant, had together with I think, a gentleman called Mr. Chin, who was the Managing Director and whose family had been involved in the creation and with the development of Jamaica Cement Ltd. had all made recommendations and had all made inputs and had been involved indeed as part of a private sector group that would be involved in the creation of the cement works. I recall that the then Rt. Hon. Prime Minister who after 13 years had gone on what can be described as a sabbatical to Florida, he was teaching at Florida University or I think the University of Miami, who made several trips across from Miami to Jamaica, there to meet with and discuss the total development especially of the financial package for the development of a cement plant.

I remember when I was on my way to Brussels on one occasion and we were discussing the probability of a cement works in Spain and other similar countries where rotary kilns were being utilised, there was a question on whether there should be a vertical, or horizontal kiln in the production of cement. The point I am making here is that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, who although he was on leave, ostensibly on leave spent a considerable amount of time during that three months period helping to bring to fruition the project of a cement works for Barbados. The question for the need for cement works had never been in doubt.

The feasibility had been assured and indeed, I think we voted in this Honourable House a sum exceeding $1 000 000 for testing of the constituents which were tested in the United Kingdom. I remember – again I have not indicated – but let me say that a Permanent Secretary, who was at the time Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, who was responsible for this project had satisfied us beyond any doubt that the detailed information and the results of the study of our limestone and other relevant material done in the United Kingdom came back with positive results.

I am saying all this to make the point that – there is a bit more information, Mr. Chairman – the IDRD recommended that if only three bids were required, I do not want to go into a long history of the thing, that proposals should be invited from Associated Portland Cement Manufacturing, Holderbank Consulting Ltd. and a company called Lafarge Conceils et Etudes. It is a French name.
4.35. p.m.

In July 1975 the Governments invited Associated Portland Cement, Holderbank Consulting and La Farge to make proposals to provide consultancy services for Phase II and Phase III of the project. By September 1975 we had received two offers. These were evaluated, for want of a better description, by the mixed Commission between Guyana and Barbados as had been established, and the Industrial Projects Officer of the Caribbean Development Bank whom we had brought into this. The Committee recommended Holderbank Consulting should be selected to provide consultancy services for Phase II and III, and this recommendation as I recall it was supported by the Caribbean Development Bank. The Committee also recommended that the Governments of Guyana and Barbados should finance the Phase II consultancy on a fifty-fifty basis from domestic resources.

We then had a meeting, as I remember, between the Minister of Finance in Barbados and his advisers and the Minister of Economic Development in Guyana, Mr. Desmond Hoyte, and his advisers, and they accepted the recommendation....*(Aside)*. I was involved with it a lot, I know it by heart, I may even have written it. When they had this meeting agreement was reached on the financing of the work to be carried out for Phase II.

As I recall, then I went down to Guyana and the Minister of Economic Development indicated that they were ready for a Memorandum of Understanding, and that Memorandum of Understanding was in fact agreed between the two Governments, and in that Understanding it was agreed that the plant would be owned entirely by Barbados and Guyana on a 60-40 basis, that is, 60% of equity for Barbados and 40% for Guyana, that Guyana would contract to purchase at least 100,000 tons of clinker per annum when the plant was operational, and that the expenses incurred in purchasing the site and in financing the studies and other related expenditure, naturally, Mr. Chairman, would be capitalised as equity in the impending company.

Negotiations with Holderbank Consulting proceeded and we had reached the point, as far as I recall, when for all practical purposes the cement project was a go.

Now, Sir, a lady from the World Bank, a Mrs. Hogg, came down to Barbados, and in those days the economy of Barbados in spite of the energy crisis was being so spectacularly managed, it is sometimes forgotten, that the World Bank could not find projects in which they could put financing, and Mrs. Hogg, scouting around for something to get her hands on found the cement works, and Mrs. Hogg said that she thought that could be a candidate for World Bank finance. I recall, Sir, as of now as I am looking at you, when I got this information from the Ministry of Finance my reaction was in words that are not printable. Having served in international organisations, my reaction was that we must not allow these third rate people to come from these international or regional organisations down to Barbados where we have excellent and first class people who are superior to them in every way who had given us advice, and I say without fear of contradiction that the people in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, now the Ministry run by my friend, the Minister for Civil Aviation, etc., and the Ministry of Finance, I say without fear of contradiction that the quality of advice coming from out of those Ministries is second to none in the Caribbean, or indeed in the international agencies.

The UNDP and other agencies, and the IBRD, are replete with a number of discards from various countries who have come to rest like fauna and flora in some of these international desks, and what we felt when her recommendations saw the light of day was that there was some connection between the French and the lady, because she found it necessary and convenient to recommend in fairly strong terms that we ought to seek solace with some French company that was in the business.

I say that in passing because I think it is important that the history of cement works in Barbados not be clouded by intemperate, politically motivated statements which do nothing to enhance the quality of dialogue, or indeed the quality of life in our community. I believe that on some matters such as cement works, and as I shall allude to later, the feed plant and the flour mill, I believe on those matters notwithstanding the political competition between the parties, they ought to be seen as developmental projects for generations of Barbadians to come, and they ought to be debated, yes, but when finally decisions have been made about them we ought to proceed with as much haste as possible to avoid what is always a danger for us, increased costs.

My major complaint with the Government is that by their tardiness, the dilatory nature of their approach to the project, their willingness and apparent desire to remove this project from, shall we say, the kudos arena of the Democratic Labour Party, they have allowed the starting of the cement works to remain too far in advance, the result of which will mean that it must cost us more and that some of the benefits which we had anticipated may in fact now not be coming. I think it is even worse if the Government seeks in its political programme to suggest that the opening of the north, the development of the northern part of this country, is a phenomenon peculiar to the period in Barbados after September 2, 1976. (Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: That is what you are worried about). I assure the hon. member that I am not worried about anything, I assure the hon. member that my approach to these matters is no different in many ways from his approach when he is not being politically partisan. That is why he is able to carry on the policies I left behind without rancour, no matter what he says from his own side of this House.

The projects which we left behind are not only sound, they are useful, they are developmental, and they were conceived with the betterment of the community in mind.

I recognise, Sir, that I am coming to the end of my first period on the Capital Estimates, and so without trying your patience, let me in summing up and rounding off with the cement plant say that we charge the Government with taking too long to implement this project. We charge them, and more specifically the Minister of Finance, with catching at the shadow and going very close to losing the bone.
4.45 p.m.

I will congratulate them on having the foresight or reacting to the pressure to come back home, and now we are going to have the cement works and we promise the country that we will implement it post haste when we come later on this year to take up the reins of Government. I will have more to say shortly.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I will reply quickly, Sir, and then the Minister of Finance will reply.

I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 5.05 p.m.

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

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

On resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended, 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.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the proposition put forward by the hon. member for St. Michael South West that in a project of the magnitude of the cement plant or the feed plant or indeed anything that comes within this particular Head, every attempt should be made to approach these projects which after all have to be paid back not by the present generation of people but by future generations of Barbadians in a very objective and factual and non-political manner. I intend to do that.

I think that listening to the steps outlined as to the efforts made by the other side in getting a cement plant going, I only have quarrel with two points. I believe that the hon. member has two facts which are facts, but they are not in the right place, and I am going to give him the sequence. The sequence is that Mr. Fraser, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Chin came first before Guyana. A proposal was put to the Government of Barbados with the Bergstrom company used as the consultants on a government private sector basis, the Government having the majority for the site at St. Lucy. Subsequently because the size of the plant they had was not as large as would permit export of any great amount, and because of the interest of Guyana in obtaining a regular source of supply of clinker and using the bauxite boats which would be returning, the Guyanese expressed an interest, and in those days of heady enthusiasm just after the Heads of Governments meeting for joint ventures, every effort was made, I believe, to try to accommodate this particular one with the Government of Guyana and the Government of Barbados for a 250,000 ton plant. The credit for a smaller plant was arranged through the Imperial Bank of Commerce with the Euro Dollar loan, and the private sector people were convinced that they had had the requisite expertise. I believe Mr. Fraser is a geologist and of course Mr. Chin was the Managing Director and a consultant to the Jamaica cement company when it was owned privately, but as soon as the enlargement of the plant came, the private sector withdrew and an amicable agreement was reached where they were repaid all of the expenses incurred by them for the feasibility study, legal expenses, the cost I believe of the commitment fee for the Euro Dollar loan, but that occurred prior to 1976, because when we came into office we were at the stage which was accurately described where the Holder Bank was awarded the contract for phase 2 and phase 3 and, to use the words of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition the World Bank had put their mouth in it at that stage. I well recall those words not so long ago when we were talking about cement, the Leader of the Opposition said if the World Bank had not put their mouth and their nose in it, we would have had a cement plant. But the World Bank has certain well defined and laid out pre-investment decision procedures, and by the time the Government came into power in 1976, the decision had been taken to carry out the necessary studies for phase 2 and phase 3 in compliance with the pre-investment procedures of the World Bank. Regrettably the World Bank having received the documentation, turned down the project. They dragged their feet. I say they turned it down. Other people are charitable and they say that they took a long time in making a decision, but as far as I know they raised so many queries and it would have cost so much to satisfy those queries that both Guyana and Barbados mutually agreed that they would take the losses at that period of time and withdraw the application and try and pursue other sources.
5.15 p.m.

Now, the Inter-American Development Bank was approached. It must be remembered that at this period of time Guyana's financial position consequent on the energy crisis had deteriorated quickly. Guyana had a number of other projects under appraisal. She was not even a member at that particular period of time of the Inter-American Development Bank. I do not think she was a member at that period of time.

Now, the Inter-American Development Bank, having looked at all of the documentation, said that what Barbados needed was not such a large plant and that we should investigate what they call a micro-cement plant, the vertical curve structure, the vertical cue type, that new developments had taken place in this technology based on Indian technology, Chinese technology and I believe that the European Development Fund under Lome had financed a number of plants in other parts of the world. I remember in particular Madagascar and others using this vertical cue type. This is what the hon. member was talking about. It was during the time Minister Mapp was Minister of Housing an investigation took place with regard to that.

Well, Sir, there have always been arguments. To this day there are arguments as to whether that technology is appropriate for Barbados or not. The Government took the view that the environmental hazards which would be

associated with that type of technology were such that the risks could not be taken in a country like Barbados which was a small country in which tourism and the environment were matters which we paid attention to.

We were having discussions on a number of other joint venture arrangements with the Trinidad Government, one of which was the pursuance of the Shrimp Joint Company which we came and found. The memorandum and articles were drafted. They were sent to Trinidad but never got a reply and while we were pursuing with the Trinidad Government, those negotiations and other negotiations which we initiated dealing with the question of the rationalisation of Air Cargo, and we were having our comprehensive discussions, the matter of cement was raised. We raised the question of cement and at that time coincidentally, this was quite coincidentally, the Austrian Government had been making proposals for the expansion of the Trinidad Plant and it became fairly obvious that the Trinidad Government had gone through a considerable amount of appraisal work as to the competence of the Austrian Company.

Indeed, they had outbid other Companies and the Austrian Government then also hearing of these discussions indicated an interest too of financing it and for the first time a very important ingredient which stopped the plans previously came into play, that was, the possibility of getting from another small country loan terms and conditions together with a guarantee of performance by a Government.

It was agreed then that we would investigate and up-date the various studies that had been had. A Task Force from the Ministry of Finance trained here in Barbados and from the Trinidad Cement Company and from the Trinidad Ministry of Finance was appointed to up-date the figures which were done already. The methodology everybody accepted was proper and it went along and the Civil Service from both sides, no World Bank involved now, both sides put to their Government an up-dated plan and it looked reasonable so the discussions then took place on a turn key basis with the Austrian Company who at that time had been awarded the contract for the extension of the Cement Plant in Trinidad.

Well as soon as the figures were examined, the Trinidad Government definitely indicated that they were interested in coming into a Joint Venture with us on a clear understanding, and as it is so stated in the Memorandum and Article Agreement that Barbados would be 51 and they would be 49. Progress was rapid, really rapid and we had reached a stage where both Cabinets took a decision. The Austrians were happy with it. They were convinced that all of the pre-feasibility, all of the geotechnical work was well done but the Barbados Government raised the point which was readily accepted by the Trinidad Government that in view of the magnitude of the project, we would want independent consulting engineers to watch the turn key contract on our behalf because when you have a turn key contract you rely exclusively on their engineering and on their performance and although we had guarantee of the Government of Austria in respect of their performance, in view of the magnitude and the fact that we have to bring it here, we have to be careful because we are talking about a lot of money so we felt that it was best to have a firm of consulting engineers and experts who would monitor the design check first and see if they agreed to the turn-key design because if you accept a turn-key design and the man builds it in accordance with the turn-key design and it does not work, you cannot say that his design is wrong. You can hit him on his performance guarantee but you cannot hit him on that.

We then agreed on a procedure, both Cabinets, that we would get consulting engineers to bid for this service of evaluating the turn key design and monitoring the contract. We got bids from Holderbank, whom we knew before. We got bids from the Blue Star Cement Company. That is English, a very large group and I believe Lafarge, the same Lafarge was asked to quote and Holderbank came out with the best proposal.

The difference between themselves and Blue Star was very narrow but the pre-services and post contract services appeared to both the technicians on each side to be better and due to the fact that Holderbank had been with the project from an early date, it was felt that they would be in a good position to make quick decisions and that is the story of it, Sir. That is the story of it.

Having got that, the Austrians came up with a bid and we were able to get it, and this is the point of cost. The cost has not changed that materially because of two things. One is that there is going to be a greater capacity of some 300,000 odd tons and secondly, because you are getting credit from a State in respect of the machinery on a fixed price contract running right up to 1983 in respect of the Austrian component, not the rest, and because of the fact that the land had already been acquired, the cost of the land could not go up. There was more to be acquired.

5.25 p.m.

But, when the World Bank had said that they did not like the feasibility of the project, the Government did not go on with the second stage of the acquisition, so there is an additional 14 acres that will be acquired now. So that, Sir, every effort was made. I do not want the impression to be given – this is no project that we held for any electoral significance. The point was that the World Bank did not like the feasibility of the project. That is a fact. In their opinion, it was not commercially feasible. I do not know whether the commercial feasibi-

lity was judged by the fact that one partner may have been at that particular period of time in acute balance of payment difficulties. In the event of the Government having to subsidise it, they may say it is not feasible whilst they expect that the Government may be able to pay their share, they were not sure.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister himself went to a World Bank Meeting. As a matter of fact, there was a certain amount of strong feeling over the fact that up to that time Barbados had not got a single World Bank project. Up to that time, we could not get them to agree. The Other Side had not gotten them to agree. This was before them, as one of the projects and the Tourism Project, they had not agreed on it. They were still appraising it, the appraisal was still going along on the Tourism Project because I had to go to Washington with the Tourism Project. But our view was indicated so firmly to them – the Tourism Project was being appraised, Heywoods (ASIDES). We had joined the World Bank for some period of time before then. They had the Tourism Project and the Cement – Our view was so firm about the value of our membership to the World Bank that the Education Department came through with a project and they were able to get that appraised at a much faster rate because of the fact that we had indicated very clearly that for a small country, the World Bank was not an institution that wanted to deal with it and they were only interested in large projects. (ASIDE) They did not like lending less than US$5 Million so we had gone as far as we had.

The Inter-American Development Bank said that the project should have gone through on a micro level of a vertical kiln. The contracts have been signed, all of the documentation. The only thing is the Euro dollar component now, but the Austrian Government component, the Holderbank contract. So, every effort was made. The particulars of the plant is somewhere in the vicinity of 300 000.

We have the Barbados Market which is now somewhere around 10 000 to 120 000 tons. Despite the fact that Trinidad is expanding, they still have a deficiency in demand and it arises because you might have a plant with a rigid capacity. So nobody with any commonsense is going to drive the plant into 100% capacity. The Jamaicans tried that and you know the consequences of that. If you drive a plant at 100% capacity all the time you know the consequences, when it goes down, it goes down completely so that, we know that there will be a demand in Trinidad. There is also a demand in this area.

The economics of cement – there is a strong article by the American Cement Association which has indicated that as a result of the price rise in oil, that it is now estimated that on land you can go 750, outside of land there are some views debated between 400 and some say 1 000.

But, the interesting thing is that so firm are the convictions of the Austrians that they are willing to sign and they signed a Marketing Contract with the Joint Venture Company that they would take off all surplus because they are satisfied that it cannot be one. This Austrian company significantly also has a contract to supply and they had it before, they had a contract to supply the Surinam Government with their cement requirements, but they have to bring it from abroad. So that now the whole commercial feasibility cannot be any question. There cannot be any question about it and all of the commercial banks in respect of that part of the finance which has to be financed by Euro dollar loans are now satisfied. The whole thing is wrapped up and tied up. So, this is no delay for political reasons, this is a national project that all of us hope will be successful.

I doubt that by the end of the year, that we are going to be able to get cement from the same sources that we get now. I am hoping of course that CARICOM sources will come back in. I believe that the Jamaicans – I saw with my own two eyes the Jamaicans had a kiln by the wharf, but the cement company did not have enough money to put it in. I saw last time I was in Jamaica this year I saw them now moving that kiln. It may be that Jamaica may have a small surplus for export, but they have a brand new kiln that they bought, but never had the money to put it in, but they have the money now. They have secured the Loan to put it in. The kiln is moving off the wharf and going in. But certainly, the Trinidad expansion I believe is targetted for early 1982.

There has been phenomenal expansion in Venezuela, but then, the demand in Venezuela has expanded so fast that they do not have any to export. So we are still relying on the Cubans and I believe you still get a little from Columbia but shipping difficulties.

The designs are going along, all of the documentation is finished and some of the infrastructural works are taking place. (ASIDE) Grenada? Grenada sell to us all the time. I suppose that the Directors in the cement plant when it is finished and they have raw materials to study and the merchants in Grenada wish to buy, I am positive that they will look for business.

That really Sir is the position. That is the *de facto* position.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased, that finally, the story of the Cement Plant has been told dispassionately, to all intents and purposes factually without the recriminations which have been usually on the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance's references to the Cement Plant and I would like to assure this Honourable House, that our attitude to the Cement Plant remains as it was at the beginning. Our position

had been complicated primarily because of the political statements made by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister which did not put the establishment of the Cement Plant in perspective and which did not allow the people of Barbados, as they now I believe have been allowed to see in essence, that the establishment of a cement plant was indeed an idea that preceded September 2, 1976.

I was very pleased at a point which the Honourable Member made. He said that one of the things that has mitigated against the increased cost of the Plant now is the fact that the land had been already acquired and I think, that that is a dispassionate concession to the foresight of the previous Administration because if one looks at the Record of the debate concerning the acquisition of that land that record will show a completely opposite view to that which has been fortuitously outlined here today, that they have to acquire an additional 14 acres will not be greeted with any acrimony on this Side, it will be seen in the context of the need for the Cement Plant.

What we expect however, and as I said, we would probably have to implement this anyhow, what we expect, is that all of the steps necessary to ensure that environmental safeguards that would be vital to our total development not only in the next five years, or 15 years, but over 50 years, or more, over time, that all the steps that should be taken for environmental protection would be taken as a matter of urgency and that we do not fall into the situation into which Jamaica has found itself, where their cement Plant, well, the least said about it, the better.

The fact is also as you know, Your Honour, that the Trinidad Cement Ltd. has reached the point where their plant can be described as obsolete and their attempt at putting new wine in old bottles will be watched by those of us, who know about these things, with a certain amount of interest.

I would merely correct one sequential difference which I think the Honourable Minister might have made it is this, that the Trinidad arrangement for cement plant had in fact been discussed and agreed in principle, this is excluding the Austrian input.

5.35 p.m.

The Trinidadian interest in the cement plant had been discussed and agreed in principle, along with the joint shrimp enterprise, which unfortunately the Government had not had the foresight to implement with the same alacrity that we would wish to see them do it, and the other areas of joint venture which were agreed in principle, if not settled, at a meeting at the Paradise Beach Hotel between Ministers and Officials from the Trinidad Government and Ministers and Officials from the Barbados Government, a meeting the record of which formed an interesting part of the Duffus Commission, and which the Counsel for the Government in the Duffus Commission insisted up to the bitter end that he could not locate in the Ministry of Finance or any part of Government. Suffice it to say, Sir, that Ministers Mahabir and Padmore had met with Ministers in Barbados, and the Minister I am sure was able to find that Officials of the Trinidad Government and Officials of the Barbados Government had in fact been meeting on the concept of joint venture enterprises, and indeed we had been waiting for a reply from the Trinidad and Tobago Government when in fact the Government was changed. I think that is the point at which they took up, because this point had been canvassed in Barbados before, and the record I think has now been made straight, the path has been made straight, and in spite of the song and dance that has been made about the Memorandum of Agreement between Trinidad and Barbados, we recognise that it is arising out of those Heads of Government Conferences which we used to have that useful arrangements such as these we are now discussing came to be agreed upon or suggested, and they laid the foundation for further co-operation among Caribbean countries.

I am disappointed that the Prime Minister is of the view that CARICOM is working just as well without Heads of Governments Conferences. I am not so persuaded and I do not believe that on sober reflection he will wish to make that statement in any seriousness, because in all the countries that have attempted economic integration of whatever kind and at whatever level, it has been agreed and accepted that it is necessary for the Heads of Governments to sit down occasionally, if for no other reason than to apprise one another at the personal level, so that when the Government in Barbados is about to make a decision concerning the Government of Trinidad and Tobago or Grenada or St. Lucia or wherever, they can have some crescience of the kind of mentality they can expect in the receipt of any proposals they send to the respective capitals.

Even in the larger arena, although our present Prime Minister might believe he belongs in that arena, even in the larger arena we see world figures such as President Reagan and President Breshnev discussing the probabilities of meeting face to face so they can discuss wider and broader issues, but issues no more important to them than those in the Caribbean are or ought to be to us.

I would like now, Sir, to turn to another project which has suffered a similar fate, in our view, that is the project of the flour mill, and arising out of that, the feed plant.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Just one point of elucidation on that, Sir. It is very small, but I know how it is sometimes with newspaper reporters when they hear a lot of long and tedious speeches. I never said that CARICOM can work just as well without meetings, I said

I am not entering into any debate on CARICOM, but the answer to the question, "Am I satisfied it is working without meetings" is yes. I did not say it can work just as well, that is a gloss added by the hon. member. I said I am satisfied it is working quite well at the moment without the meetings.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, even if the Prime Minister is willing to exercise his considerable ability to split a split hair into two to show the difference between the two, what he is alleged to have said and what he now says that he said, suffice it to say that he is satisfied that CARICOM is whatever he said. I do not wish to repeat it because I might misquote him. He says he is satisfied, we are not satisfied, we feel that seven years without a Heads of Governments Conference is not good enough. We do not believe that we will find anywhere, whatever might be the personal difficulties between one Head of Government and another, those personal difficulties cannot be used, ought not to be considered in looking at the necessity for the Head of one sovereign Government to have dialogue on matters of importance with all the other Heads where we are parties to a Treaty. *(Mr. CHAIRMAN raised his hand.)*

Mr. Chairman, with respect, I am not straying, Sir, I am not trying to make political capital out of anything. I will show what I mean in a minute, Sir. Even in a matter such as the setting up of a flour mill, Sir, it is necessary for us to be able to say to the Government of St. Vincent, or the Government of Grenada, or the Government of St. Lucia, we note that you are getting ready to set up a flour mill. As you know, Sir, there is a flour mill in St. Vincent. We do not know who else, Anguilla or Barbuda might very well decide that what they need is a flour mill. In the context of our own flour mill, if Heads of Governments are able to talk informally with each other within the forum and within the atmosphere usually generated at a Heads of Governments Conference, then a number of misunderstandings which can occur at the level of Officials, and may even occur at the level of Ministers, will tend to be dissipated where those Heads of Governments are able to talk to each other.

Looking at our flour mill project, I do not believe that it is sufficiently well known in Barbados that the only thing which could possibly have delayed the start of the flour mill was the necessity to await the completion of the building of the site, as it were. The harbour expansion project was not expected to be completed before November 1976, which was obviously after September 1976, but all of the necessary arrangements had been put in place, all of the necessary papers had been arranged and awaiting signature when in fact the Government changed. We obviously would have to wait until the expansion project – that is, the acquisition of additional land, as it were, from the project – was completed, and, Mr. Chairman, at the risk of being "tedious" let me outline that when we first went to the IBRD to seek assistance for the establishment of the feed plant, the IBRD indicated that they did not wish to include the feed plant as part of the harbour expansion project, and it became necessary for us to create a separate company wholly owned by the Government in order for us to be able to utilise the site and to seek to get the necessary financing for the flour mill and the feed plant.
5.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the decision to establish a flour mill in Barbados was informed by two things: we as a country had been one of the few countries of the world that was still importing flour in other than bulk form, the result of that was that the cost of importation was extremely high compared to the cost of importation in other places where it was being done in bulk, and the result of that was that the cost of flour in the community was perhaps higher than it was thought that it ought to be. One of the remarkable things which has been a disappointment to us on this side is that now the flour mill has been completed, we have seen no evidence of the benefits which we were satisfied and which the officials in the Ministries of Finance, Trade and to a lesser extent Agriculture were satisfied would flow out of the establishment of a flour mill. We have not seen some of those benefits reflected in the economic life of the community in so far as quantities, qualities and prices of the flours that would have been produced.

Mr. Chairman, for example, if I remember correctly, and I have a note here which I would like to check to make sure, at the time some time in 1976 when the proposal was being put forward, the mill was designed to produce three types of flour, bakers' flour, biscuit flour and counter flour. The proposal envisaged that flour would be sold ex mill at a price of $1.00 per hundredweight below that of similar imports. Now in 1976 we had already been visited by the energy and financial crises, so that these projections would have taken into account all of the inflationary inputs from outside of Barbados as well as those expected to be generated in Barbados. At $1.00 per cwt. – and you would know that flour is measured in hundredweights – lower than at the price being paid for the imports, a substantially lower cost, then if there has been inflation on both sides of the equation as it were, there ought still to be a differential between the price of flours ex mill Barbados and the price of flours as they would have been imported into Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would you tell us what is the particular item on which you are speaking?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I intend at another time to go into great detail about this. I do not think I wish to do that at this point in time. I just wish to point out that the decision that flour would be sold ex mill was a very

cardinal decision in the Government's attitude towards the establishment of a flour mill, and the Maple Leaf people accepted the principle because they recognised that one of the problems in Barbados with local production of industrial products is the methodology of marketing which sees a specific input or a wedge between the source of supply and the ultimate consumer of a number of, shall we call them, layers. I think that hon. members when not in pursuance of political gain would accept that a country the size of Barbados ought not to be visited with the phenomenon where if a company is producing, let us say, spaghetti, within a radius of say 13 miles in any direction they would serve the entire production to a single company which in turn would market that production. When that is done, Sir, it means that the company that is producing can adjust their wholesale prices at any time to take account of their arrangements with the tax people, and it means that the company or the group that is purchasing the entire stock are in a position to decide in advance what their profitability will be or will not be.

When we were setting up this flour mill, these factors among others were uppermost in our minds and we saw benefits to the ultimate consumer and we saw benefits that would multiply themselves through the establishment of a feed plant, that feed plant in turn passing on the benefits to the producers of protein in the country, so that the cost of protein would come to the ultimate consumer at a price that would give the agricultural producers a fair return on their investment, but which at the same time would rise at a level commensurate with reasonable rises in inflation in any country of this size. I would like to ask of the Minister, perhaps this is the Minister responsible for Trade and Industry or I am not sure if it is the Minister of Consumer Affairs, but the portfolio comes under the Ministry of Finance according to the Estimates, I would like to enquire of the Minister if he is able to tell us what are the benefits in terms of which I have been speaking which are accruing first of all to the ultimate consumer on the three grades of flours if these three grades of flours are being produced by the mill; secondly what is the relationship between the flour mill and the feed plant and the benefits which the feed plant is getting, whether they are commensurate with the projections when these two operations were envisaged, and whether in fact feed as well as flour is being sold from their respective outlets ex mill or whether they are being sold via the usual traditional method in Barbados.

I believe that the Government having a major shareholding in the operations and indeed participating in the directorate of these two operations is in a position to bring to bear Government's policy on the decision making in these operations. Unfortunately, Sir, in Barbados there is a level of propaganda.....

Mr. Chairman, what I have to say would take longer than a few minutes, so if my time is up I had better stop at that point and resume the next time around.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The flour mill and the feed plant are matters that now they have been raised we would like an opportunity to consult with the files on these matters because it has been the subject of a very exhaustive investigation by the Consumer Affairs Division recently, and the history of the flour and feed is not as non-controversial – as the cement. My memory of the file is that there was a profound conflict between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Finance on the viability. Different objectives were set out for determining viability. That is my memory of the files, and the question of the distribution system was gone into exhaustively very lately to the extent that one of the shareholders was dissatisfied with the time that it took. We wanted an exhaustive review of the pricing formula to see whether it fits with the original projections. There was also one other difficulty and it is a major difficulty which is unresolved, and it was the question of the terminal of the flour and feed. It was set up with one company owning the terminal and the flour mill and serious questions have arisen as to whether the letter of intent can be carried out without coming back to the legislature in the question of fiscal incentives, because a ruling has taken place that a terminal cannot be a manufacturing establishment. But I should like to bring the file. The hon. member can raise the matter again, but not today because I have not got the file here. We have to send for the file.
5.55 p.m.

I would like to bring the file before the hon. member can raise the matter again in order to discuss it but I do not have the file here. I have to send for the file.

Mr. TAITT: I understand the hon. member to be suggesting and if it is as I understand it, I am perfectly willing to have this Head postponed until such time as he is able to consult the files because it is a matter which is of vital importance and I am sure the Government would wish or ought to wish to have it clarified and spelt out in some detail and we on this side would like to question some things as well so I am perfectly in agreement and willing to have this Head postponed until later if it is the wish of the Government.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to briefly reply to one or two of the points made by the last hon. member relating to his question. It is the question with respect to flour. The grades of flour that you referred to are being manufactured by the Flour Mill. The biscuits used in Barbados are made from the flour used there. The flour for bread and over the counter flour that the consumers buy for their respective arrangements within the home are also produced there.

I can also assure the hon. member that in the absence of the file here this afternoon, I can say here definitely that had it not been for the presence in Barbados of the Flour Mill that the cost of flour, the imported flour, would be very much more than it would normally be. The cost of the flour which we produced here, the imported wheat is much lower than the cost of the flour which would normally be imported.

The other points we can raise at a later stage.

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

Dr. HAYNES: I am dealing with a separate.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I may interrupt. Your question can be adequately dealt with when it comes to Trade and Consumers.

Mr. TAITT: My understanding, Sir, and what I would prefer, Sir, there are matters which can be raised here, Sir, and which have to do with investment and I understood the Minister to be saying that he was postponing the final passage of this Head even though we can deal with other aspects of the Head until they have the files and can respond more specifically because I have not raised questions about the Feed Plant but he anticipates some of the things I would wish to know, and quite correctly, and that is what my understanding is, so that I would rather deal with them under this Head than under Trade because there are a lot of other matters I wish to speak on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My understanding was not that. My understanding was that he would be at a later stage in the Estimates so I would like to hear from the Leader.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: All I can say is that in the absence of the Leader of the House I would like this Head passed. I believe that the matters which the Minister of Trade are going to deal with relate to the fact that that Ministry never considered a Flour Mill to be a feasible project and has always so minuted and so perhaps he would like to get the file so that the administrative history of the Flour Mill can be outlined. I am sure that that can be dealt with quite adequately under another Head, Sir. I would like the Ministry of Finance's Capital Head passed.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, do I understand it that that is a bankable assurance that that particular Head, Trade and Industry, is likely to see the light of day early in the Estimates? You see we are in a situation where we are not calling the shots and therefore it is fine for the Prime Minister to say that it can be discussed under another Head but if that Head comes up during the guillotine session the only discussion you can have is "Ayes" from that side and "Noes" from this side.

I am saying this on a point of order because last year the Prime Minister gave this side an assurance that Defence and Security would be dealt with in a particular way. We accepted his word and then we were told, and in fact I remember the words, he told the Leader of the Opposition an hour before the guillotine "Know your place".

I do not intend, whether he wants it passed or not, to forsake my responsibility on his word unless I understand and you understand that this Head is going to come to us otherwise I would crave my right to discuss the Head and ask the question I wish to ask even in the absence of the file or otherwise. I cannot accept in the light of experience the word of the Prime Minister on this matter.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak under this particular Head in the Capital Estimates and I think that it would be difficult to make a speech in this area without expressing the considerable admiration which has been accruing as you go along for the hon. member for St. John.

It is quite amazing that the capital projects either started or nearing completion or in some way undertaken under his guidance have not only served his administration for a five year period but it seems to me that some of those projects have been the basis that will be taking this country into the 1980's if they should win the elections, which they will not win, of course but it is quite amazing and I think that from time to time we should pay tribute to the foresight of a great leader when one appreciates that we here in 1981, we are discussing in the Capital Estimates projects which have been embarked upon and reached one stage or another when he was responsible for the Ministry of Finance and Planning in this country, and it is my suspicion that in 1986 that we will still be involved in the discussion of projects which he initiated. It is tremendous foresight.

The Cement Plant, Mr. Chairman, is a project which I think best demonstrates the foresight of the hon. member for St. John. All the arguments that I have heard put forward by the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, increased costs, transportation, the feasibility of obtaining cement on a commercial basis within a given radius, by land or sea, all these things were clearly foreseen by the hon. member for St. John and I think that as we discuss these Estimates that we should all pay tribute to the foresight of a magnificent leader, the Leader of the Democratic Labour Party.

6.05 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But, that is not what is being discussed now.

Dr. HAYNES: I am dealing with the Cement Plant and conceptualisation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: By way of introduction?

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The conceptualisation is very important. Conceptualisation is vital to the developmental process, but I want to address my remarks specifically to a contribution to the Barbados National Bank to be used for lending to the agricultural sector.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, two important financial institutions which served agriculture in this country, the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank and the Agricultural Credit Bank have been absorbed into the exercise of the Barbados National Bank. The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank served the large owners of Barbados, their accounts were absorbed lock, stock and barrel, bad, good and indifferent and taken over by the bank.

The small farmers, on the other hand, many of them with very few outstanding liabilities, as far as, the Agricultural Bank was concerned, we found a situation where their assets and liabilities were assigned to the Crown and a department of Government now functions as a debt collecting agency, in respect of hundreds of small farmers in Barbados. Their papers to their properties which they themselves had to put up at the time when they obtained the loan still remains the security for those loans. They have no access to any financing on the basis of the property because they cannot have access to their papers until they pay off the loan. They cannot have access to any extension services because they are either non existent, or where existent are available only with the greatest difficulty and they find it impossible to continue to participate in the grand job, in fact perhaps the most important job which confronts this nation namely, a massive increase in agricultural output particularly non sugar agriculture.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that this was a very wrong step to be taken. The last time I saw the figures of the number of accounts taken over and that is small farmers, I think there were only some 22 taken over by the Barbados National Bank at the time of the transfer and I would like to appeal to the Government to see whether or not they should not revise that policy because when you look at the financial position of the Agricultural Credit Bank, when it was unceremoniously closed down by the present Administration, you will find that the vast majority of accounts were good accounts and if the Bank had had an adequate collection service, that met the needs of small farmers to collect their payments and so, on a weekly, or monthly basis, then I do not even think, that it would have been $3 million outstanding and in point of fact, the assets and liabilities were roughly in order at the time of the transfer at any rate.

I Sir, have been amazed that this Administration has found it possible to provide every possible incentives and put it in the way only of the large plantation owners of Barbados. I think that we all agree on the status of the extension services. That matter will be more fully discussed when we get the opportunity to discuss it under Agriculture. But, we want to look at the area of financial inducements. We have had several Budgetary inducements largely to the advantage of the large units in Barbados, direct and indirect in the way of inducements to obtain machinery of one form, or another. We have even had a Cabinet decision which will seek to utilise the funds of small farmers and workers to provide working capital for Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd.

On the other hand, what do we see? We see a withdrawal from the small farmer of the extension services which were available to him if not by a positive decision, by the fact, that those services have been run down and progressively run down over a period of years, two to three years. We have seen a withdrawal, if not by a decision of Government, by internal workings of the Barbados National Bank of adequate finance to the small farmer.

I wish – I have raised this question on the Floor of this Honourable House before and I was very glad to hear the Honourable Member for St. Andrew publicly state that he too was concerned about the kind of treatment which farmers got when they went into the Barbados National Bank trying to secure a loan for agricultural purposes. It has always been my view, Mr. Chairman, that that transfer of responsibility from the Agricultural Credit Bank should not have been made to the Barbados National Bank until such time as the proper administrative structure had been established within the bank to service loans and meet the special needs of the smaller farmer.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am not necessarily criticising the bank. The bank as a commercial bank certainly would have been dealing predominantly with different types of accounts and the staff themselves might not be familiar with the developmental needs, or developmental requirements of this particular sector of the bank. In other words, it is a sector which is addressing itself more to a developmental function, than to a commercial type of activity although the two are not necessarily unrelated.

I will give you an example. Someone who owns half acre of land in Ellerton, St. George and who wants to get a loan might have heard that he can get a loan from the Barbados National Bank. He goes in there and

the kind of language used to him, quite proper language in normal terms, that he needs some security, some papers of one form, or another and would you sign these documents here, *et cetera,* the whole kind of process of that loan in respect say of a Permanent Secretary would have to be somewhat different, in respect of a small farmer. Now, the Agricultural Credit Bank was geared to meet these particular needs.
6.15 p.m.

The Barbados National Bank clearly is not geared to meet the specific needs of these small farmers. In particular, Mr. Chairman, in the area of collection, even collection of payments of accounts, there may be a need to have a special task force, one or two people, going around on a monthly basis and collecting, if the repayments are $50 a month, then they can go around and collect the $50 a month from them. Now, this is not the activity that one normally associates with a commercial bank, although those commercial banks that have been very heavy in hire purchase operations in Barbados in the 1960's, and certainly in the 1970's had their people on the road either for repossession or for collection, so it is not an area that is unknown to commercial banking practices. Just as now the documents are seized, the assets and liabilities are essentially assigned to the Crown, you can get somebody out there trying to extract money from them, as happens from time to time now. All sorts of letters go out to them, they get visited, and although they can get no further financing of the agricultural plot, the half acre, one acre, two acre, they cannot get it because their papers are assigned to the Crown, and I think it is not only immoral, I have often questioned the legality of the whole exercise, because basically if I go to a commercial bank and I obtain a loan for an agricultural purpose, unless it can be demonstrated that I am in default of that loan, and then all of a sudden whilst I am midstream in my developmental process in agriculture those facilities are withdrawn and I incur any losses, I feel I am entitled to my papers back at least. I am not quite sure whether the bank would not have some kind of liabilities, so I would ask of the Government whether it would not consider releasing the papers at least of the bona fide farmers, so that even if they cannot obtain adequate servicing of their financial needs at the Barbados National Bank, at least they can resort say, to Barclays Farm Plan, which has indeed a much better organised system of dealing with the problems relating to small farmers. They have not only appointed an individual, but they have a Department which is adequately staffed.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is running out.

Dr. HAYNES: I will try and wind up now, Sir. I think Barclays Bank has set a reasonable example. I am not quite sure of the rates of interest that they charge, but certainly from an administrative point of view, it shows how within a commercial bank, provided you are really dedicated to a particular area, and you wish a target into that area, that it is possible to set up an administrative structure which is sensitive to the needs of that particular sector within the community, and perhaps it might be worthwhile for the Barbados National Bank to have a look, nothing will be lost by that, have a look at the Barclays Farm Plan administration and see whether they can find any administrative elements in that which might be of assistance to them in carrying out the function of assisting the small farmers.

One final point, Sir. I hope that when I am voting for this Head, when I cast my vote, that the money that I will be voting would be made available not only to the large units in Barbados, but that some respectability be restored to the small farmer, at least by recognising the role which he has played in the agricultural development of Barbados, and the role which he can still play. Mr. Chairman, I can foresee Barbados being one massive garden of production of food involving every single one of us, farmers like you and farmers like me, the small ones, and the big ones like the hon. member for Christ Church South Central.

The question that Head 73 – Capital – as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 – REVENUE COLLECTION

Head 20 – Revenue Collection – was called.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 20 stand part.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, under Subhead 2 dealing with the Customs Department, I believe that the Government should be able to, as it were, set the record straight on a number of matters which have been raised from time to time relating to the importation of garments illegally into this country contrary to whatever arrangements they have on this matter of trade. I say this because I have seen and heard complaints being levelled from time to time about companies importing garments into this country in contravention of certain acknowledged arrangements, and I believe that the time is as good as any other time for the Hon. Minister of Trade to be able to give some indication as to what is being done in this particular area.

I believe that one ought to extend some congratulations to the Customs Department for the way in which that Department in particular has been ferretting out persons who are bringing dope into this

country, marijuana. This is a very serious development in terms of our national life and I do not believe that one would want us to go into any detail as to the kind of problems which drugs can cause, and indeed do cause, in a society. One only has to observe from reports which reach the Press and from reports which do not reach the Press about the impact of drug abuse and drug use in this society, and we in the Opposition are very concerned about this, and certainly would want to say that particularly the Customs Department should be strengthened to ensure that all of the avenues which at present exist for the illegal bringing of drugs into this country should be blocked up, and all efforts made to as it were control drugs from that particular source. 6.25 p.m.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that like you we are concerned about the use of drugs particularly among our young people. We know that already there is legislation on the Statute Book, but one would like to see every effort made at a national level because it is the feeling of the Opposition that drug use and drug abuse has now reached such proportions that there must be a national response to this, and we in the Opposition would call on the Government which is the Government that fancies the setting up of Commissions to establish a national commission on drug abuse in this country, because I think it is a very serious matter and certainly the efforts of the Customs Department would come up for some praise on this particular area at this time, and we in the Opposition would want to see some more stringent effort being made to protect our young people and indeed to reduce the exposure which our young people in particular can have in the use of drugs in this country.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to raise one small point in relation to the Rates and Taxes Department. I would like to enquire from the Government if they have any proposals for the resiting of this office permitting for more modern surroundings in the building and so on, because if a Department is responsible for the collection of $16 million and you take a serious look at the conditions down there, the congestion on the roads and then the inconveniences which people have to face sometimes when they go there to pay their rates or their taxes, I think some serious consideration should be given to resiting that office where apart from giving them better buildings, there would be better facilities for the people who go there to pay their rates and taxes.

One must be gladdened by the fact that such development is going on in that area as regards improvements of the roads and would agree that this would go a long way towards decreasing the amount of congestion which occurs at that particular section of the road by St. Mary's Church because for a very long time it has remained narrow and there has been great difficulty at times moving your vehicle in either direction when you have to contend with other vehicles and also with pedestrians. If you look at the car park near by which also accommodates buses and other vehicles, you find that it is inadequate for the people who have to go there at certain times of the year to pay their rates and taxes, and as you would know, people quite often wait until the last minute or not far from the last minute to descend in their hundreds to that department to pay their rates and taxes, and down there becomes very difficult to manoeuvre as you go around the place.

As regards the inside of the building, I do not know much about that. I think that would be something for the staff to talk about, but looking at it generally, I think that you know that an old building does not lend itself easily to all these renovations to suit modern development and modern requirements, and I would like to hear from the Leader of the House if the Government has any plans and how immediate is the plan for resiting the Rates and Taxes Department to better conditions and a better environment.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Some of the questions I can answer immediately. With respect to the question of the Customs, I agree with the hon. member that my Ministry certainly and the Ministry of Finance have been concerned very seriously about the allegations and the facts which have been brought to light with respect to the attempt to circumvent the negative list. All over the world there have been a number of articles not only in the developing world but in the developed world as the rise of protectionism has come into play, and strenuous efforts have been made by people who import or deal in garments to circumvent whatever steps Government takes to protect their domestic garment industry. We in Barbados like the Governments of Trinidad and other countries have been under pressure in this respect. A number of meetings were held between the Manufacturers' Association, the Ministry of Trade, the Licensing Review Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, the boutique owners and the customs people. It was generally agreed that we are dealing with a very sophisticated group of exporters who have suggested as a result of their experience in a world wide trade many new methods of importation to circumvent every effort that is taken. A preventative unit was suggested and the nucleus of the preventative unit has now been appointed. There has been a real re-organisation of the customs service, a number of new posts not only at the bottom level but right up to the Assistant Controller level has been created of which a number has been assigned to the customs preventative unit. A number of scholarships were obtained for training both in Brussels as well as through the Government of France and indeed the Government of Germany which has enabled one or two officers in particular to be trained not only in valuation practices, but also in languages and in fibre identification. That is a very important thing. You have to have skills in

fibre identification. You also have to have skills in the new nomenclature and you also have to have skills in the trade, in the cutting patterns and indeed the stitching patterns. It is a very sophisticated thing we are dealing with. All these things we have been working on. There has been of course complications. I think hon. members should understand and appreciate that a large part of the imports in any country in the world today who have container terminals has now moved from single package or loose packages into containers. Now many of these containers are unstuffed, I believe is the word, out of the customs area, outside the Port or some are even unstuffed within the Port area. Nobody has yet developed an X-Ray machine to tell you exactly what is inside a container; so you are dealing with a situation in which a large part of your trade comes within containers, and you would have to have a close examination and inspection of each and every item within the container. Many countries have been trying to grapple with this. Just as at the airport in order to get swift movement various customs officers develop a sort of judgment, a hunch, a methodology of what they call spot searches, so too with big containers that is what is taking place. In addition of course, every Customs has an Information Service, and they get their tip-offs and things of that kind. This Customs Preventative Unit is working in that area as well as there is also what they call investigation backwards, that is you go into the stores and you pick up articles and try to trace how they get in, and gradually you build up a whole information base. Some considerable success has been achieved in this area, but such is the ingenuity of some people who are determined to circumvent the law that a new problem is arising in this respect, not only in Barbados but in Trinidad, and that is, other areas are now being used as the routing.
6.35 p.m.

Certain difficulties have arisen with respect to certification under the terms of the Caricom Treaty because some manufacturers and it is proven, some manufacturers abroad have now found out that we have improved greatly our techniques of inspection of fully finished garments and they are shipping garments in this area, nine-tenths finished, only to be stitched in some countries and they have been able to get a certificate from the relevant authorities in those countries that the local value that has taken place there is sufficient to satisfy the Caricom rules of origin and hence the goods are entitled to enter duty free. This is a new phenomenon that has lately developed as a result of the actions that were taking place last year. This started to raise its head in the last two months of last year.

Now, I do not wish to enter into details as to the country because a lot of collaboration is going on at the Caricom level in respect of this. I do not wish to name the countries so do not press me. I cannot name the countries but we are hoping that this problem will be solved by very great collaboration between the respective certifying authorities and by the challenged provisions that they have in the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

I think hon. members who have had experience of that would recall that even in the predecessor document there were difficulties about certification. There have been arguments about certification and there is a strong feeling now, and I think that there is far more unanimity now than there has ever been in this area, but there is a strong feeling that trade has developed so much between the Caricom countries that the time has come when there should be independent machinery, independent of the particular member countries. There is a strong feeling that in particular member countries that in order to speed up their process of industrialization that there is probably a little laxness in their complying with the rules.

This is the position that we are dealing with in fact so that a considerable amount of progress has been made in respect of the importation of finished garments. I am not saying that there has been a 100%. I am not saying that. There are also, of course, some other problems that have also surfaced and which concerns the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and which strong steps have been taken and have been identified, a few difficulties with the issue of licences. *(Asides)* Ministers do not issue licences. There have been a few difficulties with products that have been actually banned from the Negative List but by mistake one or two licences have been issued. It is a fact.

An outstanding example is the question of shirt-jacs. I would like the Law of Barbados to revoke citizenship from people who are found guilty of these things. The Licences for Shirt-jacs were revoked. We managed to check that one, but you know how these things go. We are dealing with a group of wild traders running right through the Caribbean now. That is a fact. There have been in London and they have them all over Europe. They are world wide. We are dealing with a group of exporting countries who have found that their garments in developed countries are put on quota and they have devised all kinds of elaborate methods of trying to circumvent all of these regulations and we are in the world now.

Barbados is in the world now in this respect because we have a Negative List and the markets are sufficiently important to them having regard to the fact that the developed countries have put them on strong quota. They are looking for markets wherever they can get them and educating the importers in some very sophisticated techniques and this is what we are dealing with.

Now, we hope with these measures, together with a Bill that the Ministry of Consumers Affairs will have

before this session ends, that is, the Certification Marks Act and the Certified Labelling, those two Bills, where you will have compulsory marks and labels to help as an additional prong in our attack against this problem. We have reduced it. We have not eliminated it. We have increased the staff.

The Customs Enforcement Unit now has one CO 1, that is Customs Officer 1. That is just underneath the Assistant Comptroller; one CO 2, two CO 3's, and one Clerical Officer. They have five officers. These officers have been trained. The staff will be increased to help monitor further as soon as we can train them. This is a very sophisticated area. We hope that with the Certification Marks Act and the Certified Labelling Act and the expansion of the Laboratories which have just finished, the Laboratories which were built with the EDF that more microscopic work can be done to distinguish stitching.

The garments come in. I have seen one or two in which everything is on except a stitching to come down here and with a pants one to come down here and one to come down there and you have to be able to know the type of machine that is used because machines can do certain stitches. There are investigative methods, almost like a Scotland Yard Laboratory, so to speak, if you think about it in the Garment Industry. It has got to that stage and we hope that together with all of these things we will be able to deal with this.

The Import Licensing Review Committee has taken new decisions in relation to the Negative List. I do not wish to go into details. That is a matter for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. We have not been able to meet all of the recommendations of the Manufacturers' Association but what we must remember is this that there is really no point one country in Caricom trying to have a fundamentally different set of rules in relation to another country particularly if you are in a manufacturing country in this respect because with the rules of origin as they are now, it is possible for diversions and they coming back in. It is a very difficult area.

It is one of the areas that has been made for the looking at and the actual workings of the Caricom Treaty that they have left in the hands of each individual Government, the administration of a set of agreed rules.
6.45 p.m.

Obviously, if we have different administrations, without the machinery for ensuring that there is a common decision-making and criteria, you can run into inconsistencies, or differences of interpretation. We have also increased from the 21st October by 28, other officers, other Customs posts to do more on the spot inspection of containers, whether at the airport or at the seaport. They will step up their rate of inspection and some of these officers of course will be assigned to the Consumption Tax area.

Consumption Tax does help too in helping you – Guyana found this – in helping you to monitor your production costs and in particular to isolate your raw material component and it helps to strengthen. We hope that the new Rules of Origin which do contain different types of provisions, now that every country has ratified them, all the countries have ratified them. There is just a question of the legislation in one country and the formula is that as soon as that country has passed the legislation, that two months thereafter, a date will be fixed for the coming into operation. But seminars are being held on the new rules of origin. We have gotten over the problem of ratification, now. Every country has agreed. So, therefore, the Treaty has been completed with and therefore, the rules can come into force as soon as the National Registration comes into force and there is only one country.

Now, obviously, in respect of the investigation of illegal garments, when you are investigating garments, you find a lot of other things which will be contrary to the import Laws of Barbados. So that, in relation to the garments in particular, those are the steps that the Government has taken. I believe, that sooner or later a short list of rogue importers throughout the Caribbean will be established by the Customs officers in the Eastern Caribbean. I think that the information service is beginning to work and there is a certain uniformity of activity among a narrow group which is coming to light not only in Barbados, but in the Eastern Caribbean and in Trinidad and Tobago. This can only be tackled by a combined effort and great collaboration almost like a garment FBI something of that kind and you will be able to trace it right back to Korea and Taiwan in particular and we will be able with sophisticated laboratory techniques to challenge people in this respect. The Government has made its position very clear, that it regards this as such a serious breach of the terms and conditions of being a citizen of Barbados that if they continue in this light, perhaps we may get the assurance from the Opposition that they would not object to a constitutional amendment to allow them to be dealt with properly.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, a number of interesting attitudinal changes are emerging as we proceed in these Estimates to deal with these particular Heads and I am very pleased to see that among the statements which are being made by that Honourable Minister are some inferred repudiations of previous statements made by perhaps some less knowledgeable Honourable Ministers including the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, on some occasions, about these matters and I am glad to see that as they are

getting the experience of some of the difficulties concerned, that they are now beginning to take certain steps.

Before I go any further, I wish to give the Government some advice. I think that the Government ought not to be reluctant to turn to the best Customs Service in the world according to independent observers, the United States Treasury Department has the reputation of being the best customs administration anywhere on the face of the earth. I see from nods of the Honourable Minister that they are doing the consulting, but I want to go further and recommend that we take not one or two, take a substantial number of our own customs people those who are not so old that they have established their methodology beyond repair but take some of the younger, brighter customs people and send them *en bloc* so that they can operate on a team concept, to the United States Treasury Department. Indepth training, along the lines which we got from EDI just before and right after we became independent for those persons who had not been University trained in economics, they got the intense course at the EDI which turned out to be useful.

Similarly, I recall, when I was functioning in another capacity, I discovered that a senior police officer in Barbados had never seen the drug marijuana in his life and he was holding at that time, the second or third highest post in the Police Department and a one day tour of the Police Academy in New York gave him, according to his words, more information and insight, than he could have got in six months, or one year working on the beat in Barbados.

It is well known that the FBI had and still has I believe, some intensive courses which allow people to absorb a great deal of knowledge in a relatively short time. I am recommending that the Government sends some of the Customs people to observe these techniques at close hand. You see, Sir, I feel very strongly and I notice that the Honourable Minister did not deal with the issue of dope, the issue of drugs was raised by my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and I have no doubt that the Honourable Minister will allude to it in due course. But, this whole question of drugs' detection and more important illicit goods coming through the entry points of Barbados is much more important and much more vital than most people seem to accept and certainly Barbados on the published information which we have garnered so far than the Government seems to be giving credence to, I should like to ask the Honourable Minister what progress has been made if any towards a Customs Union within the context of the Caribbean Community Treaty?

You will recall, that when the CARIFTA and subsequently, the Caribbean Community Treaty was signed, the Treaty of Chaguaramas, that one of the declared objectives was the eventual reaching of a Customs Union among the contracting parties to the Chaguaramas Treaty. I believe that a number of difficulties which now bear themselves in the area of Customs administration could be eliminated and will be eliminated at such time as Caribbean Community members find themselves able to declare finally a Customs Union. This is based primarily on the experience of the European Economic Community where their Customs administration has improved considerably arising out of the high level of integration which we have seen in the European Economic Community.

I believe that this whole question of a constitutional change to deal with persons would not arise, if in fact a violation of the Customs Regulations in Barbados would result in a prosecution in another country precisely because more than one citizen of the Customs Union had participated in a particular fraud. I do not wish to go into great details about this because I have no doubt that the Honourable Minister understands the direction in which I am going and I do not think that there is need for any greater detail.

But, you see Sir, where we have these families, Caribbean families that have been procreating and multiplying throughout the Caribbean region and who are very slowly and sometimes very rapidly filling the void created by the departure of some of the multi national corporations and who see themselves more in the context of Caribbean mongols, than they do see themselves as citizens of the respective countries which they occupy.
6.55 p.m.

When we have that type of approach to Caribbean development, and when we have the propagandists trying as best they can to pour cold water on any attempts at more meaningful integration in the region, then we are bound to get some of the falsities and illegalities which now permeate the entire Caribbean system. You know, Mr. Chairman, more people are concerned about ideological matters than they are with the realities of attempts and successes in the denial of the very human right of the right to work of a number of our lesser developed people in the Caribbean.

When in fact a manufacturer imports a product from outside of this region at the expense of the people who are trying to work for a reasonable wage in Mapp's Garment Factory or some other garment factory in Barbados, those people are actually denying Barbadian people the right to live, and that kind of approach has to be dealt with at a more fundamental level than getting regulations.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see that the Government is better able to understand that however

wrong, wrong headed or misguided the policy of licensing might have been, that the motivation behind it was not one of venal or heinous attempts at personal aggrandisement, so much as it was an attempt to block a number of apertures and holes which had been created by persons who do not necessarily have the good of Barbados at heart. I heard the Minister say in his speech that Ministers do not issue licences. If one casts one's mind back to a few years ago when the Government, then in Opposition, found it convenient to utter statements about the issuing of licences which could do nothing more than mislead the general population, and when in their – and I insist – wrong headedness they came into power and without more proceeded to remove a number of items from the particular regulation placing them on licence, they were acting not out of experience, not out of knowledge so much as they were acting out of political considerations. They themselves have put back some on licence since then, Sir.

They have a Licensing Review Committee, but the files are there for them to see how people in Barbados were prepared to misuse the facilities of Barbados for their own personal gain. The story of Truss and the one arm bandits in this country is well known. One A. Truss, I do not know who is A. Truss, but one A. Truss, he labelled a number of items as machinery and equipment and brought in one arm bandits.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member, to mention a matter that has gone before the courts of this country, is this a reflection on the way the courts.....

Mr. TAITT: With the greatest respect, Sir, an administrative decision was made to draw a veil, not the courts, Sir. An administrative decision was made by the Minister of Finance to draw a veil over that issue, Sir. I am only describing, as my honourable friend, the member for Christ Church South Central would say, the facts. The fact is that there was an A. Truss who brought in one arm bandits under the guise of something else. That sort of chicanery.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he says that an administrative decision was taken and now he describes it as chicanery. Obviously he cannot say that. The incident concerned was with a Mr. Abraham Truss at a time when there was a general amnesty for Customs Officers and others who had brought in one arm bandits, Mr. Abraham Truss also brought in some one arm bandits which may or may not have been misdescribed. The bandits were seized and the customary penalties exacted, therefore the stopping of the case did not put Mr. Truss in any better financial position than he would have been otherwise, because the bandits were confiscated, a triple penalty and their value, their value was re-assessed and so on, had to be paid. I do not know where the chicanery involved in taking a decision, that a man who has been dealt with administratively had had the statutory penalty imposed should not be dealt with a second time in the courts. I do not know what is chicanery about that. The hon. member of course if free to make whatever political capital he likes to the extent of saying Mr. A. Truss, suggesting another Truss whose name begins with A. I call that chicanery.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I have a duty to explain to you, Sir, that we have been discussing the methodology used by unscrupulous persons, crooks, vagabonds who mislabel items as they come into the country. I would not have as much knowledge of the manifestations of what the Trusses do in Barbados as the Prime Minister would have, and therefore I am not in a position to comment on that. I am commenting on the fact which the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister alluded to, that persons mislabel and misdirect and misinform the Customs, and I am dealing with a fact. This is a fact, Sir. Items came into this country.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Truss' name obviously has not been supplied to Your Honour as a person to be criticised, therefore all this talk about chicanery is probably out of order, but it is only fair. I mean, I hold no brief for Abraham Truss, he is a member of that party, not ours, he is married to Mr. Bernstein's daughter, he is a member of that party, not ours, but it is only fair to him to say that he always maintained that the things were not mislabelled. That is perhaps something which if it had come to the courts it might have been better that it came to the courts, because he would have had his chance. His lawyer, Mr. Jack Dear, always said there was no chance of convicting him. It might have been better if he had come to the courts and perhaps been given back the machines without paying, because in the end the Revenue would have been the only loser. His reputation might be higher and nobody would have a chance to suggest that I tried to spare him. (Mr. TAITT: You drew the veil, not me). There was no trying to spare, the veil was drawn over a good friend of yours, the Customs Officer who forged one of the bandit operators' names.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I certainly do not wish for this debate to be drawn in the way that it is going.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am sorry, Sir, I withdraw the last aspect of it, I leave out that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will entertain no more debate on this.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: But it is the point of order, Sir. The point of order relates to the fact that I am sure the gentleman's name has not been supplied and therefore it is contrary to the Standing Order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, on the question of supplying the name, I was not speaking of any person, I was speaking of one A. Truss, because he is the person who got up and identified somebody.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us let that matter rest, please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, this is very important.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have given me no notice of your intention to involve any family in this debate.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, the rules do not require me to give you notice to refer to a document. I am referring to a document in this House, Sir, a document of this Hon. House with his speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot permit the debate to continue at this level in this Chamber.

Mr. TAITT: I abide by your ruling, Sir, I am not going to call any names, I am going to say that persons of a certain calibre in this country, people who could only be described as crooks, have misled the Customs deliberately and apparently with the assistance of members of the Barbados Labour Party.

7.05 p.m.

Mr. WARD: On a point of order, before the election of 1976 over 200 gaming machines were in Barbados. What Ministers were in collusion with them then? What Ministers were in office to agree with the bandits, the vagabonds and the crooks for bringing in the machines? Why did the Barbados Workers' Union have slot machines in the Canteen in the Deep Water Harbour? The Barbados Workers' Union has slot machines at the Deep Water Harbour and all I am hearing now is about crooks and all kinds of things.

Mr. TAITT: That is precisely the point I was making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not wish this debate falling below the standard which we should have. Order, please!

Mr. TAITT: I wish the hon. member would not force me to descend from the level we have set. The point I am making has been clearly defined by the hon. member. They were Ministers and the Controller of Customs, a man who for many years was Controller of Customs whose integrity has never been questioned by anyone of us, left prematurely. I am not going to call Nattie Greene's name. He left the Customs after some pressure. The point I am making, Sir, is precisely this. We were functioning as officials, we expect that when somebody declares something, in fact, you are an importer, Sir, and everyone knows without importing Your Honour into the debate that your name in so far as your functioning as an importer is concerned, is known throughout the country as a name of integrity. I wish I could say that of some of the other operators whose function is importing into Barbados – the credits, I cannot say the trusts, the creditors and the Alleynes and the Joneses and the other people in Barbados. I suppose following the rule of *ejusdem generis* I can say the Trusses and the Johnsons and all those people who have been misdirecting the Customs by giving them wrong information, the sort of thing which the Minister says he is having difficulty with. That is what I mean when I talk about chicanery. When I wish to talk about political chicanery I do not crave the privilege of this House to do it. I go on the platforms and say what I have to say about one Tom Adams. That is what I do. I do not hide behind any privileges of the House. (A VOICE: True or false?) Mostly true. When I say things that this man Tom Adams tells me, they are usually false except.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not referring to the hon. member.

Mr. TAITT: Of course not, Sir. Do you think I would call the hon. member a liar? Do you think I could call the hon. member a despicable, worthless liar in here and get away with it? I could not allude to the hon. member in that way. The hon. member is the Prime Minister of this country, and I have the greatest respect for him as Prime Minister, but outside on the platform I deal with him as the political animal that he is, and I know that he deals with me in the same manner.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And I will deal with you that it is 7.07 and your time is up.

Mr. TAITT: I am grateful to you. I have some other points which I will make as we come back.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Under this Head of revenue collection, Mr. Chairman, there are certain obligations placed on certain persons in public office to carry out certain duties which they have to carry out with the utmost integrity, carry out fearlessly, but I must say that we on this side have nothing but the greatest respect for Mr. Greene who has found himself jobless for carrying out his duties to the people of this country. Mr. Chairman, on the question of certain types of devices used, I have in my possession, not here, an invoice relating to either twenty-five or fifty gaming machines imported from Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the invoice indicated that these were second hand machines at $100 CAN. a piece.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this an original document or copy?

Dr. HAYNES: I am referring to a copy of a document which I do not have with me now, and Sir, these goods were assigned to a company in Barbados which is not registered in Barbados. Those goods were collected and paid for by one of the Truss family whether resident in Barbados or otherwise, I do not know who they are, but this is just a further indication that you can try to evade certain problems not only by mislabelling the goods but also by using the device of labelling them as second hand goods and putting an extremely low price on them, because there is no way that you can get a one-arm bandit machine for $100 in Montreal, and those machines were brought in here and I am sure an opportunity will arise if I am challenged at all, I will go home and search for it and bring the invoice here and show the name of the company and you can go and check. There would be an obligation placed on certain persons to go and check it and see who used to go and pay the cheques for goods assigned to that particular company, and I think they would discover more and more information if they use that as a departure point for investigation.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to turn to one or two other things, the question of estate duties in Barbados.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If I may interrupt the hon. member on the last point he made, now this is one occasion where I am glad to be able to agree that the hon. member so far as I know, I have never seen the invoice, from the reports made by Mr. Greene who was not forced out of any work and who is not jobless, from reports made to me by him, the hon. member's information is accurate; but in Mr. Greene's interest he should go on to say that the very points made were also points made by Mr. Greene himself, that even though it was subsequently shown that the machines had apparently been bought in a sale of seized machines in Montreal so it is testable, put it higher than that, that $100 was paid for them, I do not know, but Mr. Greene using sections of the Customs Act relating to valuation revalued the machines at their market value in Barbados, seized them and levied treble the penalty so that those machines eventually cost the importer, I believe, something like $20,000. It is only fair to Mr. Greene, leave out the politics, the Trusses, the Adamses and everything, it is only fair to Mr. Greene to point out that that transaction did not escape the Customs. This is the whole point. If they had gone through the Courts, on the $100 perhaps they would have paid a $300 fine. Mr. Greene did everything that could possibly be done to protect the revenue in that particular case, as I believe his successor would also do if a similar case arose. I myself would be quite interested to know the name of the company because I was not aware that they have ever been consigned to a company.

I think some Customs Officer did get disciplined and then the disciplinary proceedings were lifted. I would be glad to know the name and to make the checks the hon. member asks to make. We do not cover up on this side.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Malone did not say so. I wanted to get on to the head of estate duties. *(Asides)* I know all your cousins though.

What I wanted to raise under this particular Head is the serious problem relating to the kind of major problems that can arise with middle income families in respect of estate duties in Barbados.
7.15 p.m.

Over the past two or three years there has been at least occasions. I think one was involving a Police Officer and I think the other person was a mason or a carpenter who, unfortunately, died around age 40 to 50 and left substantial wealth, by today's standards, a substantial building, a three bedroom wall house, but no cash and no insurance.

That property was then valued for the purpose of Estate Duties and indeed, Mr. Chairman, in one instance there was a wife and about three children and in the other instance a wife and about four children and they were in very serious problems. I do not know what eventually happened but they were in very serious problems for a long period of time in trying to maintain a roof over their heads and I sometimes form the impression whether or not the operation of Estate Duties in Barbados do not constitute a greater burden on lower to middle income groups than in the upper income groups to whom it should be directed because when you reach that level of income like, for example, the hon. member for St. Thomas, who I understand has become a multi-millionaire in a very short period of time – I understand his net assets now are somewhere in the region of $5.6 million.

Now, when you reach that kind of level, you take steps to protect yourself against the kind of invasion that might be made in respect of Estate and Succession Duties and the question arises, Mr. Chairman, whether or not there should not be either some greater discretionary element within the Act or whether there should not be a lower ceiling below which the Act does not apply.

I have not read the body of the Act but it would seem to me that in the circumstances of Barbados,

particularly when properties because of inflation might well be valued at $150,000 today which probably a carpenter or mason would have built himself working every weekend and at night and might have cost him $10,000 to build 20 years ago, then when he does without insurance that his widow and children should face that kind of unjustifiable harassment and it is something that I think this Legislature will have to address itself to sooner or later.

The third point, Mr. Chairman, is the question of refunds, the delay in refunds by the Income Tax Department. Many people, Mr. Chairman, are dependent on the money that is kept for them that is held back by the Inland Revenue Department, money which should be paid out within a reasonable period of time and they may have to wait months and months, even a year, before they get income tax refunds, a year or more, and I believe that there has got to be some limit to this situation.

I believe that if the Inland Revenue Department cannot organise its administration in order to get refunds back to people within a matter of two or three months, then, I believe when they make the refunds at least they should offer some compensation by paying interest on the money for the extended period where the money has been kept inside there because if you owe the Income Tax Department any money, you have to pay interest on it so if they owe you money, they should be paying interest on the money that they owe to you and I believe that that kind of penalty on the Department might certainly assist considerably in the processing of refunds from the Income Tax Department.

Many people, Mr. Chairman, $400, $600, whatever it may be, that can be crucially important to the budget of an individual but they keep calling up and they keep waiting and they cannot get a single cent back until it suits the administrative capability of the particular Department.

One final point, Mr. Chairman, I want to raise. I have not seen a copy of the Annual Report from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue since about 1974/75. I saw 1974/75 in 1978. I do not know whether there is any legal obligation to make such reports available to Parliament but those of us, and I understand that there is such an obligation and I think it is important that those of us who have to make a contribution in this Parliament from time to time on a number of issues involving taxation should have the benefit of the Annual Report from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and I do not recall seeing any since 1974/75.

I managed to borrow a copy from someone, not through Parliament, in 1978 and the latest one that that person had available was either 1974 or 1975. That is why it is unsatisfactory because those of us who would want to look more critically for example, the various income groups and see exactly how much tax yield you get within the various bands and so on and see how that tax yield has affected or has been affected by the various budgetary measures over the past four years, it is important that we should have access to that Report and I think that all Parliamentarians should have access to the Reports but I have not seen, but I think it is very important that we should keep ourselves up-to-date because after all when we discuss matters like Estimates and Budgetary proposals it is absolutely vital that we should be clear as to the distribution of the kind of impositions that we will be making on the various income groups in Barbados.

I find it most difficult, Sir, to rely on anything that the hon. member for St. Thomas says and we need some kind of objective matters and we have to rely on what he says, particularly at this critical time of the year and therefore I hope that we may make them available to Parliamentarians in the future. Thank you very much.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I was listening and taking note of the hon. member's argument. The Reports of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue have been pregnant with difficulty. In the years 1974 and 1975 the Department had a lot of trouble. They did not establish their statistical base properly, probably, also there was the element of computerisation and while they were moving over on to the new system they did not take care of the old. Accordingly, they did not publish their Reports for those years and they never compiled the Reports for the subsequent years because they did not wish to publish a year later than 1974/75, 1975/76 until they had published those.

After much fuss in the Department, the 1974/75 and I think it was 1975/76 were published along with the 1976/77 and 1977/78 and they have all been laid in here, possibly even before the hon. member entered the House, I would have thought after, and they should be in the records of the House.

7.25 p.m.

What has happened and I want to offer an apology to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is that I have, from time to time promised a print out of the Income Tax bands to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South in the absence of the reports which normally give this information. There is a reason why I have never been able to give it. The reason is that generally speaking, all of these print outs have been made at the time when the Budget is in preparation and therefore, contained secret information. They come in big, long sheets and the state of the current tax rates and allowances and so on is

generally printed on top of the sheet and then the different scenarios which I ask the Data Processing to print out for me, different rates and amounts and credits and so on are all on the sheet with it and for this reason, I really cannot show it to the Honourable Member. Indeed, it is confidential perhaps even after the Budget because it shows the reflected scenarios as well as, the accepted ones. Time may permit my being able to supply the Honourable Members a copy of the latest year which we have. That is another difficulty also, Sir.

The print outs tend to get distorted, I always want the most up-to-date, Sir. The most up-to-date ones generally have all the lower income people in them, but they do not necessarily have all the the higher income ones because of those higher income people who have made bad returns and so on, so the matter is under discussion, naturally the returns do not make their way in. For example, were I to think of making any alterations for Income Tax in a Budget this year, I would want if possible figures for last year which means 1979 income. But, even now, there are people whose 1979 incomes have not been settled and therefore, although you might get a print out which is 90% complete, yet the 10% are not representative of the 90%.

Perhaps, what I could ask - but you see, 1978 will also give you a very false picture because allowances were changed substantially in 1979 and the rates drastically in 1980, but I will see if I can get an old copy of the print out showing the rates existing in some, well the year for which we have the most complete record. I do not think those even for 1978 will be complete. There are bound to be businessmen and doctors and perhaps lawyers who are still disputing the 1978 tax and if I were to attempt to give you a print out, one of the specialised print outs say of gross incomes of individuals, there are subject to so much confusion in the higher brackets because people appeal and get moved out of one bracket into another, or are reassessed and so on, but I really would not be of use to you in calculating the higher bracket, but I will try and get them.

At the moment, the Inland Revenue is engaged on more extensive computerisation of its records. There has been some temporary staff, a key punch operator and so on who have been supplied and perhaps the current year, 1980 –81 will be the first in the one and a half years' time from now in which you will get a really very complete picture, rather more quickly than we get them at the present time. It ought to be possible before the end of 1982 to have a pretty fair idea of the income tax profile for 1981. But, I will try and get a previous year.

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I take note of what the Honourable Member has said about Estate Duty. There is much merit in what he has said. The points which he has taken have been put to me repeatedly by many on this Side over the last few years. The Honourable Member has come late to the subject.

Income Tax Reports, up to the Income Year 1978 have been laid in the Honourable House, so you should be able to get them from the House of Assembly Library.

The question that Head 20 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we would like to do one more Head quickly, Item 21 and let us finish that and go.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point about Item 21 is this. This is Statistical Services and there is a move in. Statistical Services has been canvassed at such length, but I would like to know if Honourable Members think that there has been sufficient debate on it, or if they want a further debate on Statistical Services. If you want a further debate, it can be arranged.

I would like to know if we can pass it, Sir.

HEAD 21 STATISTICAL SERVICES – $195,945

Head 21 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a mistake. Subhead Two of Statistics was omitted. It related to Population Census. It has one item, but I said there was a move in. Let me move it in and you can talk tomorrow. I do not mind, just let me get it noted.

There is Subhead Two. It should be headed Subhead Two, Population Census, Item One, the Code Number is 24, it is Professional Services, $132 000. The total to be voted for will be $327 495.

I beg to move, that Head 21 as amended stands part.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, we would like to speak on Professional Services, or if the Honourable Leader of the Honourable House wishes to break now for dinner, he may do so, or whatever he is breaking for, but we may wish to make a contribution on this Head. (ASIDE).

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that further consideration of this Head be now

postponed and that you do report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked for leave to sit again.
7.35 p.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, before I move the formal suspension of the sitting, Sir, the other side and ourselves, subject to Your Honour's approval, concur in permitting the Minister of Communications and Works to give a supplementary notice in respect of a Resolution to deal with the Casual Workers at MCW, up to the end of this financial year. I do not think that either side of the House would like in the last two weeks to have these people laid off, but we want to say while we are giving notice, Sir, that we would wish to do this before we rise on Friday. That is the usual thing, I have seen it done many times in here, that you give notice so that before you rise, the last thing before you rise, you do it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is seeking the leave of the House to give notice of a Resolution.

Mr. SANDIFORD: There is no objection from the Opposition for giving notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister may proceed.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $1,306,205 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980–81, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980–81, No. 45, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I also would like to state that I would like to seek the leave of the House to deal with this Resolution before Friday morning, because it is a sum of money which is required to pay 2,000 workers at the Ministry of Communications and Works on Friday. We have been pushing to get the subsidiary and tenantry roads completed so as to alleviate the difficulties of persons who have suffered in the rainy season and therefore we have to pay them for the next two Fridays, and this is why I say it must be done before Friday so that the money can be drawn down from the Treasury.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, leave has been granted in respect of giving notice of the Resolution. We have an intimation from the Hon. Minister that he intends to seek further the leave of this Hon. House to deal with this Resolution at the appropriate time before Friday.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, if the Opposition has no objection, I would like to do it now, it is just for salaries.

Mr. SPEAKER: There seems to be no objection from the Opposition.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, we are objecting to the debate of this Resolution tonight. We are prepared to accommodate the Government in doing this before Friday, as the Minister said.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I think that disposes of that, Sir, and I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.40 p.m.

On Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

It is my understanding that the Resolution that was introduced last evening by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, it was agreed by both sides of the House that it could be proceeded with this morning. Consequently, I think this might be the appropriate hour that in addition to matters already before this Hon. House it may be proceeded with in Committee first thing this morning.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply on the money Resolution, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980–81, No. 45

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Addendum to the Resolution sets out clearly the reason for this Resolution today. It involves the Personal Emoluments, the salaries and wages which should be paid to the workers at the Ministry of Communications and Works in the various Departments. There is no vote for substantial purchases, structures, etc., it is just the weekly wages, and this has come about because of the increase in salaries for which we were unable to budget at the relevant time.

I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, we on this side of the House have no objection to this Resolution, because we are fully aware that elections are around the corner and that the workers will be paid for the services they rendered.

Subhead 7 – Maintenance of Roads, Car Parks and Bus Stands, $821,958. I would just like the Minister to tell us where the car parks and especially the bus stands are. I think I will appreciate the information if the Minister has it on his file, where the car parks and especially the bus stands are situated.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Communications and Works is responsible for carrying out maintenance on all car parks, all bus stands and probably all the roads in Barbados, with the exception of roads which are maintained by the National Housing Corporation, or those not yet taken over from private developers.

We carry out maintenance work in the bus stands probably every week. If the hon. member would care even to look at the bus stand on the north side of the river which takes buses from St. Joseph, St. Andrew and St. John, he will note that there is substantial work going on there. If he looks at the Fairchild Street bus stand, up to last Sunday we were repaving a section of that bus stand, removing the grass and dirt next to the telephone kiosk and putting in a concrete padding. If you look at what we call the BMC car park, you will notice that we are still carrying out maintenance work on that.

This is just the wages for the workers involved, and I think he will note that on Sundays, for instance, we renew our white lines along the roads, in the bus stands, etc., so that is exactly what that Subhead stands for. That is the terminology that is used in the Estimates.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, as my colleague, the member for St. Philip South, indicated, we really have no objection to this particular Supplementary Resolution, we of course note that it is coming very late in the financial year and we note, according to the Addendum, that it is a Resolution that is consequential upon the revision of salaries of public officers and employees with effect from 1st April, 1980, and we are a little concerned that the request for the supplementary could not have been put in a little earlier inasmuch as the revision of salaries of public officers and employees took place some time ago and the relevant officers under the direction of the Minister, I believe, should have been in a better position to forecast the way this vote was going, but that is just one of the points I would like to make. I say this against the background that the Postmen were kept waiting for a considerable period of time for funds due to them as a result of increases in travelling allowances and other related matters, and I am wondering if this is an indication of some breakdown in the forward planning of the Ministry or not.

The other question which I wish to ask relates to the Fairchild Street Bus Stand. The Minister did indicate, and we are grateful for the information that he gave – that a section of that bus stand is being repaved. Could he tell us whether part of this maintenance work will include the replacement of the protective rails around that bus stand? I believe it has been traditional over the years to have this form of protection for the masses of commuters who use this particular bus stand. It is protection for the ordinary people of this country, and we are wondering if the Minister could assure us that that work to protect the lives of Barbadians, particularly those who use the bus stand, the masses who travel up to St. Joseph, St. George, St. Philip, the outermost part of Christ Church and into the Bay Land as well. I wonder if the Minister could give us some information on that.

Mr. GREAVES: Before the Minister replies, Mr. Chairman, there are really two points I want to raise relating to this matter. We are not sure whether we will reach the Ministry of Communications and Works during these Estimates and I think now is as good a time as any to raise this particular matter in case we do not reach there.

The Minister has indicated that part of this money will be going for the maintenance of roads, car parks and bus stands, to pay people to do this kind of work. I would like, Mr. Chairman, to once more draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister conditions relating to facilities in the bus stands.
10.45 a.m.

Persons who use the bus stands are very critical of the facilities which obtain there; also Transport Board workers are disgusted with the kind of facilities which obtain in terms of washing facilities in general, facilities that one would normally expect the public to use in an area where large masses of the public congregate. I believe that every effort should be made by the Government, and indeed we are calling on the Government to upgrade without delay the facilities obtaining there. Certainly on Saturdays and Sundays, Saturdays particularly, when the Minister says that a lot of this work goes on, some of this time can be used in providing better facilities for the travelling public and also for those workers at the Transport Board. I recognise that some work went on in the Fairchild Street bus stand last week-end because occasionally I park my car in there, but one of the problems which has arisen in the Fairchild Street bus stand which I believe should be once more drawn to the attention of the Minister, I know it has been drawn to the attention of the Minister already and I know he is concerned about it because I recall hearing him express his concern in the matter, is the chaos which obtains in that section of the bus stand, the general Fairchild Street terminus where the minibuses congregate and practically block off the entrance to that section of the area up there, and I would like to think that the Minister would evolve some kind of plan to regulate this particular situation because it is causing a serious problem.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that the morning's proceedings have started off in what I consider a rather light-hearted manner, and I hope that the proceedings will continue in that vein and that less time will be spent on a lot of trivialities as we proceed during the course of the day. I do not say trivialities with any reflection on you because as long as they are making a contribution and they are honourable, it is your bounden duty to recognise what they are doing right from what they are doing wrong. I think, Sir, that when a Government with some sixteen days to go before the end of the financial year can pull out of the Consolidated Fund a sum to the tune of over $1 300 000 to pay workers at MCW, it is enough justification to prove the healthy economic position this country is in. I sat on that side for ten years and eight out of ten years on the last day of February the Minister of Communications and Works – and I am sure that the father of Parliament, the hon. member for St. Philip South would agree with me – would lay off as many as 2,000 workers which would have carried food to approximately 8 000 mouths. That is what that administration did.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I beg to differ with the statement which the hon. member has made. No intelligent Government or person or no Ministry would lay off people with an election around the corner.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I can appreciate my colleague's statement. He said no intelligent person. I think he was saying no intelligent Government, but they were so ignorant of what was going on that they were laying off people for ten years at the end of February because they were coming up to the end of the financial year. It was mismanagement by the other side that was responsible for those persons not being able to feed their families.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, the Minister is making a very serious charge here and I would be glad if he would supply the dates of those lay offs and the numbers and the years to support the charges that he is making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You know, Sir, and I know that it is on a light-hearted note and that is how the hon. member is taking it, because I do not believe that the Acting Leader of the Opposition would ask me to waste time this morning about dates, hours, months. I can look in the Question Book. In 1976, 1975, 1974 when F. G. Smith was then Minister, he laid off as many as 2 000 at one time. Do you want me to tell you the month and the hour to waste time? I can look in the Question Book here and you will see in the Question Book that year after year we would be querying why are you laying off these people, and the argument was for them to go in the crop and work. Now on this occasion we are not doing that; we are coming to the House with a Resolution for $1 300 000 for the purpose of keeping those people employed unlike the other administration, and rather than getting up and saluting this Government which is a very difficult proposition, a very difficult thing for them to do for the way we handled the country's economy that we would not have to lay off people from work, the Acting Leader of the Opposition is talking about a hand-rail.

Let me tell the Acting Leader of the Opposition this. The plan which I know started from the bus stand under my present Ministry back up as far as Her Majesty's Prison. We are going to beautify furthermore putting up a hand-rail. What is a handrail? Have you heard that anybody has got killed because you do not have a hand-rail? The hon. member for St. Lucy said that we may not get to Communications and Works, so he has a contribution to make. If the only contribution he can make on what is considered a very large Ministry that is involved in millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money is to ask for a toilet and bath for the bus stand as a Trade Unionist, then he is really lacking in his approach to his present job as a Trade Unionist and completely ignorant of what is going on in the country. That is his only contribution, two minutes of MCW Estimates and he says he may not get a chance. We are anxious for you to get chances to deal with Health, Education, Housing and MCW and stop wasting time talking about whether the statistical data and figures trotted out to the World Bank are wrong or right.

Mr. Chairman, I salute the Minister and the Government and the management of the Government for being in a position at this time of the year in bringing a Resolution for $1 300 000 to keep workers employed which the former administration turned off for ten years when I was in the Opposition. I still repeat ten years because I know it is a fact of life and the hon. member knows that very well.
10.55 a.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution deals with Personal Emoluments. It is for money to pay workers. In no way in this Resolution have we seen that it is for work which will be done. It is to pay the workers.

It is not that the sugar crop is indispensable to the economy of this country and I repeat that it has always been the policy of MCW to grant permission to any worker who is desirous of helping with the reaping of the sugar crop and therefore, Sir, it makes sense that any Government regardless of who is in power to adopt such a policy because when we consider the amount of work in some cases which workers do on the highways we realise that it will be a benefit to this country if workers are granted leave and permission to assist in the reaping of the sugar crop.

Therefore, we should not criticise that policy but I think that any Government should encourage those who are willing to leave to do so because in the long run it pays back dividends to the Government and to the country as a whole.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the question by the hon. member for St. Michael South. There is no lack of over planning which resulted in this Resolution coming here. It is just as the hon. member well knows that after an Agreement with the various Unions and the workers on salary increases, there was a sum of money voted and that was calculated on an overall basis. That amount proved to be insufficient.

The next point is and I believe that the hon. member knows full well that I am dealing with a Minister of Finance who likes to know where every penny goes and we have to justify every last penny with what we want for the Ministry and how we are going to spend it and we have to satisfy his Financial Advisers. After we get past them we have to get past him. I have only just got past him. That is the situation. It is not that we did not plan.

The next thing is the protective rails. We are looking at the complete improvement of the Fairchild Street Bus Stand and the Lower Green Bus Stand. The Lower Green Bus Stand has been bound up with the opening of the new General Post Office. We are hoping that when the new Post Office is finished that we will have complete rearrangements of buses in that sector of Bridgetown.

The Government is seeking to acquire two lots of land North of the construction site of the new Post Office. We are hoping that the buses will be able to make a detour around the Post Office and we are hoping to put the Lower Green back into a Green so we do not wish to spend too much money.

The Post Office should have been completed by October this year. Unfortunately we are running some 28 weeks behind hand and that is the reason why we have not been updating the Post Office and that answers the question of the hon. member for St. Lucy as well.

As for the Fairchild Street Bus Stand, that is also under consideration for rearrangement. The pavement work which I mentioned took place last Sunday which would deal with keeping the mini-buses off the street so that we can have an easier flow of traffic. We are hoping to park at least six mini-buses inside the upper part of the Bus Stand adjacent to or in front of the Fairchild Street Market which would prevent them turning across the street and inhibiting the flow of traffic.

They are supposed, coming from the East to go around the corner of Probyn Street, pick up their passengers in an area which will be clearly defined, go around the Empire Cinema, come across Independence Square Car Park and then proceed into the Market Square. Six of them will be able to park for a limited time and then they would have to move out and go back on their journey. It is not that we have been doing nothing.

In the Lower Bus Stand we have shifted the flow of traffic in that Bus Stand temporarily so that the buses

will come in from the side next to the Rates and Taxes Division and the buses will enter into the Bus Stand itself through a different entry and the mini-buses will have a lay-by around the circle. We are hoping to prohibit the stopping of buses next to Air Canada's Office and Cable and Wireless Office and Lower Broad Street and as the Police has suggested we are going to make it impossible for mini-buses to stop other than at prescribed places along Baxters Road and we are also looking at alternative parking arrangements along Baxters Road so as to ease the traffic. They will park on one side of the street in the morning and on the alternate side in the evening and that we hope will give a clean flow of traffic into the Lower Green.

The plans are finished. This money, as I said, is to pay the workers because they are doing the marking-out, etc., before we put the plans into operation but I hope that within the next two weeks we would have put all markings down, we would have all our signs up and then put into operation our plans and we are hoping that the mini-bus operators will comply with the arrangements. The Government has done all in its power to accommodate the mini-bus operations and I hope they recognise that and I hope they will now accommodate the travelling public.

I beg to move that this Resolution stand part.

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

The question that Head 37 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee.
11.05 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and whilst reporting progress and asking for leave to sit again, he has reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution be now read a second time.

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

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

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution be now agreed to.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 21 – STATISTICS

Head 21, Statistics, $327,495 – resumed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other Honourable member wish to speak on this Head?

The question that Head 21 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 23 – LOANS AND ADVANCES – $3 179 899

Head 23 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 23 stands part.

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

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

HEAD 24 – PENSIONS

Head 24 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 24 stands part.

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

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

HEAD 38 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
– $65 106 779

Head 38 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 38 stands part.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that, Sir. I am always prepared Sir to be led by the Honourable Minister of Housing.

Mr. Chairman, in introducing this Head, it is important for me to state at this stage, that the Government continues its commitment to education, as the foremost and basic tool in development and this is evidenced in these Estimates, by the high allocation of funds that have been made to Education.

The primary education system in Barbados has in the view of most educators been sadly neglected over a period of years. This is not, Sir, at this stage to cast any blame on any individual, or any particular group of individuals. It is rather, Sir, the result of the scoured emphasis on secondary education at a period when large numbers of children were not receiving education at that level. But, despite all the latitudinal statements made by people in education very little had been done in the recent decade to reverse what was an alarming trend.

The primary thrust in Education has been reactivated Sir, in a number of ways. We now, in Barbados enjoy the best teacher pupil ratio of any country in the developing world and indeed, we stand second to hardly any developed country in that regard. We have also, Mr. Chairman, done a great deal of thinking about the educational plant and indeed, education technology and how it related to primary education.
11.15 a.m.

After a serious review we have set in train the implementation of a school building and school rehabilitation programme to start to bring the primary schools up to an acceptable level for Barbados. I do not propose at this stage, Sir, to go over yet again the Agreement with the World Bank under which we started to do our programme. Suffice it to say, Sir, that the aims of this Government are far wider than the provision of physical facilities. We are interested at this stage in development of qualitative as well as quantitative education in the schools.

On this whole question of our primary thrust, Sir, the Teachers' Unions have enjoyed the greatest salary rewards, both in terms of salary increases and in terms of regrading, for any time in the history of education in this country. We are told on this side over and over again what it is that we are taking up from the Opposition, but one thing we have taken up is the unfortunate bequest of an unhappy and disgruntled teaching force who felt that a number of promises about regrading and the enhancing of the status of teachers had not been met.

During the past year we have had a number of meetings with the Teachers' Unions in a whole number of areas, not least of which is the Education Act, to which I will make reference at a later stage, but they had a lot to do with the terms and conditions of service, salaries, proper grading within the context of the Public Service of Barbados, and I am happy to say, Mr. Chairman, that the results have been so significant that no time in the last decade has there been the type of industrial harmony between the teaching force in Barbados and the Government of this country. I make bold to say that, that in the relationship between the Government and the Barbados Union of Teachers, in the relationship between the Government and the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union, there has not been as harmonious a relationship as exists at the present time. That, Mr. Chairman, has not been achieved by any criticism of their status, any bullying them into unaccepting and unacceptable positions, but by doing exactly what we said we would do in our Manifesto of 1976, to bring the teachers into the mainstream of planning for education, to make them equal partners in the development of education and to respect their professional judgment and ability in all matters educational.

We have at the primary level – if I may stay here for a while – not only upgraded the physical facilities, but we have embarked, so often touted, on our policy on co-education. Let me make the point yet again, Sir, I understand from previous debates that there is no quarrel between the two sides on the whole principle of co-education, but it is important that I emphasise my own feeling, my own conviction that co-education is psychologically healthy for children who must grow up in an atmosphere that will be similar to the one in which they will live as adults. We have made our co-educational efforts at both the primary and the secondary level. We have amalgamated the St. Lawrence Boys' and Girls' Schools in the St. Lawrence Mixed, and the St. Luke's Boys' and Girls', the St. Martin's Boys' and Girls' into what is now known as the St. Martin's Mangrove Primary, the St. Thomas Boys' and Girls', and we have also put together the Paynes Bay Infants and the Good Shepherd Mixed. We are now taking a look at the St. George Boys' and Girls' Schools. Indeed, some time next week I expect to turn the sod for the construction of the new co-educational primary school at Walkers in St. George to replace the St. George Boys' and Girls' Schools, and we are also taking a look at the St. Joseph's Boys' and Girls' Schools to see whether we might not in the very near future effect an amalgamation exercise in those two schools.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in bringing about a better quality of the delivery of education at the primary level, we considered that the effective training of teachers is an important *sine qua non* for the development of qualitative education at that level. It is for that reason that we have instituted a number of training programmes, both at the Erdiston Teachers' Training College, in conjunction with the Barbados Community College, and also at the level

of the University. The stresses and strains of modern society have made the role of teacher far more difficult than it has ever been, and there are quite often very unfortunate comparisons between the teacher of yesteryear and the teacher of today.

The teacher of today is called on to play a number of social roles far beyond the competence and the ability of today's man, and it is for this reason, Sir, that we have taken the teachers at the higher levels out of the classroom and given them training in management and administration to be better able to carry out the rather onerous duties that are now thrust upon them. I have instituted in pursuance of a mandate given to me in 1976, I have pursued the introduction of career and guidance counsellors for all the secondary schools in the islands.

Now, it is important at this point that I make my position absolutely clear on this. I am not talking of the unstructured and unprogrammed training of an occasional guidance officer who teaches in a school and teaches the traditional academic subjects, and is used in his spare time to meet the needs of advising and counselling both on careers and personal problems. What I have sought to establish, Sir, is the provision of a full time guidance officer in each secondary school who is programmed into the timetable of the school and does nothing other than counsel the children in that school.

Mr. Chairman, you are aware, Sir, that Barbados now enjoys a phenomenal record in that alone among developing countries in this world all children up to the age of 16 have a school place. That is a remarkable record of achievement, and there is no other developing country in this world that can say the same. With the development in this type of quantitative education there has been an increasing number of problems. We have the problem, Sir, that as a result of urbanisation, of excessive automation, the problems of bigness, the new stresses and strains that are brought about because children have both their parents working and therefore have little time to spend for their own development.
11.25 a.m.

We have what is classified by some as the concept of neoprimitivism, Mr. Chairman. You can classify the rastafarian cult in that particular concept, and it is a new concept that does not reject progress. All it seeks to do is to have a return to the traditional values that have made western society great. These are the problems that teachers in the schools are now confronted with and I believe that one of the biggest challenges of the educational system of this country over the next decade will be the training and retraining of the teachers to be able to meet these new stresses and strains brought about by the new cultures, the new sub-cultures the new social pressures, the new anxieties in the system. In short, Mr. Chairman, the training of teachers cannot be a one-shot affair. There must be a continuing training of teachers to make them better able to adapt to all the social phenomena that are afflicting this society, and this is why I feel and I feel strongly, Sir, that the key to the continuing quality of education in Barbados lies in the constant training and retraining of teachers in ever more sophisticated ways to meet this type of pressure, and I am not only talking about teaching techniques.

It is a truism that people cannot teach what they do not understand, and it is equally a truism that you cannot teach people effectively if you do not understand them, and for teachers to be able to teach the children in our schools today, they first have to try to understand what the children are all about. They have to understand, Sir, that their new outlandish ways are not something to be condemned and derided; rather it is something to be investigated, to be sympathised with, to be grasped and after that they would be in a better position to handle the children in their charge.

Now the Ministry of Education has done a little bit more for the raising of the morale among primary school teachers. They have been yearning for a long time for an acceptance and a recognition of their status as professionals. By that, Sir, they want not only publicly respect as persons, but they want that their opinions as professionals and practising professionals might be brought to bear on all planning in education, and I am happy to say, Mr. Chairman, that I have now widened the participation of teachers in all educational bodies and in all educational planning exercises in a way that would suggest to them that this Government is serious about their status as teachers.

During the discussions in the past year on salaries and regrading a number of significant things were done, but I want to make reference to two. There used to be three grades of Headteacher, Grades 1, 2 and 3; the Government agreed to get rid of one of these grades and to have existing only two grades of Headteacher in the Primary Schools. Now the Headteachers and the Teachers Unions were making a strong appeal for this type of concession for a long time because they felt that one of the most debilitating effects to their morale was a system that institutionalised senior headteachers and junior headteachers. Now we have not gone all the way because I have to caution the Unions that the best way to travel a mile is to walk one step after the other, that if they followed my simple philosophy they would cover the mile without too much difficulty, and I believe they have listened to me and they will no doubt at some stage be moving a further step towards the single grade.

The other thing that is important is the regrading of the headteachers. I am at a loss to understand what makes the headmaster, say, of the Lodge School with 500 odd children on his roll more important in our system

than the headteacher at St. Paul's with 800 odd primary school children. This is supposed to be heresy; it is heresy on a number of fronts. It is heresy because it is Government institutionalised that it must be so, and therefore you are not supposed to say it, and it is also heresy among the secondary school teachers and indeed among the middle class and the elite in Barbados who seem to think that there is something more desirable about secondary education than primary education. Now these are questions that future planners in education will have to address their minds to. I am speaking, Sir, against a background of a very interesting and rewarding four and a half years in the Ministry of Education.

Now there is one other thing I want to mention in relation to the efforts of this Government to upgrade the status of the primary school teacher. The previous administration had continuously rejected the demands of the Teachers' Unions to give the true worth and recognition to teacher training. They fought, they pleaded, they begged and the previous administration refused to yield. The situation today is that this Government has agreed with the Unions their legitimate demand that trained teachers be considered professionals and be given their just rewards, and that their position vis-a-vis the University graduates who had no training in education as teachers should be considered once and for all, and that has been settled. All this is part of the new industrial harmony between the Unions, the Teachers and the Government of Barbados, and it has been done with honour on both sides.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I spoke of training for primary school people. We introduced during the course of our administration the training of teachers of technical subjects at Erdiston in conjunction with the Barbados Community College because we believe that it is time that we in this community stop trotting out a lot of cliches and spilling off our lips all the new jargon in education and to transport the promise into reality, to move away from talking over and over again about new emphases in education, to move away from literary education to technical education, from education for the sophistication of the mind into the development of the intellect alone to education for living, for the preparation of young people for playing a useful role as workers and as citizens in this community.
11.35 a.m.

It is this type of conviction that led us to institute this training programme for Teachers of technical subjects at Erdiston and the Community College in conjunction.

We have built a new wing to the Teachers' Training College not because, Sir, we felt that we had more money than we could find to use but we believe that a resource centre for teachers, the development of proper laboratory facilities, proper facilities for demonstrations, proper facilities for practice teaching are important in the tool box of a practising teacher.

We have made it possible for an additional 50% of teachers to be trained at the Erdiston Teachers' Training College and we are moving, Sir, further than that. We are moving with a great deal of pace towards the training of the whole backlog of untrained teachers in our schools. We want to train the backlog of all untrained teachers in our schools and we will be progressively over the next three or four years be training these teachers and hope eventually to have no untrained teachers standing in front of any class of children in any school in Barbados.

Now if I may just move off primary education and deal very quickly with the special education especially in the International Year of the Handicapped.

I do not know, Sir, if it is common knowledge but it needs repeating if it is common knowledge that this administration has built and added to the Erdiston Primary School for the education of the handicapped and we also in 1976 started – in fact I will give that credit to the other side. I will give them that because they deserve a credit now and then. I believe they planned it and they like talking about what they planned and they planned it.

The facility was opened at the Charles Broome School in Government Hill for the training of handicapped children and we propose to continue to cater not only to the physically handicapped in Barbados but also to the mentally handicapped and that is an important part of our programme.

It is significant that I mention the Erdiston Primary School and the Charles Broome Primary School because we believe that the handicapped children should be educated in an environment with normal children and not be set apart and make them feel that they are pariahs of this society. That is the way we feel and we shall continue to provide within the limits of our resources further education for the handicapped children out of our convictions that they have a role to play in their own future and in the future of this country.

Mr. Chairman, if I may just briefly touch on Secondary education. The Secondary education system is now due for a massive overhaul, Sir, and at some time within the next few weeks I will be bringing before Parliament an Education Bill in which I have sought to remove a number of archaic principles, remove some of the anachronisms that are still there in the system and to bring under a unifying system the varying elements of Secondary School administration and management in this country.

I do not propose to, Sir, since I intend to bring that Bill shortly, spend any time dealing with that at this stage. All I can say, Sir, is that the Secondary School system functions within the limitations that are inherent in the present system reasonably well.

I believe that I would be shirking my responsibility if I did not make a statement of some sort about the Lodge School. The Lodge School, Sir, has given me a few more grey hairs than I merit at this stage of my life and it is remarkable, Sir, because when you consider that the Lodge School is managed by The Lord Bishop of Barbados, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Rector of St. John, the Principal of Codrington College, and the Parliamentary representative for the parish of St. John, the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, when you understand, Sir, that those five outstanding citizens are the managers of the Lodge School, Sir, you understand the position of one in as humble a position as the Minister of Education. I am only the Minister and, Sir, it is important that the public of Barbados be made to understand that the schemes of governing the Lodge School in the 1890's I think it was....*(ASIDES)*.

The hon. member for St. Michael South will have a chance to get up when I am finished and he can tell how many problems he had with the Rt. Hon. member for St. John when he was Minister of Education and the Rt. Hon. member for St. John was Prime Minister. He will be able to tell you all about the plans. He will be able to tell you about Earl Glasgow and all those sort of things that took place up at the Lodge School. All I am saying is that the problem is an old one.

The Governing Body is appointed by Statute. The first time I have seen any reasoning come in to the management of the Lodge School is since I appointed Senator Hutson Linton as a member of that Governing Body and he has brought a measure of maturity to deliberations of the Lodge School that I think was badly needed.

Now the problems of the Lodge School are legion. There are problems between the Headmaster and the staff. They apparently do not see eye-to-eye and the lines of communications are so blurred as to be almost non-existent. The communication between the Governing Body and the Staff seems to be as bad. The communication between the Governing Body and the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union, the legally accredited Trade Union to look after the interest of the Secondary School Teachers, the relationship is not too rosy.

The Ministry tries its best to resolve all of these difficulties but the Ministry quite often is told in no uncertain terms to get out and to keep out of certain business that has nothing to do with them.

11.45 a.m.

That the Law says that the big chiefs are the big chiefs and the little indians must stay out of it. Well, Mr. Chairman, I am going to put all of that right. I am not making any threat, Sir, but I will sort out all that sooner, rather than later. Sir, the people of Barbados believe that the Honourable Minister of Education has a responsibility for public education in this country and no antiquated laws, no outdated thinking will stop this particular Minister of Education from finally laying to rest all those old concepts, and beliefs and ideas which still surround that particular school. (ASIDE). The Honourable Member for St. Michael South West wants to hear about the Boarding School. There is no Boarding School at the Lodge School. You know why there is no Boarding School at Lodge School because we could not condone a first class section and an economy section in one school. We feel, that it had to be all economy, or all first class and it is for that reason, that there is no Boarding establishment in the Lodge School. You see, Mr. Chairman, they have a lot of saw dust Caesars strutting around this society feeling that they have more power than the people and if I have to be the catalyst to bring about their downfall, I will work on it, Sir. Enough about the Lodge School.

I remember Tacitus once said of a certain Roman Emperor *capax imperii misi imperasset* and for those of the Opposition who did not go to school for too long, it means he was capable of ruling had he not ruled. So, anybody looking at the Governors of the Lodge School would think that they are capable of ruling. I say nothing more.

We will be moving, Sir, at the secondary level for a certain parity of standards for all the secondary schools of Barbados. I say this against a continuing demand for the abolition of the Common Entrance Exam and let me say once again Sir, that I do not believe that the Common Entrance Exam is something that should last for much longer, but there are certain limitations. If you are going to abolish an exam, you must roughly have equal facilities for all the children in the community. We are almost there, Sir. We are spending a large amount of money to bring the newer secondary schools so-called up to standards where we feel in the Ministry of Education they are equal, in some cases better appointed than some of the older secondary schools. This situation has been reached already. I am convinced that the Ellerslie School, the Garrison Secondary School the new secondary school at Trents, I mention three are as good schools as any you can find anywhere in this country and I am talking about good in terms of quality of the teaching staff, both their qualifications and their competence, the facilities which are made available to them and so on and we move into that direction and the day cannot be too far off when some type of answer will be provided by this Government to this Common Entrance problem.

Whilst speaking on Education, I want also to pay tribute to those proprietors of the private secondary

schools in Barbados. There are a number of private individuals and there are a number of private institutions such as the church and those schools have played a very important and significant role in the development of education in this country. Many provided badly needed places for the children of this country at a time when the Government was not able to provide those places and it would be ungracious and ungrateful of me if I, as Honourable Minister did not, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and on behalf of all the people of Barbados put it on the record, our great appreciation for the job that they have done for the education in this country over the years. Again, sometime soon, Sir, I will be coming to Parliament with a Resolution to give a little bit more to those schools to help them to remain viable.

Mr. Chairman, if I may deal with just one or two of the post secondary institutions. The Polytechnic. Construction I understand is on schedule and I hope some time in the Fall to have the new Polytechnic opened officially. I have said before, but it is worth repeating that the Polytechnic will cater to the needs of some three thousand students in 26 or 27 areas of training and all the training Sir is geared towards preparing those children to be able to make useful living in the market in Barbados. They will be better equipped, skilled and able to carry out and command jobs with good pay and it is vitally important at this stage of our development. Barbados is moving away from an old agricultural village to an increasingly industrial society and it is necessary for us to produce the skills required to meet the new reality.

Mr. Chairman, the Community College continues to establish itself as an excellent and first rate educational institution in this country catering to a wide variety of needs and interests in this country. If it is one educational institution that I have no quarrel at all with, one with which I am proud to be responsible for Sir, it is the Barbados Community College. We plan, at the moment to acquire adjacent land on the North Eastern and Eastern section of the Community College because we see the Community College for the future playing a more and more important role in the educational system of this country and we will be introducing greater and greater varieties of subject offering at the Community College particularly in these days when the University is experiencing certain difficulties. I put it no stronger than that at the moment, Sir, and where on the horizon is harbouring a dark cloud in that regional institution, it would be in the interest of Barbados to build up its Community College and to provide the type of middle trained, middle management technical and professional skills to keep this country going.

Mr. Chairman, in respect of the University, a lot more will be said after serious examination of the difficulties to which I alluded and although I am prepared at any stage in the debate to answer such questions as may be raised by any Honourable Member, I would prefer at this stage to leave it where it is.

I am responsible also Mr. Chairman for Culture. We will be debating that at another stage in the Proceedings, but it would also be convenient for me to tie it in, in the context of Education. There is no doubt at all in my mind, Sir, that when those who are knowledgeable and those who are not so knowledgeable talk glibly about the relevance of education, what does it mean? What are we educating people for?
11.55 a.m.

What is there in the curriculum that bears directly on the lives and experience of the people who are being educated? One of the things that come out of all the time in recent years is the whole question of culture, and I have to say over and over again, Sir, lest I be misunderstood, that I am not talking about culture as some high-fangled erudition that is the preserve of the upper middle class and the rich I am not talking about that, Sir, I am talking about the common heritage of all the people in this country, their way of life, their history, the way they react to their institutions, I am talking about the way of life in Barbados.

The Caribbean Examinations Council has been set up to meet such a need in the area of examination and syllabuses. As long as children are taking examinations that are set in the United Kingdom, they have this problem of culture conflict, because examinations in the United Kingdom are set by British examiners, many of whom have never even visited the Caribbean. They set examinations based on their own perceptions, on their own standards, on their own values, and the children in the Caribbean are asked to be on the playing field at school Barbadians, but when they go into the classrooms when the bell rings, they must be Englishmen. The wisdom of the governmental leaders in the Caribbean at the beginning of this decade sought to correct what is a serious anomaly in our development.

The Caribbean Examinations Council has set up a series of examinations started two years ago, this is the third year they will be taking those examinations, and those examinations are based on long, mature thinking and planning by the teachers of the region, teachers of the Caribbean, inputs made by them, they are the ones who sat down and determined the syllabi or syllabuses, depending on where you went to school, and they bring it into the schools, the classroom, an education that is essentially Caribbean, the type of education that comes enharnessed with the living and the way of life of the people of this region.

One of the things that always trouble me about the education system, Sir, and those involved in education, is the difficulty in adjusting to change. Now, that is a paradox, because everybody knows that the education system should be an agent for change and it should be used to help the people that it is serving to adapt to change in society, and one of the problems we have is the inherent inertia in the educational system to change itself.

Now, it has not been a very easy job for a non-educator who believes he has progressive thoughts in these matters, Sir, to always get through to the people who he would wish to carry out what he would like to see carried out, but I am satisfied that some significant progress has been made. This Government stands unequivocally behind the Caribbean Examinations Council, and I am serving notice now that the Government will not be entertaining any applications from any students in the Government schools or in the approved independent schools for whom we refund examination fees to pass up the Caribbean Examinations Council examinations to write the Cambridge Overseas Examinations, except in cases clearly defined and spelt out by the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Chairman, I will tell you why I say that. Every time you leave a discretion to a particular officer or Minister and so on, Sir, you find a number of people who want to take advantage of the strength or the weakness of the person who has to exercise that discretion. We left a discretion for the writing of Caribbean Examinations Council examinations and that is that in exceptional cases a school can refer an application to the Minister of Education for the use of his discretion to allow Cambridge examinations to be written, and believe me, Sir, in Education when they lean on you they lean on you very hard, and they lean on me, Sir, and I believe that I have used my discretion a little bit too liberally, but I am serving notice that that liberality is coming to an end as for examinations of 1982.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if I may just come home, Sir, because I believe that there will be a number of questions raised by hon. members on both sides. We in the Ministry of Education and Culture had a Division called the Cultural Division of the Ministry in 1976, and my recollection is that they had a vote of less than $50,000 and three officers. This Government set up a real Ministry of Culture, I think it was in April 1977, and has brought the cultural perceptions of all Barbadians to bear on all the activity of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Now, that is a fairly general statement, Sir, so let me get back to the specifics.

We have increased in the schools teaching in a wide range of art forms. This Government has introduced for the first time Dance and Movement as a curriculum subject in the primary schools in Barbados. It has indeed done a whole lot more training through workshops and scholarships and specialised training at the Community College for teachers of art. It has also done its experiments with theatre in education to bring home in a more vivid and dramatic form what the children are trying to learn and the teachers are trying to teach, and there is great hope for that in the future.

We have stepped up the use of audio visual aids and other nontextbook aids in the teaching of children in the schools to make education more stimulating, more interesting for children and therefore the expectation that they will do better.

The Ministry has also provided scholarships and enabling grants, and indeed has managed to persuade UNESCO to give us fellowships for the training of teachers in the Arts, and these are now beginning to filter back into the school system. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that children are sensitive to the beautiful things around them. I believe they are, Sir. I believe that the influence of Art and Music and Dance works towards their total development. I believe that all these art forms are an integral and important part of their education, and the new thrust in qualitative education in Barbados must accept that reality. I believe, Sir, that artistic education helps children to develop their capacities of analytical thinking, imagery, observation, their perceptions and observations of all things around them. I believe it develops their sensory perceptions and I believe that it also develops their figurative thinking.

12.05 p.m.

Now it is for the educators to accept these truths and try to translate them into serious and meaningful programmes for children in the schools of this country. I believe, Sir, that if you do not do that, you are continuing to omit vital ingredients in the overall development of the personality of the children who pass through our schools. That is what I have to say at this stage about the linkage between culture and education. If I deal with education with culture on a wider front, we in the Ministry of Education and Culture have used our resources to make a dramatic impact on the cultural life of the people of this country. There are those who will still write like one teacher at one of the high-brow schools with little understanding or empathy of how Barbadians feel and think that the money you spend on Crop Over Festival you can give to scholarships. Well the Government of Barbados gives a large number of scholarships, but it ties in with the type of argument that I heard from the Opposition over the last two days especially when they were talking about defence and security, this whole question of priorities. You cannot develop one aspect of a human personality; you have to deal with the whole range of human personality, and to say that you should take all the money and do "A" and forget about "B" reveals the type of narrow thinking of so many people who shoot from the

lip. If they would think a little bit more before they run off and talk, it might do themselves and this community a lot better. We feel that a proper understanding of ourselves as a people, the true value of independence the pride of a people who have endured a lot and now know where they are going, those considerations must be foremost in any cultural thinking and planning in this community.

Later this year we are going to host CARIFESTA and those who feel that CARIFESTA is a time for fun and games can go ahead and think so. That is certainly not what is intended by the Government of Barbados. CARIFESTA has a grander purpose; it has a purpose that is in consonance with the aspirations of the people of the Caribbean. Barbados has always played a leading role in the Eastern Caribbean particularly and we feel that we must continue to play that role not only in the traditional areas, but in the areas of culture. We feel, Sir, that on the grand design of the original CARIFESTA of 1972 to have a festival that would bring together the people of the Caribbean in sharing artistic and cultural pursuits, the provision of cultural activities on a scale that is entertaining and at the same time educational, and the recognition of the common roots and the common heritage of all the people of the Caribbean and those of the countries that are washed by the Caribbean Sea that are born out of a plantation economy – I am talking about the black people of Costa Rica, Columbia, Nicaragua, Panama, Brazil, Venezuela and Cuba, all those Caribbean people who left and built up the Cuban economy 15 years ago and who have a vital culture from Santiago to Cuba, that Southern Caribbean city of Cuba – an important statement should be made on a regular basis by the people of this region with a similar background. We believe also, Sir, that we in the black African diaspora must close ranks not for any of the foolish purposes that are quite often stated by the pseudo intellectuals, I am not talking about that, but as a people who have been forged by and anviled by slavery and hatred and exploitation and common suffering.

We believe that this period of our development calls on us for a recognition of our common values, our common history, our common heritage. CARIFESTA is about that. You cannot find anything grander than that, and although we all expect to have some fun and entertainment, I want everybody to understand that that is the essential message and theme of the Festival as we bring together our people from the whole region to this country.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this is an appropriate time for me to move that the sum of $65,130,279 under Head 38 – Ministry of Education and Culture as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

I stand prepared to answer questions on any aspect of the areas of my responsibility as raised by hon. members on both sides.

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

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

HEAD 39 – CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Head 39 – Cultural Affairs – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, in moving this Head, when the rather reckless spokesman for the Opposition who gave his speech on the first reading of this Appropriation Bill spoke and true to his form cut everything in his path, he said that he could find nothing to say against Education. Now that is an alarming revelation. That is what the leading spokesman on this Bill from the Opposition said. Now the hon. member for St. Michael South West is over there trying to refute that. He was not even in his place, so I am glad to see that the Opposition is so bedazzled by the achievements of the Ministry of Education that they have nothing to complain about.

I beg to move that the sum of $609,517 under Head 39 – Cultural Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

12.15 p.m.

HEAD 79 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is interesting to read into the records the type of work the Ministry of Education is doing for the development of the people of this country. Now we have a number of new schools that are either under construction or plan to be constructed later in this year set out in the Notes of Head 79.

Eden Lodge, just opened. You know, Mr. Chairman, what a leading Educator said about Eden Lodge Primary School that was opened two weeks ago that it is the first Primary School with a campus that he has seen in the whole Caribbean. That is what we are doing in education. That is what the Government of Barbados is doing.

We are building a new school at Grace Hill which is under construction at the moment and I hope it will be opened for the beginning of the September term.

Next week, Sir, we will turn the sod for the construction of a new co-educational school in your constituency, Sir, for nearly $2 million and I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that you would be glad to go up there when we are doing our business and let the people up in St. George know what the Government is doing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would be there.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, we are also building a new school, Sir, in St. Joseph. We have built one at Sharon, one at the Pine, in Wildey. We have built one at Mt. Tabor in St. John because we believe the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John treated his constituency so badly in development over the years that he allowed the Mt. Tabor School to almost fall down. The St. John Mixed School he allowed it to get into such a disreputable state of disrepair that when I saw it I almost burst into tears and had to issue a directive, immediately to do something about it.

The Rt. Hon. member for St. John, Sir, is satisfied that a section of his constituents, that they were not responsive to the blandishment, built a school at St. Margaret's that was the biggest waste of taxpayers money in education in living memory because by the time he built the school there were not enough children in the area to occupy it and when I went to visit the school some two or three years ago you could drive a truck through the empty classrooms. We are using it. We have put it to productive use. We are training the youth in Barbados to make a living so the Minister of Community Services is using it to teach the children down there, the younger ones and the older ones, some skills so that every time I drive through Barbados I will not be seeing all those signs up "Carpenters and Masons wanted". We are using it for a good purpose, Sir.

We have built another school in St. Patricks. Now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central says that I cannot cry but if he wants to know if I can cry he should ask the officers in my Ministry who went with me to St. Patricks about two years ago and saw a school that was there for 15 years when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, the St. Patrick's Boys School, where the Nutrition Room where they had the school meals brought in and put out, and the biscuits and milk put out, was about 8 ft. away from here to half the distance of the hon. member opposite me, from a newly dug grave where a person was buried the evening before. You want to know if I can cry, Sir? You want to know if that is true, Sir, a newly dug grave. A person buried in a grave-yard 8 ft. away from where the children had to sit down and eat.

The Democratic Labour Party can build a school down in St. Margaret's in St. John and have nobody to put into it but we believe that the people up there in St. Patrick's deserve better than they did under the Democratic Labour Party. The hon. member for St. Michael South West will walk into it. (ASIDES). They want me to shut up. They cannot take the medicine. I am going to drive it home. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, they have now become so notorious in this country for walking out of Parliament that they are quite free to walk out until I am finished but it will go on the record.

Now we have an increased grant for school uniforms. Now the spokesman of the Democratic Labour Party writing in the *Nation* put some fancy figure of $20 million I think it was and said that we could not introduce a School Uniform System in this country because of the phenomenal cost and within a month after he wrote this article we came to Parliament with the first set of money for school uniforms in this country.

Now let us talk a little bit more about these uniforms, Mr. Chairman, because it is obviously a subject that bothers the hon. member for St. Michael South West. This year we are adding just under another 5 000 children in Barbados to be the recipients of a grant to help purchase school uniforms in this country so that the figure come September this year will be almost 10,000 who will be getting assistance in buying their uniforms and the Democratic Labour Party said that this could not happen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the School Meals Service. The hon. member for St. Lucy has a way of getting up in here and making a number of snickering comments about the School Meals Service. Well the fact that he has nothing to say this time around, Sir, means that either he cannot find anything to criticise or he is now recovering from shame if he ever had any.

All I know, Sir, is that when the School Meals people down in St. Clement's School Meals Centre were cooking food for the DLP's Dance in the hon. member's constituency that if I was as ruthless as to let people believe about this victimisation thing that all of them would be skinned out of the Centre because that is not what we set up the Centres for and it is an appropriate time for me to say yet again because there are some popular misconceptions going around this country about the Opposition talking about victimisations.

The Opposition talked about victimisation in the School Meals Service. Let me say unequivocally and categorically that for the time that I have been in the Ministry of Education, one single person has been dismissed from the School Meals Service. One, and that one was a woman and she came to me and told me that she knew she was wrong and deserved to be dismissed and she is begging me to use my good offices to get her reinstated.

The Democratic Labour Party goes around the country. They do not say it in here, Sir, cowards. They go out there on the platform where there is nobody to reply to them but we will reply in the next few months, Sir, and I am going down in St. Lucy Sir. They get around and tell the people that there has been victimisation in the School Meals Programme and that the School Meals workers have been dismissed from their jobs so that the Government can put its sympathisers into the jobs in the School Meals.
12.25 p.m.

Sir, I see nothing wrong with putting in your sympathisers. If you cannot look after your own, you are not worth looking after anybody. So, I see nothing wrong with that. I am saying again that for the term that I was in the Ministry of Education, I have known of one single person who was dismissed from the School Meals Service and they go night after night on platforms telling people that people have been victimised in the School Meals Service. (ASIDE).

Mr. Chairman, I want to finish with the capital structures for CARIFESTA. We are building in two, or three, or four different locations the facilities for the continuing performances in arts and culture over the years to come. I say this for a very important reason, Sir because people look at the type of expenditure we are making in CARIFESTA and do not see the phenomenal profits that would be left to Barbados after the end of the Festival. We are making Combermere Hall a theatre of acceptable standards and we are working on the Queen's Park Theatre and the Queen's Park Steel Shed to make them suitable for performances for the years to come. We are buying a lot of theatre equipment Sir that will be of permanent use to not only the Government, but all groups and interested parties in this country in the future.

At West Terrace, we are constructing a number of large buildings that will eventually be handed over to the Ministry of Housing and will be used for things like supermarkets in the West Terrace Development, banking services and indeed, there will be even buildings for community services and we are also spending a great deal of money on the upgrading of the Secondary School at Trents and the Secondary School at Ellerslie that will make those schools better suited for residential use in the vacations usually the summer and Easter vacations, to be used from time to time in the years to come. So a vast amount of our expenditure for CARIFESTA is being diverted towards the development of capital structures which will remain as permanent memorials and also for permanent use of this country long after the Festival is closed.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 79 stands part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 79 stands part.....The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I note the developments of school buildings and the obvious absence of any planning in respect of the parish of St. Philip. I have made a very thorough examination of the items listed under the various Heads of Capital I am not buying any promise for next year, I want to see action. I do not want any promise, I do not see any provision here made for any substantial school development in St. Philip.

I believe that Princess Margaret School is undergoing some extension, but in the present scheme of things, there are a number of primary schools in St. Philip which need touching up, Sir. I am not at this stage calling for any new school because I understand that the Ministry has promised in conjunction with a proposal by the Headmistress of St. Philip Girls', Miss Rowe to establish a nursery school in St. Philip. Now, I do not see that mentioned in these Estimates, but I would like to hear, from the Honourable Minister at an appropriate stage, what plans his Ministry has for the development of educational facilities in the parish of St. Philip as a whole and of course, with special reference from my point of view to St. Philip North.

It seems to me, Sir, that over the years there has been neglect in maintenance of the school buildings of St. Philip North. Something which I recognise has been done at St. Philip's Boys' School, but that school for example, still has a number of windows and doors in need of repairs, proper lighting facilities. Ebenezer School also needs refurbishing, worst of all, St. Mark's Senior School is in a dilapidated state. The other St. Mark's could also do with touching up, Bailey's School needs redecoration. I have called for the last four years in here and with communication with the personnel of the Ministry for a watchman at Bailey's. My request has been constantly turned down. What you have now is vandalism. I believe that the two cylinders, I think they are called that hold the bottle gas were stolen about two weeks ago.

I wonder if people listen to representatives when they make pleas because we are on the spot and we hear what is happening and we can only make the representation. Bailey's School needs a watchman. I understand that there is a different consideration in respect of a watchman for St. Catherine School that insofar as, there is a gentleman who lives near to that school and the lights are left on mostly at night, that they refuse to put a watchman there. But, I am going to insist, that the Government places a watchman at St. Catherine School. I certainly make it an urgent plea for the assignment of a watchman

at Bailey's School, Sir, otherwise that whole school is shortly going to be destroyed. The reason for that of course is that a number of these schools in St. Philip are used for meeting places for groups and if there is rain, in the area, people shelter under the schools and so on.

The people from the area themselves do not vandalise the schools in fact, I would like to suggest that there is not much deliberate vandalism in St. Philip of Government buildings and in particular schools. But what has happened is that the school properties is put under so much pressure because it has to be used for other activities that the wear and tear is not constantly monitored, so that it can be repaired on a regular and on-going basis and of course this leads to another problem that we need a couple community centres in St. Philip as meeting points for extra curricula activities. This does not immediately affect the Ministry of Education, but rather would be seen to affect the planning of the Ministry of Labour and Community Services and to that extent, I mentioned it for transmission for the appropriate Ministry.

But, on some of those schools that I mentioned I would like government to carry out a survey as to what has to be done to refurbish those schools and to let us hear when they intend to carry out the process of redecoration of the schools.

Now, Sir, I want to concentrate more on the Government Industrial Schools. I see $400 000 is to be voted to meet the cost of work in connection with security arrangements and other remedial work now in progress at the Industrial Schools. I do not know what kind of security arrangements are to be made and I would like to hear from the Honourable Minister as to the details of these security arrangements.

What I wish to say about the Government Industrial Schools Sir is that in June last year a Committee of which I happened to be Chairman submitted a Report with recommendations, Mr. Chairman.
12.35 p.m.

It is true that a number of the recommendations are of a long term nature and indeed may even require the Government Industrial Schools to be hived off from the Ministry of Education and placed perhaps in the Ministry of the Attorney General, a fundamental change in policy and thinking. At the same time I am aware that two reports concerning penal reform which would bear on the Government Industrial Schools have been published, the Howard Jones Report and the Chuck Committee Report, and perhaps the Government's policy is not finally worked out, but I think that it is time so that the effect of that Report does not become the fate of the Carol Fields Report and gets lost on the shelves of the Ministry, that action be taken as soon as possible towards the implementation of such of those recommendations as may be acceptable to Government. I do not know which are acceptable to Government.

I wish to make a comment about the Press in this connection. In the Report we did have some comments, if you like, adverse, to make about the Press and their involvement in the problems of Dodds in late 1979. Now what is significant is that when the institution had problems, as a means of creating sensation, as a means perhaps of levelling attacks at the Ministry of Education, the Nation Newspaper in particular was able to carry features of Dodds. No one since then in the Press, in fact since June 1978 since the Report has been handed in, the Press has not seen it possible to go to Dodds with permission, Sir, – because we recommended that they should get the permission of the Head first – they have done no follow up to investigate whether things at Dodds have changed for the better or not. You see, there is nothing sensational, there is no Ministry to attack and cry down if Dodds has improved between January 17, 1980 and today, and I call on the Press in pursuance of balanced reporting to examine how Dodds has changed since the Report of my Committee has been handed in and since there are new members of staff and the hierarchic staff structure is different from what it was in 1979. I think the public is owed by the newspapers or the journalists in this country some Report pointing out that things at Dodds have changed for the better.

Now in that Report, Sir, we recommended that there should be a post of Senior Instructor, because in the staff system existing at Dodds there could be problems when the Head or the Deputy Head were off the compound, and you needed to create a career path for the instructing staff. I have heard nothing about the creation of that post which I could not have thought would have been a matter that would have given great difficulty, since we were not asking for the creation of five posts, but the creation of one post of Senior Instructor, and I would like to hear from the Minister to what extent that recommendation has been accepted and if any action has been taken to help create a staff structure that people working on the staff could look forward to some careeral mobility within the institution.

I would like to say, Sir, that the problems at Dodds obviously have not all gone away. We cannot expect that, we are dealing with children who are under stress and the problems do not just go away by the stroke of a pen or a Committee's Report, but what I am satisfied of is that under new management with some improvement in physical amenities, with some improvement in the attitude of staff, their conceptualisation of their role their willingness to heed some of the comments of the pupils themselves, that we have seen a change in the attitude and behaviour of the boys at Dodds in the last

year, Sir, a change for the better. I believe you may still get the odd case of absconding, but nothing like it was before, the boys are a lot happier and I am glad to see that under one of the Heads there is an increased vote for travel and supplies and materials.

One of the problems that we found was that the boys had little association with the open society when they were in there, and that has been changed. I happened to go to the airport one Sunday afternoon to see somebody off and three chaps came up to me and shook my hand and introduced themselves. I did not recognise them at first, but they were boys from Dodds who had been taken on a visit to the airport by a member of staff to see the new airport and to walk around and so on, and they were very happy and they told me they were getting a lot more opportunity to go out into the community and visit places and that they appreciated it. If this kind of activity can be encouraged, I believe that we would go a long way towards settling the psychological traumatic problems that perhaps led to the disturbances at Dodds in 1979.

Our Report made recommendations for certain physical development, and I would like to hear from the Minister, perhaps with a view to making a comment later on, as to what is envisaged by the Ministry having regard to the recommendations of the Committee, what is envisaged in this $400,000 which is to be voted for structural repairs and construction and remedial construction now in progress at the Industrial School. I know we did want the kitchen facilities to be upgraded and in fact work has been going on on the kitchen. I am not sure whether the building has been completed but I know that it was widened because the kitchen had become dilapidated and run down. I hope that in this figure is not included any amount of money to build any wall around Dodds. I hope that this is not included because any decision like that from my point of view and particularly from the point of view of the Committee also that made the Report would run counter to the purposes for which these children have been committed to Dodds.
12.45 p.m.

They are not committed there for incarceration like a prison; they are committed for training and for it to be seen as an institution for training. To throw a wall around the place at great cost – when we examine the cost it was over $¼ million – I think would be very negative thinking. You do not need it. You have a hedge. Of course the grounds had not been kept in any satisfactory and indeed sanitary state prior to the investigations. Happily a lot is being done now to keep the hedges and the grounds in order, and I wish to congratulate the staff at the Industrial School for the hard work and the sense of responsibility that they have put in to get the school back on a more or less even keel following the disturbances in 1979. I just wish to caution that I trust none of this money voted is for building any wall around Dodds and creating a prison-type atmosphere.

In respect of the Girls' School, I still think, Sir, despite what may be the views of another Department of Government, organisation, management or methods or whatever it is called, that the solution to the problem at Summervale certainly is short term, and it is for Government to acquire a property in another parish, a property that can be converted into dormitories to hold up to ten girls, and to use Summervale which has possibilities for expansion as a junior school, remove certain selective persons mentioned in the Report, remove those little boys up to Summervale and find a smaller place for the girls.

I do not know where they will find this place, but perhaps the old plantation house out in the country if they can find one would be an ideal situation, if not you will have to look in terms of constructing a kind of girls' hostel with a little bit of land for them to do a little bit of gardening. You cannot let the little boys stay in Dodds with the bigger boys for ever and ever. You have to move them out now, I submit, to another building fairly close to the main block, at Dodds, and Summervale readily lends itself, where there can be interchange of staff. Perhaps little boys can come down and share some recreational facilities with the bigger boys if that is acceptable, but certainly for educational purposes and for residential purposes, you need to move some of these little boys out of Dodds perhaps up to Summervale and look for a smaller place for the girls. The girl population historically has never been large and would hardly exceed ten or twelve in a bad time, but what we recommend, I admit, is a matter of long term planning and I am not expecting that Government can carry out all of the recommendations assuming even that they are accepted within a year. We deliberately made certain short term recommendations which we saw as ameliorating the situation almost immediately, and I would like to know to what extent the short term recommendations have been implemented or what is the time frame within which the Ministry expects that they can be implemented.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word of congratulation to the Hon. Minister of Education for what must be regarded as a very ambitious undertaking and a very progressive atmosphere that prevails at the Ministry of Education since he assumed that portfolio. However, Sir, in the process of examining the Estimates, a few things come to mind and I would like to find-out from the Minister, if he can provide us with the information, what provisions are being made for a number of services in the Ministry of Education that I think are vital if the total education product is going to be as comprehensive as it might ordinarily be.

My first area of concern is the area of special education. The Minister made a very quick pass when he was dealing with special education, but I believe, Sir, that our concept of education in Barbados has expanded sufficiently as to provide for special considerations to be made of those persons who are not generally regarded as being able to assimilate the body of information generally available in educational institutions of the sort to which we have become accustomed in Barbados.

I believe, Sir, that if we examine our special education product it would become fairly clear that we have not yet begun to do enough in this area. The school for the deaf is a notable exception, but I still see a large gap in the services under special education particularly when you look at the fact that there are a number of what we generally refer to as retarded children or less gifted children if we want to put a euphemistic term, who are not actively looked after within the context of the Ministry of Education. There are a few notable attempts by private institutions, the Challenor School comes to mind and a few others perhaps, but I feel that the time has come in 1981 for the Ministry of Education under this heading of special education to give careful consideration to the provision of specialised attention for a number of youngsters who are left to deteriorate further at home because they are not able to find a comfortable place in the normal elementary and secondary schools. In as much as we have made a beginning with a school for the deaf, I believe that we should be able to come up with a special curriculum that would provide for those children whom I have described earlier was handicapped or disadvantaged.

Now, Sir, I see here that some provisions have been made in an *ad hoc* fashion at certain institutions. These are extensions to the normal structures up at the special school at Erdiston, Sir, but I would like to feel that Erdiston has a reputation for providing very good early education for free secondary schoolers, and I do not see how with that staff and in that structural facility it will be possible to effectively deal with those students who are subnormal.
12.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to continue on this Head after we come back from lunch.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is now 1.00 o'clock and I should report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.00 o'clock today.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
12.59 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. ODLE resumed the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I was making the point when we took the recess that a good many of our young people who in the past had not been regarded as being able to make any contribution to our development and who were regarded as making limited contribution to their own personal development, have been more or less neglected and I think that we have discovered through the process of experimentation in some of the specialised schools that are presently administered that a good many of these youngsters have a great deal more capacity for learning than we would have appeared to have imagined and I say that it is a pity because it was a great deal of waste of our natural resources when we permit some large or reasonably large subsection of our people to go without proper training and attention.

If you were to visit some of these special schools in developed countries, the United States, for example, it would be amazing to notice the amount of work that comes out of these special schools. Some of them even though they have limited intellectual capacities for reasoning as we understand it, are very capable with their hands and I was privileged while I was in the States to see some of the work done at some of these special Institutions and unless somebody told you that this work came from special Institutions I am sure that everybody to whom such work was shown would have concluded that it was produced by some very fine, talented and gifted people and certainly not out of a class of what we would regard as subnormal children.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for this portfolio to make some provisions in the course of his planning for these youngsters on a higher policy level and with more resources available to him.

Now, Sir, I would like to further refer to the Minister who made a statement to the effect that one of the schools just recently concluded was the only

primary school in the Caribbean that had a campus. I am aware that the Minister responsible is in the process of constructing a school at Grace Hill in what used to be the North West constituency in St. Michael but which now will become my responsibility as far as the newly realigned boundaries in the St. Michael West Central constituency are concerned.

I was exploring the school only a short while ago and I cannot say that I have seen any provisions for any elaborate campus and I wonder what one has to do in order to become the beneficiary of these expensive facilities because one of the things I have noticed in the inner City schools is that there is a general scarcity of recreational facilities outside of the school building itself and the physical plan does not as far as I can think incorporate any provisions for indoor recreational activities.

Now, Sir, if you look at the Deacons Primary School as one example, built under the regime of the Democratic Labour Party, one of the very obvious faults with that school is the fact that it does not provide any outside recreational activity of any consequence.

During the course of the last Financial Year a portion, only a portion of the yard was paved over but up until that time the children had to play on a very rough surface and I would not have to outline the difficulty that that kind of surface would pose to the safety of the children. I would like to see a conscious effort in the new school architecture to provide indoor recreational facilities that would allow for things like table tennis and other games of that sort that are not normally played outdoors and this facility, in my view, would have the effect of developing from a very early age the co-ordination and skill of our youngsters so that by the time they reach the teen years, so to speak, they would have had a significant head start.

I think what we should see happening is that those indoor skills which have not been in any great abundance in Barbados would suddenly begin to come to the fore so I would like the Minister to tell me if he can find some time so to do whether or not the new Grace Hill School in all of its modern splendour provides the things that I have just referred to and if those things are not now available whether there is any opportunity at some future date for a design to accommodate any extension of this sort which I am referring to.

2.10 p.m.

Recently, Sir, I attended the Speech Day at the Coleridge and Parry School, a school from which I had the honour to graduate. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South served an appreciable period at that illustrious institution before they came on to Harrison College and I suppose that they will be able to remember the facilities at Coleridge and Parry. I was surprised to discover that the school library does not provide any wider range of reading material than what was available in my day and that was a long day ago.

I would like to urge the Honourable Minister if it is his responsibility, I am not sure whether it falls to his Ministry, or whether the Governing Body has some special arrangements but certainly, I feel that today our school libraries ought to look more like libraries than a large closet with books on the shelves and the books that are available to our students ought to be of such a range as to be able to challenge all of their interests. I went there and I still saw Master Man Ready, Wuthering Heights, Charles Dickens and the whole standard classics that have always been present in the school libraries in Barbados and the Tales of Charles Lamb and that sort of thing.

But, I was startled that there is a genuine scarcity of scientific journals and other technical matters which I feel are indispensable in this day when the range of interests of students is infinitely wider than it was perhaps in the days when I was at Coleridge and Parry. As a matter of fact, it may not be that the range of interests is any wider, but our horizons were rather immersed and we came along genuinely believing that all of us had to be trained in the Classics or some limited Arts area rather than let our minds range free across the broad spectrum of possibilities that await the enquiring mind of children.

The other area that I am pleased to comment on and to note, is that the Honourable Minister has been able to use his good office to secure assistance for the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, another local institution which provides educational opportunities at a different level. Part of the development in Barbados will greatly rely upon a larger resource or larger pool of management-trained personnel to man the emerging institutions which mark the arrival of the developed nation and the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity has been for the last nine years or so been providing management training for the people in the rest of the community who comprise the bulk of our middle managers and who now are holding responsible positions in largely expanding business in town. These skills will be necessary if we are to continue to cope successfully with the challenge that the eighties and the nineties will afford us and unless, at every level of our society, we are able to place some training in these disciplines, we are going to continue to develop at a slower rate than would be desirable.

I therefore would like in commending the Honourable Minister to urge them not to feel that this one shot is sufficient in that direction, but to urge him to examine carefully the possibilities for further assistance to this institution so that we will be able to provide as we have been doing all the services vital towards the future growth of Barbados.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, of course, we all share the points made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West on the question of library development as far as, our schools are concerned and that is why the far seeing Administration of the Democratic Labour Party, during the period 1961 to 1976 did make very strenuous efforts to improve library facilities particularly at our secondary schools. That is why schools like the Lodge School, schools like the Alleyne School and like the Springer Memorial and like Coleridge and Parry and like Combermere school and just to mention a few were all provided with library assistance which were never provided before and that is why we took steps to increase substantially the provision for school libraries. Now, the use to which those provisions are put would be a question for whatever the Advisory Committee, or whatever the staffs at those schools may determine. I think that the Honourable Member is making a good point.

We did have an interest in that school in the North and we are very glad that we are products of that particular school. I regret that I may not see the Honourable Member in here after this present Session, but I believe that we will still share that interest in the school. But, this is a point which we are making. That is why I believe, a few years ago I did make a point that I was considerably alarmed that your Government could make a sum of almost $10 000 – I do not remember the exact figure, – but it was some such figure available for the library for the Governor General but that the provision for the schools was certainly just over $1 000 or a couple of thousands. I made that point a couple of years ago. But I take the point about library development and we share that point. Maybe a little later on, if there are any particular revocations – we have not spoken on Education really because you know the talk about development of schools primary schools developing, new schools developing, Career Guidance Programmes and so on.

You really cannot convince anybody that the Democratic Labour Party did nothing in Education. There is no point in trying to establish that point, but we are not really getting into that. We are waiting for Health. (ASIDE) We want Agriculture, we want Communications and Works, so we are waiting. I do not want all of this jumping about. There is nothing happening here. We are waiting. (ASIDE: Housing) and Housing. We may want to hear about Information. We want to hear about CBC. These are the things that we are waiting for, so you can tell your officials in Education go home, or wait for the debate. It is going to be interesting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Honourable Member, the chief spokesman for Education?

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am not the spokesman for Education. I have done my work in Education. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is the Shadow Minister of Education, but we are waiting for these topics.
2.15 p.m.

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, my contribution to this debate will be short. It will be short because the quality of the representation that the people in St. Michael North West received is amply illustrated by a glance at the Estimates under this particular Head. No less than three of the new primary schools will be located either within or just outside the borders of St. Michael North West. The Cave Hill Primary School, the Eden Lodge Primary School and the Sharon Primary School, and what I would like to do on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael North West is to thank the Minister of Education. I want to put in an early plea for the use of the old Edghill Memorial School hall as a community centre for the people of Cave Hill. I am making that suggestion now, I will follow it up in my usual manner by writing to the Minister and by prodding and telephoning his officials, but I think that the record must show that those of us who live in St. Michael North West are extremely grateful that the Minister of Education has seen fit to remedy one of the greatest defects which existed in St. Michael North West, that is to say, the provision of new schools in a constituency where the majority of schools, most of them, were ever 50 years old and all of them were in a state of acute disrepair.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, my contribution will be equally short as that of the member for St. Michael North West. I do not know if he had any discussions with the Minister of Education on those three schools that he talked about, Grace Hill, Eden Lodge and Sharon. Like the Hon. Minister, we are not making any claims about Sharon, in fact we are not making any claims at all, all we are saying is that the location for the Grace Hill school was identified by the previous administration, the previous Government. I recall as part of our policy to return Church schools to the Churches, Grace Hill was identified as one of those schools that should be returned. We were going to locate it at the premises called Woodstock on Spooners Hill, and I remember visiting that site myself when I was Minister of Education along with the then Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, and along with a number of those Education officials who a couple of days ago, I believe it was on Monday, the Prime Minister called children, he called some other Civil Servants hard seeds but he referred to

those who plan in the Ministry of Education dealing with statistics and things like that, children. I did not hear the Minister of Education say anything at that particular time, so we have no quarrel.

I agree with the member for St. Michael North West. It was a far seeing Government that agreed that a school should go there at Grace Hill. Then, Eden Lodge, the previous representative for St. Michael North West and the next representative for St. Michael North West – I refer to Mr. Philip Greaves – or whatever it will be called, identified the site as well at Eden Lodge. *(Asides).* I do not know why the member for St. Michael North West wants to make points out of this, we are not really dealing with Education, as I said, but if you make the points we will have to rebut. I leave it to the shadow Minister who will deal with those problems.

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I support the Hon. Minister of Education in his attempt to bring a little bit of respectability as far as educational policy in this country is concerned. The Opposition tends to give the impression that this Government and the Minister of Education are merely pursuing a policy which they had designed during the time they were in office. I do not support this view, because the policy of the present Minister and of this Government is a very progressive one and one cannot see the similarity in policy as said by the Opposition.

One must remember that we as a Government said clearly in our Manifesto that we would aim at abolishing the Common Entrance Examination. This was not a policy of the Democratic Labour Party. We viewed the results which were obtained by the children taking the Common Entrance Examination as one which we term undesirable. In 1975 and 1976 children who took the Common Entrance Examination, a considerable number of them received not one single mark, and there was certainly great concern as to the future and the role which the primary schools were playing in the whole educational process in this country. No one can say that all was well with primary education under the Democratic Labour Party, surely during the latter years of their regime, because a number of parents and Barbadians were terribly horrified to learn that their children could not score one single mark, and it gave the Democratic Labour Party a lot of concern, and no doubt the electorate of Barbados decided to throw them out of office.

Now, what was appalling in 1976 was that children who had attained the age of 14 were thrown out of school without any proper training, no proper qualifications whatsoever.

2.30 p.m.

Now what I must say is that those children were no writeoffs, yet the Democratic Labour Party and their administration considered these children to be writeoffs. I remember attending a public meeting in 1976 at which the then Minister of Education, Mr. F. G. Smith was speaking, and when the question was raised about the children who were asked to leave school, some four forms at the Parkinson School, three forms from the Springer Memorial between the ages of 14 and 15 were asked to go out of school, he said as spokesman of the Democratic Labour Party, don't care what you do, the children just had to leave school, there was no room for them and there was no answer. Now this was the situation in 1976, but our contention was and has always been that if you had a proper educational policy, one which would cater to the needs of the children if they were not academically inclined at age 14, that the problem could be resolved; but the former administration felt that if the children could not pass four or five "O" Levels in Latin or French, English, Mathematics or History or Scripture, then that child had no future at all. That was the attitude of the former Government. They never took into consideration that the child could be a late developer, and if a child did not obtain one or two or four or five "O" Levels, that that child still had the potential or ability to succeed in life, and there could be some trade or skill that that child could pick up and make a worthwhile contribution to this country. Now that is exactly where the two parties and the two administrations differ. We held the strong and firm view that children who have not obtained five or six "O" Levels have got ability to do something or to make a meaningful contribution to the development of this country, and that is why we have preached from our platforms the whole question of trade schools, and trade schools, Mr. Chairman, have been the answer to our problems. The children between 14 and 16 years who are attending the Government Schools were brought back into the classrooms and the community centres that were left there lying; some running into disrepair were made full use of and those same children are now graduated and we can see the result of such a programme, because we know that many of these children are now employed, either they employ themselves or are employed by other persons and they are making their contribution to the development of this country. There is no wonder when people see small businesses springing up in Barbados that they can say with some degree of truth and conviction that it is this administration that has been responsible for the revival of this sort of business. The young boys and girls were given an opportunity to return to the classroom and learn trades such as carpentry, joinery, ceramics, all these different skills and today they are making their contribution. What one must not forget is that if the Democratic Labour Party when they were in power had any far-reaching educational policy that they would have realised that at some time there would have been a turn around in the economic activity such as in the building industry, that the artisans or skilled people in the fields of carpentry and joinery would be necessary. Up to today we are suffering from a lack of carpenters, joiners as well as wiremen; we cannot get them. The demand is so great

that we do not know how fast we can go because there are lots of people who want to build houses, but because there are not enough carpenters and masons we have got to hold our horses.

Now what is significant about that is that had the Democratic Labour Party during their regime recognised that there would be a turn around in the economic activity, they would have pursued that policy, but they were certainly bankrupt of ideas and they did not understand what it means in terms of a turn around in activity, and hence we are faced with this situation. Now this Government realising that it would be pursuing a policy of economic revival and that it is capable of reviving economic activity decided to embark on the trades programme and we must compliment the Minister of Education for allowing these schools to remain open and for allowing such activities to take place in the schools after school hours. What we saw also was that some of those schools were shut under the former administration and the boys and girls were not allowed to use these buildings for one reason or another. I am not prepared to say that it was the policy of the former administration, but what I am prepared to say is that they ignored the needs of the youths in this community. They refused to accept the fact or to pay some attention to the fact that if boys and girls cannot find some place to recreate and the schools to be used to full advantage to complement these activities, then the youths will find themselves engaged in lawlessness, and I am going to say that lots of the lawlessness which is prevalent in our society can be attributed to the negligent attitude of the former administration, because some of these schools and some of the community centres should have remained opened, or the Government should have pursued a policy to have these youths trained or engaged in some meaningful activity when the schools or the centres were closed, but we have seen time and time again where some youths had approached the past Government and the Ministry of Education to have the schools put in use, and their requests were denied; but we must look at what is presently going on in this country.

The Minister of Education has directed that not only should the schools be used during school hours, but they should be made available for the youth clubs, and I want to say publicly that this is one of the major achievements of the Minister of Education. *(Laughter)* Mr. Chairman, they are laughing. I said one of them. He has achieved so many, and this is one of the major achievements because the boys and girls wherever you go now, you see, they are not with it; if they were with it they would understand that the boys and girls that are forming clubs are pleased to know that this administration has allowed them to use the schools on evenings; but they are not with it. They do not understand what is going on. It is no wonder why young people are following this party because they realise that this party is interested in their overall development. They are going to laugh and I hope they will continue to laugh.

Now at Parkinson School there was a group known as the Pinelands Creative Workshop. That Pinelands Creative Workshop was allowed to use the Parkinson School because the Minister of Education directed that the school be made available to them, and that group was able to put on the very first play of its kind on CBC television. It startled them because they never believed that they could have achieved especially in the area of the Pinelands where there is so much talent and yours truly has the honour to represent them. You see, this is the concern of this Government. Where the former administration wrote off the youths and never understood what it meant to cater to the needs of young people, we are on record as doing something to help them.

Mr. Chairman, if we were to go a bit further, in 1975 or thereabouts the former administration passed what is known as the Education Act and although that Education Act was not put into effect because they went out of office, there were certain stipulations and certain demands that were placed on the private schools which the Hon. Minister has said, and I am sure the Opposition agrees with him, made a very valuable contribution to the educational development of this country.

2.40 p.m.

I want today to compliment them for the job that they have done in the past and I am sure they will continue to do in the future but what is significant about that Education Act is that the Minister of Education at that time or the Government of that day did not find it fit to assist or make available funds so that those schools could help develop their Libraries and their Science Labs since little money was given to them.

I see the former Minister looking a bit surprised but what I am saying is that what was provided is totally inadequate and that is what has led to the closing of one of the most leading schools in Barbados today. The Modern High School was one, if not the most leading Private Schools in this country but because of the attitude of the former administration that school was forced to close.

Mr. Chairman, the point must be taken that if you are calling on the private schools or any organisation, you must make available some sort of funds whereby those schools can approach and get those funds to develop their schools otherwise you will defeat the purpose because many of these Headmasters and Principals of these schools have met during and up to 1976 expressing their concern about the Education Act.

It was not met with the approval of the Private Schools. No such dialogue transpired between the Private Schools and the then administration and it is in this area that we have got to salute the Minister of Education because at every step, in every step of the way the Minister was in dialogue with those schools and I call that first class management. That is what we call first class management because you are asking them to play an important role in the educational process and at the same time are soliciting their views and the Minister went down and I want the Minister to know if he has not yet heard that I have spoken to a number of those Private Schools as well as the Government Schools and they have said that they are satisfied with him because no other Minister has sat down or taken time to sit down and take them into their confidence. That is why the Minister is so successful and the Opposition has not got up and opposed or criticised the Government. Do not let them sit down there and say that all is well or that it is a follow up of their policy. It is the duty of the Opposition to find something to criticise but they can find absolutely nothing and I am going to say to the Minister of Education you have the full backing of the country and the educators are with you because you are projecting the right and proper course in Education.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the whole question of bursaries that was raised by the Minister of Education. Let me publicly say this. The time has come when we must look at a realistic figure of what it takes and the cost of educating a child both at the public school as well as the private school. We have got to look at that. I am not satisfied in any amount of bursaries that fall short of what it takes to educate a child in the Government School and the Older Secondary School is sufficient, but as I said, the policy is one which must be approached with some bit of caution.

We have to take into consideration the economics of the whole thing. We have to carry out a survey and we have to analyse certain things to see the cost of such a policy and I do hope that the Minister will understand that the Bursary as it stands of $75 that is now awarded as bursary is not enough but I know that the Minister has got his ears well low to the ground and I know he has been listening to those teachers in the Private Schools as well as the Heads in those Private Schools and I am sure he will come up with what I consider a very reasonable sum which will go a long way towards defraying the expenses of a child's education.
2.50 p.m.

I do hope that the Opposition does not feel that we are pursuing any policy that they left. I would hate to believe that this is so. We are implementing what we said in our Manifesto and our policy as far as, education is concerned is more attractive to the people of this country. We understand the educational needs and we do not need them to say today, "go on, we are behind you because you are carrying on". Far from that, we want them to continue to listen to how we can dictate the education future of our country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If no other Honourable Member wishes to make a contribution, I would ask the Honourable Minister to wind up the debate.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the Honourable Members of this Side, who made important contributions to this debate.

If I may deal with the various points made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West who very eloquently and emotionally made out pleas for improvement of the facilities in their respective constituencies. It brings to mind Mr. Chairman a line from the famous English poet Robert Browning, the poem Andrea Delsartum, I see the ears of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South pricking up, Sir. Robert Browning says:

> "A man's reach must exceed his grasp, or what's a Heaven for".

I understand that to mean, Sir, that there is nothing wrong with a man reaching for Utopia and settling for the order just beneath.

It would be a great day when we can produce an educational Utopia in Barbados. I do not know of any country that has managed to reach that state of bliss. What I do know, is that we, despite the fact that we are making certain strides in the development of education are literally constrained by limits of finances in a small country such as ours.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip North refers to the schools in St. Philip. As far as, I recall, no new school has been built in the parish of St. Philip for 25 years. The last school that was built in St. Philip was built by a Barbados Labour Party Government 25 years ago at Six Cross Roads and is now known as the Princess Margaret School. If it falls the lot of the Barbados Labour Party again, the second time around to build a new school in St. Philip, well, accept that lot. I want the Honourable Member for St. Philip North to understand that we presently are looking at a plan for the amalgamation of the Holy Trinity School and the Bailey School and we are thinking of building a new school on a new site, so he has something to look forward to.

The point also about the lack of a watchman at Bailey's, Sir. We do not, as a matter of course assign watchmen to all the schools in Barbados. What we do is where we find that there is high incidence of vandalism, we tend to have watchmen at the respective schools. But,

let me just say at the moment – I think it is important that I put this in – that we have found that the presence of watchmen at many schools in Barbados do not make the slightest difference because quite often, we have damage done to schools breaking and burglaries at schools and the watchmen themselves, who are supposed to be on duty know nothing about them. I do not think that the answer lies just in giving another job to another man in St. Philip to work at a school. We have not experienced any major difficulties with that school and I do not believe in the circumstances, that it is necessary for us to assign any one to work for the time being.

We are also, in the parish of St. Philip doing a reorganisation of the St. Marks Schools and we are thinking of phasing use of the old building at the St. Marks Senior School and making structural alterations as would make a new, better located and better appointed school. In respect of the St. Philip Girls' School, it is our plan to build a nursery annex at the St. Philip Girls' compound by converting part of that building for the use of nursery or pre-school education, as it is otherwise called and we are also building an annex to the St. Philip Schools for training of slow learners. So, the hon. member need not feel that he is hard done by in respect of his constituency. Indeed, he has a lot to offer them.

In respect of the Princess Margaret, Sir, I probably stated on more than one occasion what we propose to do at the Princess Margaret School. We intend to put an additional eight classrooms, we are also going to build two Science Labs, one commercial room, one art room, a new headmaster's office and all of that is in the pipeline, not the distant pipeline, the immediate pipeline for the parish of St. Philip and the constituencies of St. Philip North and St. Philip South.

Now, the hon. member for St. Michael West raised the question of special education. This Government is fully committed to providing more and more resources, year after year for financing of special education in Barbados. As I said, in my Second Reading Speech, Sir, this Government feels strongly that the children who are mentally and physically retarded are citizens of Barbados and that they have a role to play in their own personal development and in the development of the society as a whole.

We have long since passed the time when people who suffered from mental and physical handicaps were relegated to the dark corners of the home and made to feel that there was nothing good in life for them and that they were an embarrassment to their families and their societies, Sir. We do not hold that view and we are pursuing a deliberate policy of providing facilities for the mentally and physically handicapped, so that they can be educated in congenial surroundings at a very early stage.

The hon. member for St. Michael West makes the point about the Erdiston Primary School and says that it was concerned more with the training of normal children. Let me repeat, Sir, that it is certainly the policy of my Ministry to have the handicapped children and the normal children educated together in the same environment. I must emphasise that children with physical, or mental handicaps are not pariahs on the system. They are equal citizens in this community and it is about time that serious consideration be given to them to make up for the amount of neglect which they suffered over the years.

We propose, Sir, during the course of this year and we have set aside a certain amount of money in these Estimates, we are discussing the training of teachers in special education and during the year, I will be detailing individual teachers with an interest in the area for training of the mentally retarded, training for teachers of the deaf, and teachers for Vocational or Skills Training for the handicapped. There are no facilities in Barbados, or in the University of the West Indies for adequate training of people in these particular areas and therefore, the teachers who are identified will study either in the United Kingdom, or in the United States of America.

I want also to let the hon. member know that the Government has increased its subvention to the Challenor School so that that school may be able to continue to do the excellent and exciting work it is doing with handicapped in the country. We said that we have increased the subvention and we are in constant dialogue with the Governors of that school to see in what way the Ministry of Education can make a greater input into the training of those children.

Mr. Chairman, it is really important for me to say at this stage that a lot of the misconcepts about handicapped children, mentally handicapped, slow learners should finally be put to rest. New developments in education, new developments in psychology, I am sure that children who were written off in the past as being incapable of coping with the normal problems of school children, in terms of learning can really be cured of their defects at a very early age. It is all a question of teachers being equipped to spot very early the particular weaknesses in a child.

A common problem which has been highlighted to a very great extent in the United States is the problem of dyslexia. God knows how many children have gone through the school system in Barbados over the many decades and have been written off as being dull, or slow, or as they used to say at the time, stupid. The problem of dyslexia is one that can easily be cured by proper training in the hands of professional trainers Sir and we have a number of children, who have been diagnosed as

suffering from this particular defect and these children have been given the benefit of professional therapy and when they come back, they show that they are as sharp, if not sharper than children of their own age group. We are very much up-to-date Mr. Chairman, with these problems and we are making as conscious and as deliberate an effort, as we can to find solutions to the many problems that have been outlined.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, Sir, I do not know why he had to get into the debate at this late stage. I understand that he is responsible for External Affairs and Defence and Security, but he spent a little bit too long in Education and by the time he left, he was more part of the fixture, than part of the thinking process. He has this knack of coming in here every time we are talking about Education, Sir and trotting out a lot of old facts and figures which are long outdated, Sir.

The Honourable Member knows that in the early 1970's, he made an attempt to get the World Bank to provide the Loan funding for school building development in Barbados. He tried to persuade his Leader at the time, the Rt. Honourable Member for St. John to follow the direction in which he wanted to travel. I thought that he would have got up in here because it is far more appropriate to this debate and for him to get up and say that we are building nine, ten, eleven, twelve new schools out of funds made available to us by the World Bank, that he would have got up and said that. He wanted to take that course years ago, and the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John blocked his path. That would have been a more decent thing to say.

I know that the World Bank refused to lend the Government at that time money to build schools, that is what the Honourable Member should say. They told them that they were not lending them any money to build schools and God knows why. Perhaps, they did not believe in the integrity of the Government at the time, they probably did not believe in its ability to repay. They probably studied the way in which they were dealing with loan funds in the past and felt that the funds were not safe in the hands of that then Government. I do not know, that is conjecture, Sir.
3.00 p.m.

All I do know is that this Government started negotiations with the World Bank in 1977. It is important to put a time on it, Sir, because the Democratic Labour Party Opposition would have people in this country believe that every single worthwhile project in Barbados being pursued by this Government is something that they started. The World Bank Project was conceived by this Government, initiated by this Government, negotiated by this Government, signed by this Government and is being executed by this Government.

The hon. member for St. Michael South East, who is more knowledgeable in educational matters than anybody on the other side, Sir, the hon. member for St. Lucy is the spokesman for the Opposition on Education. At least that is what the newspapers tell me, and a debate in which $101 million to be spent in twelve months on the Current Expenditure for Education, and $36 million on Capital Expenditure for Education, and the shadow Minister of Education in the Opposition does not get up and say one single word, and says that he is to be a Minister of Education in the new Government? He is the Principal of the Labour College and would not even get up and say a word about worker education. I have a big programme here for adult education, not a word from the hon. member for St. Lucy, and I am hearing that they do not want to debate Education, they want to talk about other things. The public will judge the efficacy of an Opposition that could allow $137 million to be spent within twelve months and they do not have a word to say about it.

In these Estimates, Sir, are funds set aside to give to the Labour College. The Government is giving a subvention to the Labour College to help carry out their programme at Mangrove, and if the hon. member did not know what to say about Education, at least you would have thought that he had the decency to get up and give thanks for the money that we are putting in the Labour College. The hon. member, as I said earlier, who led off the debate on these Estimates on that side, Sir, the pompous know all on that side, the man who knows more about everything than anybody else, that reckless libertine, he said that he has nothing to say about Education. Can you imagine that, Sir? Can you really believe that an Opposition that is asking people to take them seriously, particularly in election year, has nothing at all to say about the programme of Government? I feel extremely flattered, I feel really flattered, Sir. I really cannot believe it, I am blushing all over.

The hon. member for St. Philip North asked about Dodds. These are the sort of questions you would expect the Opposition to be asking. They do not ask about these, Sir. Dodds was a very troublesome problem about 15 months ago, Sir. I do not shift the responsibility to anybody, it is my Department and therefore if there are problems at Dodds they fall on my shoulders, I am not passing the brick, Sir. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You cannot handle the Lodge School though). That's right, Sir. Even Lodge School was not a problem for the Opposition and members on my side had to spur me to talk about it. I will talk about Lodge School, then, Sir, after Dodds.

We played up to a very large extent the problems at Dodds. Dodds was being run as an educational institution. Those members who heard what I said in my speech this morning heard me say that one of the most important challenges for Education in the future in this

country is for the educators, the teachers, the people in there who run the system to adjust mentally to the new realities in the society in which we live. You cannot run the Government Industrial School like you ran it 50 years ago, you cannot run Combermere like you ran it 50 years ago, you cannot run St. Mary's Infant School like you ran it 50 years ago, because people's perceptions have changed, the society has changed, attitudes have changed and therefore the educators and the teachers must make the fundamental change in thinking and attitude to bring them in line with the demands of a modern society.

Now, Dodds went through that problem, Sir, where we did not make the type of assessment to meet the modern day offender. The juvenile who gets into problems in 1981 is not the juvenile who got into problems in 1949. When I look at the records of the boys who were put in the Government Industrial School thirty or forty years ago, they were sent up to the school for stealing a piece of cane, for carrying away a lime, for loitering, for walking through Belleville when black people had no right to walk through Belleville, they picked them up and put them in the School for five years. We are dealing with a different set of children nowadays, they have guns and they are using them. They are breaking into houses and shooting at people, they are using the knife on you. We are dealing with a different type of person and the administration of the Government Industrial School did not adjust to that new situation. I take the blame, Sir, but I also have to say in taking the blame that I am saying it with some reservation, because the Democratic Labour Party when it was in Government set up a Committee to enquire into the Government Industrial Schools, a real high powered Committee, Sir. I think the Chief Justice and all kinds of big shots were on this Committee and they put in a very important report to the then Government with very serious recommendations for the restructuring of the school and new management and a new programme, and the Government at the time never took it to the Cabinet, never laid it in Parliament, never acted on it and let the cobweb pile up on it.

What we took over was a situation that had been allowed to degenerate into one of almost total chaos because of the inactivity, the neglect, Pat Monnyham would call it deny neglect, but that was malicious neglect of the then Government to face up to the problems that were facing the Government Industrial Schools, but we have taken the challenge, Sir.

I set up a Committee headed by the hon. member for St. Philip North, and I want to place on record now, Sir, my appreciation to that Committee and the Chairman for the rather professional way in which they went about their duties and also record my gratitude for the quality of the report that they have handed to us. We in the Ministry of Education and in the Government have already started to implement many of the recommendations in that report. The absconders from Dodds have now dropped to a trickle, the type of tone of the school, discipline, have all been raised appreciably, a defined programme is being pursued, the ambience to the school is being improved. They have now rebuilt the kitchen, they have rebuilt the sleeping facilities and we are continuing to put money into the development of the school so the children can feel comfortable in the surroundings. I can relieve the fears of the hon. member for St. Philip North that we are not building a wall around Dodds, we have not got any money to waste.

3.10 p.m.

We still believe that most of those children are not beyond recall and that given the right environment, the right empathy, the right sympathy, the right feeling for the problems that the stresses of this society are imposing on them, broken homes, the pace of modernisation, new technological techniques that are destroying the traditional virtues and values in our society, high consumerism..... (A VOICE: Don Blackman!) You must not call Don Blackman's name; you might frighten the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. These things are taking their toll on the young people in the community, and therefore one cannot think that rehabilitation is putting up walls and putting guard dogs around the compound. We believe, Sir, that there is a better way to handle these problems and there has been a significant increase in the amount of discipline and the general standards at the Government industrial school in the last year. The hon. member for St. Michael South East has a little bit more knowledge of these things than they.

Now the Education Act of 1975. The hon. member for St. Lucy, Shadow Minister of Education and his partner in arms, the hon. member for St. Michael South West did not have anything to say on education in this debate on the Estimates. They are waiting for the Education Act. Let them wait for it; I am coming in here for them. The past administration passed the Education Act in 1975 and went out of power after laying it and proclaiming one section, the section dealing with scholarships and exhibitions. They did not have the nerve to get any of the rest of that Act proclaimed because if they had, it would have been the type of disruption in the school system in Barbados, the likes of which this country cannot contemplate, because what they do not understand is that you can carry a horse to the water, but you cannot make it drink. They cannot bully the teachers in this country. You cannot stand from on high and arrogantly and disdainfully pass legislation telling teachers what they are supposed to do without proper consultation and agreement with the Teachers' Unions. They had meetings with the Teachers' Unions but in each case they held meetings to tell the Teachers' Unions what they were going to do. Inflexibility! One thing about the hon. member for St. Michael South, he is not

an arrogant man but he can be very inflexible when it suits his mind, and he did not yield much. They almost destroyed the Lodge School with Glasgow. You see, I have inherited so many problems from those members on the other side. They almost destroyed it with one Earl Glasgow. You remember it, Sir. I do not want to go into the details now; I am saving something for the Act like them too. The then Prime Minister of Barbados, Premier or Prime Minister from 1961–76 was himself a member of the Governing Body of the Lodge School. He is still a member of the Governing Body of the Lodge School. In fact he has been a member of the Governing Body of the Lodge School for the last 23 years. Now when people tell me that things are going bad at the Lodge School, I see where the hon. member for St. John has been governing the Lodge School for 23 years right up to this very minute. That is the kind of problem that I have been inheriting from the members on the other side.

The Deputy Prime Minister raised the question of Lodge School and I will deal with the question of Lodge School. It does not take an awful lot to do. I had asked the Attorney General at least eight months ago to come up with a Bill to repeal the schemes of Government in the Lodge School, and the reason why I asked for it is because I wanted to dismiss the whole Governing Body at the Lodge School, lock, stock and barrel including the Speaker of the House of Assembly. That was my plan, Sir, but now I am calling for the passing of the Education Act, and when the Education Act is passed, I would then be moving for repeal of the schemes of Government and when that happens there will be some apocalyptic changes in this country. I am told as Minister of Education by the Lodge School that I am not to trespass on the Lodge School because it does not belong to me. That is what they tell me. (Mr. TAITT: And you stand for that?) I am not a hooligan. I believe that there are legal and proper ways of dealing with situations. It is not a question of standing for that. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central knows that I came up in Carrington Village and to come up in Carrington Village you have to know how to break for yourself. *(Asides)* I want to know if the hon. member can break for himself against Senator Blackman. Don't worry about me. When I have the Governing Body of the Lodge School come into my office – let me call them again because it makes good hearing and reading – the Lord Bishop of Barbados, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Rector of St. John, the Principal of Codrington College, when they come into my office and make out a case to me that I should close the boarding establishment at the Lodge School because it was causing difficulties in the school, it was undermining as they said, the authority of the Headteacher, and I felt it was my responsibility as Minister of Education to give every possible support to Headteachers in running their schools, and if the Headteacher who was also at the meeting and made an appeal to me to close the boarding establishment so that he could better manage the Lodge School and a number of my colleagues in the Cabinet felt that perhaps we should not shut the boarding establishment for very good reasons, since Barbados is becoming a regional centre for international corporation and regional organisations and so on and persons have to travel a lot and it is good to have a boarding school for their children to stay at when they go away, all these arguments which are good arguments were adduced, and I said then that I felt strongly that over-riding all this was the need for me as Minister to support headteachers in running their schools and if they felt that strongly about it, I should act, and I persuaded my colleagues to close the boarding establishment of the Lodge School and lo and behold the headteacher got at the next Speech Day and raked me over the coals and criticised me bitterly for closing the boarding establishment. Schizophrenia is a dangerous disease. That is the sort of thing that one has to go through.

When the Government of this country two years ago I think it was, or if you are dealing with a calendar year, three years ago, decided that all Government Schools and all schools supported by subventions by Government should write the Caribbean Examinations Council Examination and this was circulated to all the headteachers in the schools, and I summoned a meeting of all the headteachers and sat down in the Conference Room in my Ministry and discussed it with them and agreed with them that they will all take the examination and they should start entering their pupils for the examinations, and only in exceptional circumstances would they write the Cambridge Examination, and only after the Minister had agreed to each case every single Government School in Barbados except the Lodge School enters students for the Caribbean Examinations Council. And whenever you write and ask the Headmaster at Lodge School anything, if you write and say good morning, how are you, Sir, you get back a letter from Smith and Smith telling you he will sue you. You get one of the partners in Smith and Smith who says that he wants to represent people, walking down in St. Andrew talking a lot of foolishness, at a meeting of the governing body of the Lodge School – I do not know how he got in there because he is not a member, but he was in there they tell me – he told the Governors of the Lodge School that they did not have to listen to the Minister of Education.

3.20 p.m.

They told the Headmaster of the Lodge School that if the Ministry of Education should write him a letter about anything do not answer the letter and that if they telephone him put down the phone in their ears. That is one of their joke candidates, a bunch of clowns, Sir. That is who they want to represent the people in this country but, Mr. Chairman, the last is not told, Sir.

You have to keep something up your sleeves, Sir, and I am holding back some because the heavy weights from St. Lucy and St. Michael South West served some notice that they are coming hard and strong when they read the Bill. I would not like to say that there will be verbal bloodshed in here but I believe I will enjoy it, Sir. I believe so, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of amendments that have been circulated with respect to the various Heads in Education, 38 and 39. Before I move that these amendments be incorporated into the Head, just let me spend a few more minutes on some of those things that we have been hearing a lot about, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, do you know why I believe that the Education system in this country is failing and I thought that the Opposition would have got up and said something about it because when I hear the utmost dribble coming from the Opposition benches in the last two days, I had to understand that something was going wrong.

It is impossible for an Education system to be properly functional when hearing the type of dribble, I do not know, but the utter dribble emanating from the mouths of the hon. members on the Other Side. Over and over again, day after day I have not suffered such absolute boredom as I have in the last two days over the statements made by the members on the Other Side and that makes me feel that something has to be wrong with the educational system.

The only redeemable factor is, Sir, that they were all educated before I was Minister. If that had come from the boys in the Fifth Form at Foundation or the Fifth Form Girls at Alexandra or the Fifth Form at Coleridge and Parry, Princess Margaret School or Ellerslie making the kind of statements I heard them make in the last two days I would be ashamed, Sir, because they went to school when I was responsible for the system. God help them.

The World Bank, as I said, made the money available to this Government for the school building programme because they had the utmost confidence in the integrity of this Government. The same World Bank, Sir, refused to lend the money to the Democratic Labour Party Government because they had no confidence in them.

Well do I remember, Sir, the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John going up to Washington at an IBRD and IMF Meeting and wrongly and crudely abusing the President of the World Bank and his own Institutions when he was walking with a cap in his hand. You cannot go and ask a man for a little milk in your tot and at the same time curse him. It cannot work that way. Well you can do it but you always come back with the tot empty and that is precisely what happened to that Party over there, Sir.

We on this side do not beg anybody for anything. We have International Lending Institutions asking us to take their money. When we do not even raise the question, Sir, they come and ask us and say "Look, we have some money, do you wish to use it in Barbados?" That has never happened when the Democratic Labour Party was the Government of this country.

The World Food Programme since 1975 told the Democratic Labour Party Government that they would not give any further assistance to the School Meals Programme after August, 1977 not one cent more. Not one single kilogram of powdered milk or tea or whatever it is not since August, 1977 because they had no confidence in them, Sir, and I do not wish to sound as if I am any bigger than my Government but my Government, Sir, after we took over in 1976, sent me as an envoy to the World Food Programme in Rome and asked me to reopen the case and we sat down and discussed it and they gave us an extension from 1977 to 1981, millions of dollars of foodstuff for the School Meals Programme in Barbados and the Programme is due to end in August, 1981.

The hon. member for Christ Church East should know that my little experience at the Bar does not make me set myself in a trap. I would not have taken that line unless I could come with something positive. My colleague sent me again last year in October to Rome. We had had in writing from the World Food Programme, "sorry, we are not giving you any further extension or assistance to the School Meals Programme after 1981" and they not only did that but sent a man to Barbados to tell us that to our face and my colleagues said "go and talk to him."

We went back and put a case. We heard of how much starvation there was in the Sahara, how many millions of African children were suffering from berry berry and how there was the most brutal drought in the Sahara in this century and therefore they could not give anything to us. They had to give it to Africa but we had a good case.

We told them what we had managed from 1976 up to the present. What did they give us, better than any Government they had given assistance to and we produced the facts and figures to back it up and, Sir, we went further. We said we have established here a model School Feeding Programme that the World Food Programme can use for their own countries to follow. We were able to tell them that in this region alone the Government of Trinidad and Tobago sent people to be attached to our School Meals Programme to learn how to do it.

The Government of St. Kitts had send people to Barbados, attached to our School Meals Department, to understand the School Feeding Programme and therefore our system was a model as we made it and then the hon. member for St. Michael South could get up and tell us the usual thing about that is the Dems, this, that, and the other.

When I came into the Ministry of Education when this Government came into power, the Accounts of the School Meals Department were many years in arrears. They could not find the records. The World Feeding Programme was breathing down the necks of the then Government to come with proper accountability and they could not do it and things have been put in order since the ascension of this Party to Government.
3.30 p.m.

That is the sort of thing, Sir that makes it difficult for the Opposition to get up and criticise anyone on this Side.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of elucidation. The Honourable Member for St. George South asked me to get up and to make some point. I congratulate the Honourable Member on going to Rome, the eternal city and negotiating with the World Food Programme successfully. He is getting on and he may give the impression that that is the first time that it had happened. It happened before, on a number of occasions.

I myself went to Rome also. They had told us that it would be coming to an end and we went up and negotiated with them and at the end of it, we got an extension, so there is no point giving the impression that there was some master stroke, some master blaster Tull achieving all of this business and they have always been saying that the School Food Programme in Barbados was one of the best projects that they had in this particular area.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that what I was saying was stinging the Honourable Member, but what he just said is totally and absolutely untrue. It is a monstrous untruth. Nothing in the record shows that the World Food Programme had ever given them a final cut off point, at which they would give assistance to the School Meals Programme.

The very first full cut off point was in 1977. The Honourable Member should not get up in here and try to mislead people. The other thing he said is – let me deal with him before I forget, Sir. (ASIDES) There is nothing that I had ever seen, or heard either in the Ministry, or in dealing with the Directors of the World Food Programme to suggest that they had ever communicated to the Government of Barbados before 1976 that they had any model School Feeding Programme. Do not try to climb on to the band wagon. Further, the point that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East wants me to say, there is a new extension to be signed tomorrow morning in my office with the World Food Programme and for further extension of two years, tomorrow morning Sir, my signature only takes a couple of seconds.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East raised the question of bursaries for the approved secondary schools. Now, he is talking right up my alley. I could never understand Sir, how you could keep a system that allows children, who go into Government schools not to pay one cent for anything and children that go to approved schools have to pay and find all sorts of money. That is something that has been galling me before I went into the Ministry and while I am in the Ministry and there is a pervasive thinking in the Ministry that somehow if you get into a Government school you are a first class citizen and if you do not get into a Government school, you are a second class citizen and what you get when you go to Combermere, you must not get when you go to the Community High School. But, I do not subscribe to that.

I have just submitted to Cabinet a comprehensive paper to try to remove the anomaly which exists in those situations. I do not like it, Sir because quite often the children who go to the approved secondary schools are the children of the people, who can least afford to pay, but all the big shots who drive their big cars down to certain schools in Bridgetown every day get everything they want free. That does not accord with my basic philosophy, my philosophy in life and therefore I made some recommendations to my colleagues in Cabinet to be discussed some time soon for a removal of what I consider a natural inequity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a number of amendments that have been circulated to all Honourable Members two days ago Sir and I would like to move, at this stage, that Sir that Head 79 with the amendments as circulated do now stand part of this Bill, Sir.

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

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

HEAD 41 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE – $40 755 332

Head 41, Ministry of Health and National Insurance was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Health and National Insurance is indeed very

glad for any chance to debate any of the matters which fall within those two portfolios.

Time and again, we have come to this Estimates debate and found ourselves all geared and ready and the Opposition unwilling and unable to debate. Last year, we found ourselves just before the guillotine having to rush the debate. The Opposition is saying that they are ready for Health this year, I want the Opposition to know that I am ready for them.

It is very sad, Mr. Chairman, that the Opposition, this will be for the fifth occasion now has failed to do any homework at all. I have gone to the trouble, I have taken the care to read through the entire Estimates debate for 1979 and the entire Estimates debate for 1980 and the Opposition has said in 1979 and 1980 exactly what they have repeated in here already this week in 1981. In fact, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central almost makes his speech in exactly the same words. If you look back, I am going to quote from the debate of 1979. The debate started in the House of Assembly on Monday, 19th March and at page 2191 – You might as well yawn because that is what we have been having to do over here.

I am going to regurgitate all the bunk that you have been talking for three years back to you now and see how you like it. Page 2191, Dr. Haynes makes – that is in 1979. We are hearing the same thing that we have been hearing, that there has always been a National Health Service, in Barbados, that there is always shortage of drugs. Every year, they pick on a different drug to say that it is short. Every year, it is a different disease that is going to break out. In 1979, it was Yellow Fever, in 1981 now, it is Typhoid. I mean, Mr. Chairman, you would hope, if not for a certain amount of originality, you would hope, that people would continue here in 1981 which is a.....
3.40 p.m.

(Certain remarks were ordered by the Chairman to be expunged from the record.)

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in 1979, according to the debate, we heard that there was going to be an outbreak of yellow fever and that there was a shortage of yellow fever vaccine at the Health Centres, and that Barbados was going to come to the end of the world. I am hearing now in 1981, I am reading it in a certain newspaper, that there is an outbreak of typhoid and that people are coming down with it, and we hear about Case No. 2. I wish to state categorically now at the beginning of my contribution to these Estimates that there is not now, was not last week, last month or at any other time during the course of this Minister's stay in the Ministry of Health any outbreak of typhoid fever in this country. Anybody who wishes to argue with the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Pathologist is welcome to do it, but I make that statement without any reserve, and I think it is grossly irresponsible that people should try to terrorise the citizens of Barbados and the people who come to visit Barbados with any belief that there is an outbreak of typhoid. There is no such thing.

We hear a lot of rubbish in the newspapers about typhoid. The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that in the year 1971 there were five cases of typhoid in Barbados and nobody died. In 1975 there were four cases of typhoid and nobody died. In 1976 there were nine cases of typhoid and one person died. In 1977 there was one case of typhoid and nobody died. In 1979 there were four cases of typhoid and nobody died. All that this tells us, Mr. Chairman, is that during the course of any given year in Barbados there are a few cases of typhoid and that in most instances no one dies, and it is disgraceful that a leading newspaper in this country could have as its headline alleging which would be clear to the world that there is an outbreak of typhoid fever in this country. But like I said, that is how things go, in 1979 it was yellow fever.

They come in here year after year and make this same old foolish statement that there has always been a National Health Service in this country, and every year I am forced to deal with it, and I am going to deal with it again this year. You are going to get your coat torn up in here this evening.

Mr. Chairman, nobody denies that Barbadians have always laid high store by the quality of health care which is delivered in this island. This has always been the case and I will answer this as I have answered it before. This Barbados Labour Party articulated the first proper health care policy ever articulated by a Government in this country in the early 1950's. Certain priorities were set then and those priorities are still good now. The Barbados Labour Party has always laid high emphasis and high priority on primary health care, and we saw the beginning of those policies in the 1950's. We saw the Health Centres, in fact Barbadians are still attending the Health Centres because the Democratic Labour Party in 15 years could not see fit to upgrade furthermore to build another Health Centre, and Barbadians have been attending those Health Centres for well nigh now on 27, 28 years.

We saw then the beginning of the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, because the Government of the day recognised the need for an upgrading of tertiary health care. Those people came into Government early in the 1960's, finished building off the hospital, and they have done nothing for health care by way of any comprehensive policies since then. A lot of *ad hocism* has gone on in the area of health care. I do not know why I have to stand up and say this like a teacher every year, I do not know why their heads are so hard and they will

not learn. This Barbados Labour Party has to find itself coming back into Government in 1976 to pick up from where it left off in 1961, to again give a new thrust to primary health care.

I hear a lot of foolish talk in here year after year about how they had multipurpose clinics and we changed the name to polyclinic and all this nonsense, utter nonsense. The concept of the polyclinic is a far wider and far more comprehensive concept than the concept of multipurpose clinics. Believe me, Mr. Chairman, that I have looked carefully at the Manifestoes of the Democratic Labour Party and I have searched all the files. They never had any intention of easing the people of Barbados from the burden that primary health care has laid on them all these years. There was never any intention on the part of the Democratic Labour Party and general practitioners in private practice who have made fortunes, and according to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, primary care is only a slight thing. According to him it is no big thing, the drug service is only window dressing. That is what he said in here on Monday, or Tuesday, or whenever it was that he said it.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It is a breach of the rules of this Hon. House for any member to get up and deliberately make a statement to mislead this House. On Monday I analysed the various components of health care delivery and pointed out that primary care was only one component. This is being misinterpreted and consequently a gross misrepresentation is being made that I said it was only a side thing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will have a chance to reply to the Hon. Minister. You will have your time. Please continue.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The hon. member, Mr. Chairman, said that it was only a small area, it was nothing to make a big fuss about, and he even pointed out that the drug service was window dressing. If he wants to deny that he used the words "window dressing" attributed to the drug service, he can deny that, but the record will show that he used those words. I wrote them down. He can deny that. He made out that there was a National Health Service in this country and that everything was available to everybody. If primary health care was so freely available to the people of Barbados, I do not understand how people like the hon. member for St. Michael South Central could have made a fortune that he boasts about day in, day out. (Dr. HAYNES: I worked for it). Exactly. He works in private practice and I do not understand how he could have made a fortune out of private practice if the public sector was offering all of this high quality and easy access to health care that he talks about. He contradicts himself, as is his wont.
3.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, this business of the same speech has got to be laboured. I do not find it exciting or challenging or interesting to have to stand up here year after year in March and make the same reply. Hon. members on the other side seem to feel that they are like Joshua and his army and if they make the same statements long enough somehow it will come true. That is not going to happen. Life does not operate like that, and it is never going to be true that before 1976 in Barbados we had a National Health Service. The Barbados Labour Party Government has made it clear from the beginning that its topmost priority in the area of health has got to be a serious upgrading of primary health care, and that is what we are talking about most of the time when we are talking about a National Health Service. It is one area in Barbados where people are still seriously deprived, where there is gross inequality of access and where we feel the most important steps have got to be made. We cannot abide and continue to abide in a situation where we are waiting for people to become ill so that we can show our high expertise in the area of secondary and tertiary care. We believe that primary health care follows the old adage that prevention is better than cure. We also know of our own experience that prevention is cheaper than cure, and this is where our energies are being spent more than anywhere else. It does not mean that we are neglecting anywhere else. What I am saying in more simple language is that we are re-emphasising the importance of primary health care in the scheme of things to do with health.

Now an important part of this is the Drug Service and I want to talk about this first, Mr. Chairman. The newspaper yesterday. I think it was, carried a headline to do with the Drug Plan. The Opposition is now deflated, Mr. Chairman, because the school children have gone out and they have nobody to show off to, so you will soon see them sneaking out of here one by one. That is the story of that side. Now they have to listen to what I am saying.

The Drug Service, Mr. Chairman, is very important. The newspaper, I see, quite improperly continues to refer to it as the Drug plan. Mr. Chairman, we are no longer in the stage of a drug plan. The drug plan has long ago become a service; it is a service which we are already offering to the public, and as time goes on, this service will be expanded. In September, it will be remembered, that I came to this Honourable Chamber with the Drug Service Bill and from that time and particularly from the month of December, 1980, the people of this country, whether the Opposition is willing to accept it or not, have been seeing a drastic reduction in the overall prices of drugs. The Druggists themselves or the Pharmacists will tell you, those who are honest enough, that there is a reduction in the order of between 30% and 40% in the price of most drugs in this country and all Barbadians are enjoying this.

What the Hon. Prime Minister spoke about on Monday in his introduction and what I want perhaps to articulate a little more clearly today for the benefit of this Honourable House and I hope for the benefit of the Press who have ears to hear, is that what we are intending to introduce on 15th April is the Special Benefits Service. Those who have copies of the Estimates for 1979 will see very clearly outlined there what we had planned for the Special Benefits Service. It has now become a reality. The Special Benefits Service, Mr. Chairman, is really designed to give special health to special groups of people who are particularly disadvantaged or who are particularly deprived. These groups are free. The first group would be the over sixty-fives who are in fixed incomes to a large extent, a number of whom are old age pensioners and pensioners of other kinds, and in this age group illness is perhaps more frequent than it is with other age groups, and so the Special Benefits Service which is only a part of the Drug Service – the Special Benefits Service is never to be seen as the entire Drug Service, which is only part of the Drug Service – is meant to bring free drugs to all people over 65, and I want this to be very very clear. Everybody in Barbados, every Barbadian and you will have to identify yourself with an I.D. card, anybody who is resident and living in Barbados and is over 65 years of age is entitled to have drugs free of cost so long as they take their prescription to a Government pharmacist.

Now Mr. Chairman, there was a time when if you made a statement like that, it would be a joke, because there were so few Government pharmacists, but every polyclinic which is already built and the polyclinics which are currently coming up out of the ground at Warrens and Wildey are hoped to be completed and operational in June and Oistins in September; Ladymeade and the Glebe, I know you will be glad to hear, Mr. Chairman, are going to start constructing later on in this calendar year, 1981.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You mean the Glebe in St. George?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Glebe in St. George, Mr. Chairman and Ladymeade which is really going to be the rebuilding of Enmore....Enmore which is bursting at the seams is going to be rebuilt as a substantial three-storey building on the other side of Lower Collymore Rock on lands which the Government already owns at Ladymeade Gardens. These latter two will not reach completion before 1982 but construction will shortly start in 1981. The only thing to stop construction starting in 1981 is if we simply cannot get a firm of contractors with workmen sufficient to start the work. It is not an easy thing, as we know. There is a shortage of labour in the construction industry and the Ministry of Health has many capital projects underway at the moment, and we are really eating up a lot of that labour and perhaps to some extent we are partly responsible for the serious shortage of labour, because we have the sewage project going, we have just completed the Sanitation Service Authority Building which I should be opening at this very minute, but have had to ask the hon. member for St. Michael South East to do for me, we have three polyclinics coming up out of the ground at roof level now, in Oistin, at Warrens and at Wildey. But if I may go back to the over 65s, Mr. Chairman, as I was saying there was a time when if you took your prescription to a government pharmacy to get it filled free of cost it would have been a laughing joke because there were so few pharmacies and it would be really a case of giving with one hand and sneaking it back with the other.

I am proud and pleased to be able to say in 1981 that is not a fact any longer and the truth is that there are many Government pharmacies now open and available to the public not only in the St. Michael and Bridgetown areas, but in the rural and suburban areas of Barbados. So that is the position with the over sixty-fives with the special service. Once you are over 65 and identify that with your I.D. card or old age pension card, you can get your drugs free of cost if you take your prescription to a Government pharmacy. If for some reason you do not wish to take your prescriptions to a government pharmacy and you take it to a private pharmacy in that case you are going to be asked to pay $5 for each item on that prescription, because there is going to be some administrative costs involved in having the private pharmacies process these prescriptions for us.
4.00 p.m.

The other group that would specially wish to benefit from the special benefit service, Mr. Chairman, Sir, are those children who are six years old and under. This is an important view. Already immunisations are available free of cost for many many years to the children of this country and quite outside the immunisations there are all sorts of childhood ailments and the diseases which afflict children at one time or another during these five years and it is very important, Mr. Chairman, those first six years.

After they become sick they are already in the School Health Care System and it is that gap between three and six years old in particular that we need to close because mostly up to two and a half years and three years they are still attending the Health Clinics on a fairly regular basis and then you lose them again until you find them in the Primary Schools and it is in that gap that a lot of children slip up.

It is too in that age group where a lot of parents find themselves in a situation where constant medical

expenses can weigh heavily on the family budget and so once the child is six years old or under we are saying that if you take your prescription, and the prescription must be a prescription from a government institution or a government doctor and you take it to a government pharmacist, it will be free of charge. That is what we are saying at this stage.

At a later stage and not too much later I am hoping that we will be able to go a step further and take whatsoever few limitations there are off that. All the children who are seen by a private doctor we are saying would pay 50% for their formulary drugs either at a private or government pharmacist.

The third group that we particularly want to benefit are those people who suffer certain chronic illnesses. Now there are certain chronic illnesses which affect unhappily black people more than any other people and which show a high incidence in Barbados, hypertension which is commonly known to Barbadians as high blood pressure; diabetes, again this is commonly known to Barbadians as sugar, and cancer, Mr. Chairman. There is a rising incidence of cancer.

It also happens, Mr. Chairman, that the drugs which are used in the treatment of those three areas are very expensive and it is for this reason that we particularly want to give an extra special benefit to the sufferers of hypertension, diabetes and cancer.

What we are saying is that once you are seen by a government doctor at a government institution you are going to get your drugs free. If you go to a private doctor we will again, as with the under 6's, pay 50% of your bills. I hope that hon. members have that quite clear. If you are over 65 and you take your prescription to a public pharmacy you pay nothing for the drugs. If you choose however to take it to a private pharmacy for whatever reasons we are saying that you will only pay $5 for each item on that prescription because some prescriptions – and what we in Barbados call a prescription is the piece of paper which the Doctor gives you, that is what Barbadians understand by a prescription – some prescriptions may have three or four items on them. We are saying that you have to pay $5 for each item on the prescription if you take your prescription to a Private Pharmacy.

For the under 6's and I will repeat it again, we are saying that if you are in a government institution or seen by a Government doctor in a polyclinic or wherever, you can take your prescription to a government pharmacy and for children under six years old you will have that filled free of cost. If however you take it to a private pharmacy the Government will pay 50% of the bill with chronics and we are talking hypertensions, diabetes and cancer patients.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that before the year is out we will be able to add other areas of chronic illnesses to that group. I hope that we will be able to put in the asthmatics and the people who suffer from arthritis and other chronic illness which I hope the doctors will recommend to the Ministry of Health.

We have not arrived at this formulary by ourselves. We have taken as much advice as it was possible to take. Some people feel that when you ask for advice that you are bound to take what you are given. We have taken advice from many many sources and we have tried and hoped to devise what is best for the majority of Barbadians in the last analysis so that the chronics are in the same situation. If they go to a government clinic and see a government doctor or a doctor paid in a government clinic and they have a prescription which is filled at one of the government pharmacies or dispensaries there will be no charge but if they take it to a private pharmacy the Government will undertake to pay 50% of the cost of that particular prescription.

Now, Mr. Chairman, that is in a nutshell the special Benefit Service. I am hoping that in the not too distant future I will be able in even greater detail to make it quite clear to Barbadians everything that is entailed. We are presently preparing for a date well before the 15th of April all the information brochures and so on so that the people who need to know, the people over the 65 age group, the chronically ill and the parents of children under six years, where the government dispensaries and pharmacies are in Barbados and exactly what they can do to qualify.

Old aged pensioners can produce their cards. People generally can produce their I.D. Cards. The chronically ill can produce their I.D. Cards. For children under six we are perhaps thinking that the card which every child in Barbados gets at birth which is the Growth Chart can perhaps be the means of identification of children under six who would be entitled to this special benefit so that, in a kind of a nutshell, is what the special Benefit Service is all about.

I want to be re-emphasised, Mr. Chairman, that the Special Benefit Service is not the entire Drug Service because at the very beginning we have to remember that there is a significant decrease in the cost of drugs and all Barbadians are to enjoy that reduction in the cost of drugs. Nowhere else in the Caribbean do drugs cost as little as they do in Barbados.

There may be a legitimate complaint that drugs which are not on the Barbados Drug Formulary and I have a copy of the Second Edition of that Formulary with me – You remember last year, Mr. Chairman, the First Edition was a huge document. Well people in the Medical and Pharmaceutical Section have requested that we try to oblige with a pocket size Second Edition. Drugs

which are not in that National Formulary and those which are to be purchased by brand name rather than by generic name, patent drugs, may be enjoying a certain increase in cost.
4.10 p.m.

I would say without any shame Mr. Chairman that I do not particularly care about that. There are a lot of patent drugs, which people can buy across the counter without a prescription in Barbados which Barbadians can do without. They are busy eating and drinking a lot of patent drugs products which do absolutely nothing for them neither for the health, the body, nor the mind. But people will do these things. In 1981, people will go to the obeah man and the obeah woman and get prescriptions filled there, so I suppose if they go to the drug store and they buy patent medicine and they believe that it is doing something good for them, that there is no way that I am going to stop that. I certainly am not going to ban the importation of patent drugs in this country. But, I do not care about them because they do little, or nothing for the health of people and most honest doctors will tell you that.

The fact that non formulary drugs may cost more is not of import to me either, Mr. Chairman, because again, I have not banned the importation and I have to say, "not" for the benefit of the press, they tend to say that you say, "yes" when you say, "no". There is no ban on the importation of non Formulary drugs and there is never going to be one. People can import into Barbados whatever drugs they wish and they can buy it at whatever price they wish to, but the special reduction in the overall cost of drugs is only attracted by drugs in the National Formulary. The National Formulary is a Formulary, which has been put together by a number of doctors and pharmacists in this country and any ailment to which Barbadians may find themselves subject there is a drug, or more than one drug because there is a great deal of choice in the National Formulary. Some people may not want to believe that, but that is so. Mr. Chairman, I am entering into your special area, I believe and you will know exactly what I am talking about. There is great latitude in the Formulary, the Formulary is not a closed document, so I am not interested in hearing from people what should be in the Formulary because there is a special Formulary Committee, whose function is to examine those kinds of claims and you do not have to be a doctor, or a pharmacist to put in that sort of claim to the Formulary Committee either. A member of the public may address the Formulary Committee. If people feel that a particular drug which is not in the Formulary ought to be put into it, they can make that submission to the Committee. If they feel that there are drugs which are here which should no longer be here, they can make that submission to the Committee and the Committee will consider it and arrive at a conclusion. I leave that to the professional people, Mr. Chairman.

Now, if I could just for a little while move off.....

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: If the Honourable Member would give way. I see that this is a convenient point, the time being 4.15 p.m. Sir, it is usually customary that we have a report and ask for leave to sit again at this particular time, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked for leave to sit again.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 4.30 p.m., Sir.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Suspension was taken, the Honourable House was in Committee, to that it now reverts.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the debate on Health Mr. Chairman has been going from before 4.00 o'clock, we have had a break and so on and it is now just after 4.30 p.m. and it is sad that I have to remark on the absence of the Shadow Minister of Health. I do not understand what is going on Mr. Chairman. The Shadow Minister of Health is not here to even bother to listen to the debate on Health? (ASIDES: He is sitting in there). Do not try that bogus nonsense on me, you could try that with your children not with me. Mr. Chairman, you see, it is very hard for me to deal with these matters. It is very hard, very difficult. I have no opposition, no challenge. They are not interested, they do not want to know. They come in with some bogus figures every year.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the fact is, ...the Backbench is asking for the fact .....the fact is as I have said before, that there is between a 30% and 40% reduction in the cost of drugs, in this country over the past four months.

Now, over the past said four months, we have been hearing from the Democratic Labour Party Opposition in this country all the things that they are planning not to do and to destroy. We hear, that they are going to destroy, tear down the Central Bank. Yes, that is what the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John said, that he is going to rip it down. We hear, that they are threatening to put people out of this country and the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John said that they are too many foreigners in Barbados. All that they are promising to do is to destroy and not to do. That is going to be the essence of their Manifesto. That is the essence of what they have promised the people in 1981, all of the things that they are not going to do, or all of the things that they are going to undo.

I challenge the Democratic Labour Party, I want to challenge them to put in their Manifesto that they will reintroduce this 40% on the cost of drugs. I want to see if they are going to have the courage to put that in their Manifesto that they will dismantle the Barbados Drug Service. I hope that they will have the courage and the conviction to do that. I dare you to put that in your Manifesto. I want to see, in the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto for 1981 that the cost of drugs is to go up because I hear that the Defence Force is to be disbanded and I hear that the Central Bank is to get tom down. So, I challenge you now to put in your Manifesto that you will reintroduce this expense into Barbados just like you have been challenging to put in your Manifesto of 1981 that you are going to reintroduce the Sales Tax. We want to see all of that. We cannot get anything positive, Mr. Chairman, we cannot get anything constructive from the Opposition, no matter how hard we try. You have to beg in here to debate matters.

Now, I do not intend, Mr. Chairman, because I have the debate for 1979 and 1980 in front of me to go over all of that ground again.

Finally, by way of introduction of Head 41, I just want to make a few more general comments and then, we will be open to whatever comments people might wish to make on these Estimates. I do not know what I can add to the Head General Administration that has not already appeared in the Explanatory Notes, which are really quite full and in the area of Grants and Subventions, there is not a great deal to add. Some Grants and some Subventions have in fact been increased for this coming Financial Year.

In the area of the Emergency Ambulance Service Subhead Four, suffice it to say, Mr. Chairman, that the Cabinet has taken the decision that Emergency Ambulance Service – I want to get this straight again because people will make mistakes and misquote me, there is more than one ambulance service in this country, I am talking about the Emergency Ambulance Service. It is to be transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Fire Service. Now, this is a concept, Mr. Chairman, which has met with a certain amount of opposition on both Sides of this Honourable House.

There is a body of opinion, which thinks that the place for an emergency ambulance Service is the Health Service and there is a body of opinion which thinks that the Emergency Ambulance Service is an emergency service like any other emergency service and ought to find itself administered by a general emergency service. In many countries, of the world, both developed and developing, Mr. Chairman, Emergency Ambulance Services now find themselves housed together with Fire and other paramedical services which are disciplined services and which have physical operations with a great deal in common. There is a radio system, there is a special call up system.

The Cabinet of this Administration has finally made the decision which has been put off for many years, Mr. Chairman, I believe, by the previous Administration that in fact, the Barbados Emergency Ambulance Service will go into the Fire Service and be administered by it.

4.40 p.m.

It does not mean that ambulances will operate out of the Fire Station, let me make that clear. Ambulances will continue to move to and from the hospital as they now do, but the service itself will be administered and run by the Fire Service. I think that you will see in another part of the Estimates that we are in the process of upgrading the emergency ambulance service. We are hoping to get more new ambulances in this financial year, Mr. Chairman, and the Ministry of Health has devised a new training course for the emergency ambulance workers. We feel that there are certain areas where there have been deficiencies and we are seeking to upgrade that.

In my view, Mr. Chairman, any emergency ambulance service ought to have its personnel properly trained in certain basics such as resuscitation, which I came and did not find; birthing of babies, which I came and did not find; certain other life saving techniques, which I came and did not find. All of these matters are now being introduced into the training of emergency ambulance workers, and in fact the first batch of them have already gone through this basic course.

As time goes on I sincerely hope that the training of emergency ambulance service will be upgraded until we have a really super bunch of personnel who might, I hope, approximate to the kind of para-medics that we see in other countries who have perfected this kind of service. So the emergency ambulance service is not only having an upgrading of physical equipment, it is going to get a new VHF system also and new ambulances,

but it is also having a serious measure of upgrading of the quality of its training. In fact, we are hoping to prepare a course, which need not be an on-going course, but a course which is available from time to time at the Community College for the people who will man the emergency ambulance service.

Under Subhead 5 – Community Health Services, Mr. Chairman, very generally speaking we are seeing an upgrading in the dental service, and particularly in the school dental service. Perhaps I need to repeat at this point, Mr. Chairman, that every polyclinic will have a dental clinic within it. Some clinics will have two chairs, some three, and I believe that perhaps the rebuilt Enmore will have as many as half a dozen chairs in it, and the school dental service is offered to the school children of this country through the vehicle of the dental clinics which are to be found within the Health Centres and the polyclinics, and so we are very soon going to have spread across the country dental clinics to which school children and other special groupings, such as expectant mothers and old age pensioners, will have easier access than they now do. You know, we have lived with a situation in this country where for many years, like the service which the pharmacists offered, the services which dentists offered were mostly to be found in and around Bridgetown, but we are seeing, happily, a certain decentralisation of these health services and para-health services, and in the Barbados Labour Party we think that this is to the good.

Not only in the area of health, we feel that in the social services, generally speaking, that decentralisation must be the order of the day. We feel that the monolithic centralisation process which the former administration undertook in 1969 when they dismantled Local Government, was perhaps done a little too discriminately, because there are certain areas particularly to be found within the social services which do not bear total centralisation, they cannot. There are certain services which must be delivered in the community at the community level, and health in particular is one of those.

The nutrition service continues to do a special work, good work. The hon. member for St. Michael South West, who is supposed to be the shadow Minister of Health, but who may be shadowing somewhere else and cannot be found in his seat today, said at an earlier point in this debate that there was a lot of marasmus in this country. Well, Mr. Chairman, marasmus which is described in the Shorter Oxford Dictionary as a wasting of the body has been so rare in this country that there is a generation which has never heard the word. It is passing ridiculous – I have to attend to it because the Press pick up these non-points – but it is past ridiculous that a responsible member of Parliament should get up in 1981 and try to pretend that there is widespread marasmus in Barbados. There is a generation in Barbados which has never heard the word and would not be able to recognise it if they saw it, because it has not existed in Barbados for many, many years now, well nigh into generations that marasmus does not exist. I can only refer hon. members again this year, as I did last year and the year before in this said debate, to the Chief Medical Officer's Report and other documents which show very clearly what the incidence of malnutrition is in this country, but it is really almost as irresponsible or perhaps even more irresponsible coming from the mouth of a member of Parliament to say that there is widespread marasmus in this country, as it is for a certain section of the Press to suggest that there is a typhoid outbreak in this country.

If I can just for a moment come back to this matter of typhoid, I have been holding my tongue and I am going to hold it a little longer, and I hope that nobody provokes me to call any names, but there is a certain general practitioner in this country who it is believed – I am being very careful in my language, Mr. Chairman, – who it is believed misinterpreted the results of the analysis of certain tests which were made and come to a quite improper conclusion that he or she might have been dealing with a suspected case of typhoid, and that was how this whole ridiculous rumour started.

You cannot always be wrong and strong at the same time, Mr. Chairman, and when the Ministry of Health issues a statement that there is no outbreak of typhoid in this country, that people need not be terrified, they need not rush to the Health Centres to be innoculated, it is really just a bit too much when the said newspaper will come back again today and declare that there is a second case. Of necessity I have to say again to the people of this country that there is not now any case of typhoid in Barbados and has not been either before or since the report was first seen in the Press. If that general practitioner wishes to go on feeding information to the Press, either directly or indirectly, I will then be forced to take further steps in the Ministry, and I will name him. I will not only name him, I will deal with him, because Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health takes these things very seriously. Typhoid is a communicable and a notifiable disease, and in many cases when queries are sent to the Ministry of Health's institutions to be certified or to be verified, the Ministry of Health knows the result of the case even before the practitioner who has sent this information or this specimen up.

4.50 p.m.

All those cases must be notified and it is very serious and a highly irresponsible thing for people to persist in these rumours and try to make out that the Ministry of Health is lying. I can read in the Press that we reportedly said that the Psychiatric Hospital cases of

typhoid fever do not exist. I would invite the newspaper to give me the information. This is a notifiable disease, and the newspaper is under a public duty to notify the Ministry of Health or the Chief Medical Officer of Health of these so-called cases of typhoid fever, and any general practitioner who is harbouring the view that he is in fact dealing with a case of typhoid fever is under a duty to report this to the Ministry of Health.

Now Subhead (7) Mr. Chairman, is a new Subhead and I want to talk about it a little bit, and it is called "Children's Development Centre". Mr. Chairman, 1981 is the year designated by the United Nations during which we are asked to pay extra special attention to the disabled in our community, and just a few weeks ago I was able to do this. During the National Year of the Disabled we opened this Children's Development Centre just off Jemmotts Lane in Ladymeade Gardens which is a centre where physically and mentally handicapped or disabled children might be sent for what we hope will be the earliest possible diagnosis. There has been such a stigma over the years in countries like ours attached to the physically and mentally handicapped in particular that when a mother gives birth to a child who was afflicted in some way, tended to be a cause for shame, and in some quarters and notably this is still so, some parents still feel it is something to hide, and it is largely because of that kind of thinking that a whole lot of cases are not properly diagnosed and discovered until they are well advanced and in some instances until it is too late to do anything to significantly help the patients. Mercifully some of that Victorian thinking is disappearing in developing countries, and I like to think that Barbados is one of them. We are better educated about these things nowadays, but it is part of the function of the Year of the Disabled to attack the kind of stigma which still attaches, and Mr. Chairman because of this we feel that most Barbadian parents now properly understand that or are beginning to understand that early diagnosis is more often than not the key to the possibility of partial cure or sometimes almost total correction of some of the situations into which disabled children find themselves born, and so this is a special centre where children are kept for a period of time, where their behaviour is monitored, where their potential can be assessed and where treatment regimes can be set up for them, where their parents and guardians can go and stay with them and get to understand how they must deal with these very special children who have these special ailments. We are very proud of this new Children's Development Centre. It is a very humble beginning. There was a time when we did not think we could make a start because we could not find the building, and we have started in what is really a chattel house because that is what we can afford for the time being, and as the programme swells, we are hoping that we will be able to find a more substantial home and larger premises for this centre. In fact what I am hoping, Mr. Chairman, is that the entire area known as Ladymeade will within the next two years become entirely a medical complex because it is where the new Ladymeade Polyclinic is going to be, it is where the University of the West Indies General Practice Teaching Unit now is although as soon as the Polyclinic is completed I have promised to give that entirely over to the University Teaching programme. You see, Mr. Chairman, the University wants very much to get in on the ground floor of the implementation of the Barbados National Health Service, and they are very supportive of the thrust and the emphasis that we are putting on primary health care.

As a result of the Resolution which I tabled at the very first Ministers of Health Conference I attended in St. Kitts in 1977....(Mr. TAITT: Every year you say the same thing.) Do you want to deny me that, man? Yes, every year I said it and I am going to say it again that in 1977 I went to St. Kitts and told the Health Ministers there that the University must understand that it is owned by the Governments and that it is there to carry out the programmes of the Government, and that the Government of Barbados was planning a National Health Service and that emphasis was going to be on primary care which is to be delivered by general practitioners, and that it is time we had a speciality of general practice, and within two years, which is more than can be said for any other programme of the University of the West Indies in all its history, we have found. *(Asides)* I am replying to the same speech. What do you expect? We have found that the University has got its programme off the ground. Naturally it is a matter of great pride for me and I claim it.

The Government is proud that it has chosen Barbados as the campus at which it would launch and has indeed launched a few months ago its special general practice teaching programme, and as I said, when the Wildey Polyclinic is completed, either in late May or early June dependent on how the labour shortages go or do not go, it is going to move out of its temporary premises at Ladymeade into the Wildey Polyclinic, and it is going to service that Wildey area, and this is going to be an on-going programme. The University teaching unit will continue, I hope, to monitor the national health service as it grows from strength to strength.

Now the other sub-head (8) – Queen Elizabeth Hospital, is as we know a well-known whipping horse in here. I will say what I have said already, that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is a good hospital, it is well staffed and I am not in the business of running it down. I do not know of any hospital in this region, and I am not only talking now about the Caribbean, I am talking about the wider Caribbean which includes Latin America, which is better than our hospital and we have a right to be proud of it. As I have said already, there are areas still from time to time which give great cause for concern.

Now that we have a drug service on the way, and I say this without reserve, we are now seeking to break up the drug racket which has existed in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Mr. Chairman, for years and years. I may as well say it in here now, because if anything happens to me you will all know. They are threatening me, they are threatening the Director of the drug service and they are threatening other people who work in the drug service office, so if one of us floats up in the ocean or disappears, the whole of Barbados and this Honourable House will know where to look. And do not let me hear any 'steupse' from over there, because in his time the hon. member for St. Michael North Central was greatly distressed at the fact that he could not get to the root of the racketeering that goes on in the drugs. $3 million in drugs we have been spending at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital every year. It is ridiculous that in a hospital which has a vote of $80 million some $3 million is spent on drugs. There are a lot of other things that happen in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that we are not happy about.

5.00 p.m.

The rate at which the linen disappears. It is very hard when complaints will come to me that you cannot find pillow-cases to put on pillows for patients and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central will tell you they cannot find pyjamas to put on the other patients.

It is very disturbing to me when I look and other members can look and see the amount of money that is voted every single year, not only at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but also at the other Hospitals, the Psychiatric and Geriatric Hospitals, for linen and other items. You expect, Mr. Chairman, that over a period of years there would be a build up and that after a while they would be demanding on a yearly basis less and less linen. Well, it does not work like that in Barbados. Not in the Ministry of Health Institutions that I know. Every year they go on asking for more and more linen and every year more and more linen disappears.

I know that some of it rots but that amount cannot rot every year, Mr. Chairman, where we reach a situation where you cannot keep enough in stock and this is another area which has to be looked into at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I am not fooling anybody. In this year of 1981 pilfering is what is going to be attacked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

We have the same problem in the dietary area where food disappears. Some of it disappears before it gets to the Hospital. That was very bad at one time and we thought that we had destroyed the system but naturally, of course, new systems are very often destroyed like this one and this problem is not only to be found in the Ministry of Health. We hear of this problem in almost every Department of Government. There is somehow this feeling that once it belongs to the Government you can rip it off or rip it up or throw it away, that this is not our money but the fact is that these are bought with the taxpayers money, money paid by all of us for all of those things so when you destroy these things or misuse Government property or when you steal from the Government property you are in fact stealing from yourself and that is the kind of thing which you have.

This type of attitude is not peculiar to Barbados. I know that it exists in almost every country of the World. It does not matter whether it is a developed country, but it is this attitude that you are getting away with something if you are ripping it off, and, as I said, it exists in almost every Government Department.

We just saw an example of this at the Grantley Adams International Airport. They ripped off the Public Address System at the new Airport, an organised ring at the Airport. Can you imagine that, Mr. Chairman. That is what goes on and this is an area of great concern and it is going to be attacked with great viciousness, this year at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and all other hospitals and I am serving a warning about this. I do not wish at this point to say much more.

Speaking generally they have just instituted a new system which it is hoped will ease the congestion which is to be found in the Casualty. I am told that it is working quite well and that the public is observing the guidelines laid down by the Hospital Management and that life is in fact a little easier not only for the staff at the Hospital but for the patients who go there. Naturally, of course, we will have patients who will get the number one priority in any Institution of that sort.

Under subhead 9, Psychiatric Hospital, Mr. Chairman, I want in particular to report that as a result of a special enquiry – there was a wild-cat strike at the Psychiatric Hospital some months ago and I set up an in-house meeting and certain recommendations were made, some good recommendations and a lot of them are going to be implemented and the implementation is to be found in this year's Estimates. A lot of what we see in the Explanatory Notes and much of what we see in the Explanatory Notes will show a very marked upgrading of the services at the Psychiatric Hospital and in particular the kitchen and dietary services.

We have had additional staff. We now have a Security Guard Service at that Hospital. I think every year I have to remind people that this is the largest Institution that the Government of Barbados owns and it is in fact the largest Institution in Barbados. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has 500 beds and the Psychiatric Hospital is a Hospital with well over 600 beds. People do not seem to

recognise that because the Queen Elizabeth Hospital gets all the glory and the glamour.

The Psychiatric Hospital, I am pleased to report, is finding itself looking more and more like a Geriatric Hospital and we feel in the Ministry of Health that that is not necessarily a bad thing. The fact is that a lot of the young mental psychiatric cases are being treated from their own homes and are being treated more outside than as long termed in-patients in the old fashioned style and this is working very well to the extent where we are seeing now, when we look at the Register of those persons who are in the Hospital on a long termed basis, that it is mostly the geriatrics who have been in the Hospital for almost all of their lives which account for the overwhelming number of patients at that Hospital.

More and more I hope, Mr. Chairman, that even before the end of this century we would have arrived at a situation where the Psychiatric Hospital will be not so much a Hospital as a complex because of the physical improvement which is there and as I try to remind people. I would like to think, Mr. Chairman, that we are going to have a whole complex of institutions and services at that location in Black Rock which have to do with a wide spectrum of mental and primary care illnesses. I would like to see the Sheltered Workshop upgraded into a far more vibrant unit than it now is. It does marvellous work and I have nothing but praise for what that shop does.

5.10 p.m.

I have had cause, in my private capacity to utilise it from time to time and I have been nothing but pleased with the work which they have done and I think that it needs to be upgraded and put on a more commercial basis. There is a good print shop, a tailor shop, a plant nursery and I would like to see some of those buildings refurbished Mr. Chairman, and these services take on a greater interest in the community. I would like to see Barbadians going to the plant nursery at the Psychiatric Hospital and I hope that we would not be calling it that by the year 2000 – I would like to see people going there just like they go to any other plant nursery. I would like to see people having recourse to the print shop which is a very great print shop at that hospital, just as they would have recourse to any other print shop in Barbados.

With the Black Rock polyclinic on those premises dealing to a large extent with the outpatients programme those younger patients, I hope that the whole forum the whole complexion, the whole attitude at the Mental Hospital is going to be changed within our life time and I think that we are seeing the beginning of that in the 1980's.

In respect of the geriatric hospitals very generally speaking, except to say that this is an example of – I am sure that the Honourable Minister who is responsible for Energy will be happy to hear that this is an area where we are seeking to conserve and the notes will show, that at this hospital and at the Psychiatric Hospital, we are continuing on a phase basis to go solar. A lot of hot water is used at hospitals for bathing, laundering and other purposes and we are very slowly going solar at these institutions and I think the geriatric is one of the first which will be entirely solarised.

Generally speaking, Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not a great deal more that I want to say about the Sanitation Service that is not now being said at the opening of the new complex at Wildey. In respect of the bigger projects, there has been a lot of publicity in the very recent past, which has been responsible publicity. Naturally, it has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and I think that the public is as much informed as it can be, in respect of those special capital projects. Generally speaking, Mr. Chairman, I really do not think that there is a great deal I can add to what I have said not only today, but in past debates and I would like to move, at this stage, that Head 41 stands part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the things which my mother said to me when I was very young Sir, she was a decent woman and she said I ought to treat ladies in a particular way, Sir. I endeavour to treat the lady Minister along the lines which my mother recommended and the lady Minister insists constantly in provoking me to deviate from that path. I have no intentions of allowing her to do that.

But, unfortunately, she happens to be the Honourable Minister of Health and I wish to get off by saying that I am disappointed that all she could say about her staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is that they are a bunch of let me get the words right, they are involved in a drug racket and they steal the linen...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I was careful not to say that the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was responsible for any pilferage of linen or drugs. I was careful not to say that and let the record show it. Do not put words into my mouth. If you want to say that the staff at the hospital are stealing, you can say it, but do not put words into my mouth. (ASIDE).

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, she observed that there is a three million dollar drug racket at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That is what the lady said. I ask you,

if the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have custody of the drugs and there is a three million dollar drug racket at the hospital, could it be Sir, that Honourable Members of this Honourable House, or people working in the Port, or people working in the Sugar Industry is whom she means? It would have to be some complicity, or involvement of the people responsible for it. Do you mean that this three million dollar drug racket is being worked outside of the pale and the authority and the capacity of the staff?

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. Chairman.)

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, she said that the linen is being pilfered on a continually increasing scale, could she not therefore, in fact she could only mean that it is being stolen by the staff of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is putting words in the mouth of the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Member, please. The Honourable Minister did not say that the staff is involved. If the Honourable Member knows that and he wants to tell it to the Honourable House, he can do so, but you cannot approach it that way.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am using the concept of reasonable inference. If the lady says that the linen is being pilfered from the hospital, it stands to reason; she said that she is giving figures of the budget and she said how much is being used for drugs, she said how much is being appropriated for linen which is disappearing because the linen is not all rotting away. It stands to reason that she accused somebody in Barbados of stealing. It stands further to reason Mr. Chairman, that if somebody is stealing from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that she is indicting the people in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital connected with linen.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I was careful not to say where it was being stolen from. He is now telling me that it was actually stolen at the point at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I never said that because I do not know that.

Mr. TAITT: Let her decide what I am telling her. If she is not able to use the English Language in such a way, as to leave herself outside of the pale of the accusation that she has accused her own staff of stealing, that is her problem. Your staff will deal with you, on that matter. But it is that attitude, Mr. Chairman, which accounts for the lost of morale found in any institution of that size anywhere in Barbados, if not in the Eastern Caribbean, or indeed, the wider Caribbean.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital – I start with that – is suffering the results of a wrong headed policy implemented by a Government, that having stuck its neck out on a particular method of gaining the upper hand in the political arena has found itself having to withdraw, backpeddle and desist from its own policies which it announced at the very beginning.

Recently, the Honourable Minister went to a Meeting in Grenada. I believe that she was busily disassociating herself from the Report which forms the basis of the policy of that Government, the Report of the Kaiser Foundation, or Kaiser Committee, or whatever it is and the doctor who had come through here and done all the work. Now, that Government is seeking to disassociate itself from the policy which is outlined in those two Reports, the Kaiser Reports. That Government is now saying, that that is not their policy. They are now seeking to say, that they have a new and different policy which is being worked out but Sir, the chickens are going to come home soon.

The problem – I am going to come back to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but I want to take it in sequence – the problem with the Drug Service which she has been trumpetting for well nigh four years now Sir is that it does not exist. *(Laughter)* The fact is that they started off with poor consultation.
5.20 p.m.

They did not consult in the beginning the professional people in this country who ought to have been consulted if they were to implement this drug service and this national health scheme that she talks about. It has resulted therefore, Sir, in a shortage of drugs and materials at the hospital which I contend to be a fact. It has resulted in the over-expenditure in a number of areas which hithertofore there was no over-expenditure. I will give you an example, Sir. There are two kinds of I.V's which doctors use, two different sets. One is blood giving – the Minister can correct me if I am wrong – the other one uses in it what we may term inexpensive fluids. Because of the system which they have implemented without proper consultation, very recently the hospital was completely out of the inexpensive kind. The blood giving one is very expensive, the other one is not so expensive. When they were working out the formulary what they had to do was to determine to use the more expensive one, Sir, because somebody had pointed out to them that they have to have the more expensive one, so they settled for one that is ten times as expensive as the other one. Let her correct me if I am wrong that they have not had to use the expensive I.V. where before they were able to use the inexpensive I.V.

The trouble is that they have not introduced a monitoring system, and one of the reasons why the system cannot work effectively is because in spite of advice she has received on the floor of this Hon. House,

they persist in not having a clinical pharmacologist working as the Head of the drug service. They have been given this advice but they persist in having a system where doctors are constantly finding that very simple supplies which they need are not available, and I charge that it is resulting in loss of life. I am saying on the floor of this House that it is resulting in loss of life.

Very recently, Sir, the hospital needed an item that costs a mere five dollars and it was not available anywhere in this country. She talks about my telling her where the shortages are? I will tell her. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: What is the name of the item?) I would have to be invidious if I tell you what it is, because then they will know who is the patient and I do not really wish to be invidious and I hope nobody forces me to be. Recently there was an accident in this country and because of the absence of the same substance the particular surgeon had to do two operations where if that five dollar material was available he would have only had to do one. It is the youth of the patient which allowed in both cases those patients to survive. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: What is the name of this drug?) If you want me to give you the name on a piece of paper, I will give you. (ASIDES).

The Head of the drug service should be a clinical pharmacologist who would be able to understand the needs of the doctors. He will have to be a person who can understand and appreciate the real needs of the doctors, and for a simple twenty thousand dollar....Let me give you some advice. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You like you cannot read Marjorie's handwriting). If you want me to get on like you, I can do it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, order!

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if you are not going to protect me from them I will behave just as she behaved, you know. I am capable of it.

Mr. Chairman, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – let me bring it closer to you – a patient is suffering from something wrong in the head. (Mr. WARD: Like some of you). I did not say that the person was sick, I did not say that the person was mentally deficient, I am not describing any of the hon. member's.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Never mind the asides. Order, please, Order on the Government Benches.

Mr. TAITT: The clinical pharmacologist would have avoided the need recently to use very expensive insulin when in this country they had only three phials of insulin for the whole of Barbados other than the very expensive type. Let the Minister get up and deny that that is so, that when the hospital authorities went down to Bridgetown, as they are accustomed doing when the hospital runs short, they were told 'we only can rustle up three phials.' They were then forced to use the more expensive type of insulin, which costs ten times as much as the cheaper insulin, and they then had to fly insulin in at a cost of ten times as much as if they had got it. But there is something more, Sir. The people who stock drugs in Bridgetown have decided that you cannot direct them to stock drugs for two months or three months or four months, so what is happening now, again because there has been poor consultation with the professional people involved, what is happening now is that those persons are not stocking drugs in the quantities and for the length of time that they used to stock them. The result is that people in this community were short of a simple thing like glucose water. We had a shortage of glucose water in Barbados, and let the Minister get up and deny that it is so. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is nothing to do with me, that is not a drug). It is nothing to do with you. You see, Mr. Chairman, when she says it is not a drug so it has nothing to do with her, you begin to understand the colossal ignorance which is at large in this community, and furthermore the amount of ignorance which is being brought to bear on the administration of the drug plan, because the drug plan is dealing with all manner of drugs which will be used toward the cure of patients, and glucose water, as you must know, Sir, you have functioned in the chemical field, you know, Sir, that it is one of the vital necessities. Take, for example, a person who is as debilitated as the hon. member for Christ Church South Central after lunch, Sir, you take a person like that, Sir glucose water is the only thing that a doctor could recommend for him at that point in time, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I know that the hon. member is very disappointed that any of his special additives that he needs to give him his vim and things of that kind are not on the drug formulary, but he must not attribute his disappointment to me. Anything that I need I can get, I do not have any difficulty, so I do not know why the hon. member tries to bring me into this debate.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I take note of the hon. member's clear indication that whatever he needs he can get. That is well known in Barbados, Sir. It is well known in Barbados that what the hon. member needs he can get, Sir, I will not go into any details on that.
5.30 p.m.

The point I am making though, Sir, is that something, as simple as it may seem to ordinary people, like glucose water is absent from the hospital where it has never been so in the past, but in the past if the hospital had run out, they would have been able to go down town and say to the agents or to other people, can we have a little bit until stocks come in, and then, Mr. Chairman, they would have it; but today with the marvellous drug

service which is yet to come, for all we have heard is what is planned, it is only after the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners insisted that the Government made a decision to make the drugs available free to the three categories which she now trots out. My best information, Sir, from persons whose reliability I put higher than any hon. member over there, tells me that the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners literally had to fight them because what is happening is that there have been no benefits to the people since she announced the plan, and people who used to get drugs free at the hospital now have to slave and pay for them, and one of the things which she has attempted to use to hide the ineptitude is to suggest that the people were in some drug racket.

Mr. Chairman, I know nothing about the drug racket, but what I know is that there were people who used to be able to go to the hospital, indigent people, and get drugs. They will now have to pay for them. What kind of system is an improvement where a poor person used to get drugs free and now they have to pay for them and you tell me that is an improvement? Do you tell me that their quality of life has gone up because they used to get it free and they now have to pay for it and then you say you are breaking up the drug racket, and you are going to spend some time working on it in the election? Don't come in the city, hear! Go out in the country and talk.

Mr. Chairman, I said in here and I have said on the political platforms that there has been an increase of marasmus babies in Barbados. I say it categorically without fear of contradiction that whereas five years ago you drove through Barbados and you saw no instance of marasmus babies, that you can go into the rural areas of Barbados now and you will come across them whether they are reported or not reported, and I say that if the Minister would take a ride out in the country she too may come across them; but she says that it is not true. The latest report that we have available to us shows that in 1979 there were 50 cases of starvation in Barbados. Is that the 1979 Report? Let me quote the page for the Reporter. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Quote the right word.) You say I do not see that? Can you find starvation in that book so that I can tell the Minister that a report coming out of her Ministry said there were 50 cases of starvation, malnutrition?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Mr. TAITT: The hon. member is saying not so *sotto voce* about alcoholics. He is more.....

Mr. Chairman, Table 12, page 26, Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1979; Malnutrition –50. Listen, it says here, Mr. Chairman, these cases are only notifiable in children up to four years of age. And that lady has the temerity to come in here and say I am misleading the people of Barbados when I talk about malnutrition when I talk about the horrors which children are suffering in this country. I challenge you to come out in the public square or let us go up in the Prime Minister's constituency where there are seven children under five living in one room, where five year olds are babbling like two year olds. Come and go in St. Thomas with me and let us discuss it up there, and you tell the people that I am misleading them.

Mr. Chairman, because none of the members on that side go to sleep hungry at night is no indication that there are no people in Barbados going to sleep hungry at night. Do you remember the "Ancient Mariner." It said: "Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink"; and they are talking about prosperity, prosperity everywhere and children are going to sleep hungry, and she had the temerity to question me. I am not in the habit of making irresponsible statements. I would never have said that we would have a free national health service when I must have known, ought to have known that there was no way you could deliver it, then three weeks or three months of coming into power you are forced to go back to the people and tell the people that nothing is for free. The only thing that is free on that side is talk. You make promises which you know you are incapable on keeping, which you have no intention of keeping. It is a political party that has no feeling for the ordinary masses. You therefore believe that you can make any statement and the people will accept it, and so for four years we have been hearing about a national health service and now we are spending a colossal amount of money to advertise a national health service that is not, that is to come.

I should like the Minister to indicate how much money is being spent on the advertisements for the national health service. I wish the Minister to tell us how much money is being spent for advertisements. I wish the Minister to give us the persons working in the PDIU; we wish to know what their duties and responsibilities are. There are a number of professional people in this community who are concerned that with the assistance of a group of people who come from a different culture, they have made certain recommendations about certain methods and systems of operation of the PDIU which would see a discrepancy in the kind of salaries paid to the professionals in that organisation, and that those funds, although they are not coming through the Estimates or they may not be coming out of the Head, are coming from funds which eventually the taxpayers and the people of Barbados will have to repay. We wish to know; and I am not here casting aspersions on the professional qualifications or incapabilities on any of the persons concerned, but we wish to know if these people relate in any way in terms of their emoluments to the other professionals of similar rank functioning for the people of

Barbados in other capacities. We wish to know too what is the length of stay anticipated for the Head of the drug service, the so-called head of the drug service. We wish to know what are the qualifications of this gentleman; we would like to know how long he is anticipated to be in Barbados; if there is anyone that is trained to follow him, whether it is the intention of the Ministry to get the right medically trained professional to function as the head of any drug service which will allow that professional to liaise and consult with the other medical professionals so that we will not have the shortages which have become legion.

Sir, let me turn to the question of typhoid in Barbados. The Minister ought to be ashamed of herself to take the attitude she has taken on the question of any typhus infection which anybody is reported to have in Barbados. Let us suppose that what she says is so. Let us suppose that some inept nurse somewhere down in Chalky Mount or in some other part of the country, suspects a case of typhus infections in Barbados. Let us suppose that the nurse said "I see something that looks like it" has something to do with the typhus germ or whatever.
5.40 p.m.

The Minister without more should be concerned so that when a medical practitioner of long standing makes a diagnosis of typhoid, the Minister of Health, far from looking to denigrate that particular profession, ought to be happy that he has the capacity to see beyond and to have an interest to see beyond the mere question of another sick person.

All professionals can make mistakes in their diagnoses. We are very familiar with those lawyers who, called to the Bar, come week after week, month after month, and never succeed and we know of other persons who come to the Bar and succeed but they are still called lawyers.

The fact that a man is wrong is neither here nor there. What is important is the attitude you take of it. Now a doctor reports typhoid in Barbados and the Minister gets up and starts to run him down. Are you afraid that the tourists might hear that we have a case of typhoid? Are you afraid that the fact that the person purported to have the illness works in an institution that is owned by the Government or that the Government might be in some kind of trouble? Are you afraid that the people in Barbados will panic?

It seems to me that that is the time that you distinguish the men from the boys and the girls from the women. That is the time when you show courage and maturity. That is the time when you take the people of the country into confidence. That is the time when the professionals in the Government as well as the professionals outside of the Government get together and say here is what we have found, that is what you have found, let us put our heads together because if what you say is true, we have a serious problem in Barbados.

You see, Sir, we get the kind of flippancy when you are dealing with a serious matter because we are not a serious Government. We are not a serious people. You will find that the hon. member for St. Philip North, Mr. Chairman, would take the question of the Minister of Information, the person up at CBC much more seriously than typhoid. I consider typhoid to be more serious than the goings on at CBC however immoral there may be. (ASIDES). I will get back to that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, when we look at the potential cause of the typhoid it is a nurse. Common decency requires that the Minister be concerned about what is happening to her professional and para-professional staff, her medical and para-medical staff. Common decency, if nothing else, requires that if she hears that a Nurse might possibly have contracted typhoid fever that she should be very alarmed about that. When she hears that it might be two she must know that if the blood test is saying positive results that however much the cultures are they are not coming out right, that something must be wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the question is, when we go and look at the Institution where these people work, let her deny that the test showed positive results at anytime. Let her deny that. (ASIDES). They were negative? You are the Doctor? You mean that the doctor who reported it was a fraud? You are saying that the doctor who reported it was a fraud? (ASIDES). To my knowledge they were positive. You will have to counteract that. When you were outside you said you knew who the doctor was. How come you do not know inside here who he is.

Mr. Chairman, you know what I find unacceptable on that side? When they are outside they have a moral position. When they come in here they take only political positions. The question of typhoid is not a matter for political partisanship. The question of typhoid is a matter on which you should have a natural attitude and when the Minister is going to keep it in a political partisan matter she is showing that she has contempt for the people of this country.

I am saying that a man who is better able to diagnose that, is better than either the hon. member for Christ Church South Central or myself, who has been

trained as a medical doctor had given a sufficient reason, after using scientific methods, to come to the conclusion that there is a case of typhoid fever and the man therefore recommended to the woman who was being examined that she should take certain precautions.

There has been a second case and a potential third case and we are not going to be so irresponsible as to indicate the source of the third case because we believe that we would probably drive a panic into the community but when we look at two of the cases we find that they go right back to the Psychiatric Hospital and when we go to the Psychiatric Hospital we find that we have open sewers.

Now if I had done that on my own the hon. member for St. James would tell me how good I look or how bad I talk or the hon. member for Christ Church South Central would say I am only talking or if that is all I have to say or my colleague from next door in St. Michael West who will soon not be with us would have something to say. Mr. Chairman, my friends will shout at me and say things but the evidence has been implanted in the minds of Barbadians through the pictorial press.

The evidence has been placed there in the *Nation Newspaper* for all to see and if the Government through ineptitude, through inefficiency, through their incapacity to care or through gross negligence, if the Government that is saying to the population you must have certain health standards, if the Government itself is not practising what it preaches, then it does not augur well for the community at large.

We saw with our own eyes and, Mr. Chairman, not trusting the press totally I went myself, an open sewer at the Psychiatric Hospital. The stench has been reported time and time again to the authorities. The authorities have reported it to the Ministry. The Ministry has been aware of it. It is not something new. It has been there for a long time.

Let me tell you what the problem is. Except for the professionals who work in the Psychiatric Hospital themselves, except for those professionals who know better, there is an attitude beginning with the Minister apparently, there is an attitude about mental health in this country which is unhealthy in itself. Those professionals who have to work in the Mental Hospital work under the most trying and difficult conditions and it is because there is no policy regarding mental health in this country. What they have is a Jenkins mentality. Imagine that the Minister can get up and say it is becoming a geriatric hospital. Imagine that, a mental hospital. It shows the lack of depth and understanding of her portfolio that she can come in here and brag about the Mental Hospital is slowly becoming a place for geriatric care. That is part of the trouble.

5.50 p.m.

You have been treating it as a place where you hide away old people. You see, the problem with her is that they have the mental hospital so low in their priorities that they see the Mental Hospital as a place that when once you go in, you do not come back out. You either get dragged back out dead, or stay in, You said a Geriatric hospital. You know, Mr. Chairman, it should be required that each one of the Honourable Members on that Side spend five nights in the Psychiatric Hospital. It should be required.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sure that the Honourable Member would visit them.

Mr. TAITT: I would go and look for them, Sir and carry cigarettes for my friend the white haired old gentleman from St. James.

Mr. Chairman, the point is that so far as the Mental Hospital in Barbados is concerned, we should be looking at a progressive policy towards mental health. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, it is precisely that attitude that I am decrying now.

I started off by saying that it is the professionals down there, who have a conception of what mental health should be like. We have a number of young people in this community for whom the stresses and strains of the modern life are proving too much. You know, Mr. Chairman, the amount of mental illness in our schools is not fully appreciated apparently by the Honourable Minister. I do not know if the Honourable Minister of Education is aware, that in a number of secondary schools in Barbados, there is a lot of strange behaviour on the part of a number of people, who are suffering the stresses and strains.

The Honourable Minister was talking earlier about one of the institutions. The Honourable Minister of Education told us about one today and he made the point about a school in Barbados, where neither the staff and the headmaster, the headmaster and the parents, the headmaster and the children seem to be getting along. Mental health does not mean that everybody is mad, to be suffering from a mental illness is not to be mad. It is about time that the people in Barbados understand in the same way a person may suffer a physical defect, that other people may suffer mental defects and furthermore, with the attitude which the Government has been taking towards the question of drugs and I am talking now of illicit drugs I am talking about the hard stuff, the attitude which the Government seems to be taking about drugs would seem, to suggest that they need even more to have a method and a cure for those who unfortunately get hooked on drugs.

Hon. L. R. TULLL: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member would give way. I am particularly in-

terested in this particular topic Sir and I would be glad if the Honourable Member would say what is the Government's attitude in respect of illicit drugs.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, to tell the truth, Sir, we have been trying to find out what the attitude is for a long time. They seem to have no attitude, they seem not to care. They seem not to be concerned and the odd individual out there might express some concern, but no positive policy dealing with this whole question of the education of young people towards the dangers of drug abuse. We see no policy, that is why I am dealing with it under the Mental Hospital, I am dealing with it under the Psychiatric Hospital, because if you look at the Estimates, as they are presented, we have more of the same old warmed over soup. It is what we are getting as a policy coming forward for mental health in this country. The Honourable Minister gets up and all she has to say about it is that the hospital is becoming like a geriatric hospital.

I am saying that if two nurses and indeed, whether the two nurses have typhoid fever or not, they have been exposed to that stinking trench through which raw sewerage has been flowing for a considerable amount of time and nothing has been done about it and I am saying, that it is a shame on the fair name of Barbados, a let down of the professionals in the Ministry of Health, who have been trying for so long to see if they can raise the standards, in spite of the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Chairman, I move to the question of the polyclinics for it is on the polyclinics that hangs all the laws and the prophets according to that Government. I defy the Honourable Minister to get up and give us a comprehensive, specific policy on the polyclinics, what is the policy? Do you know what is happening, Mr. Chairman? All the time they are building polyclinics and while they are attempting to suggest a link between the polyclinics and the National Health Service for which they projected "X" number of GPs knowing that they have "X" minus "Y". Mr. Chairman, the number of GPs in Barbados does not begin to come near the optimum figure which they say it is necessary and they are projecting that they are going to use the polyclinics, but apart from putting up buildings, they are only now trying to see if they can get a policy for the polyclinics.

Mr. Chairman, I will be a little more specific, so that you would understand the details of what I am saying. It is alright to have a place and you give it a name, but you have to have a concept of how it is going to fit into an overall policy. Now, the trouble with them is this, when they come into power, they found multipurpose clinics. Those multipurpose clinics formed part of a conceptual understanding of the delivery of health care by the Honourable Minister on this side, the two hon. members sitting to the end of my side, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael North and the hon. member for St. Michael South. The concept of the multipurpose clinics was placed and had built into it the overall policy. It was part of an overall policy. (ASIDE)

Let me, Mr. Chairman, quote from one of the more brilliant documents that was produced over the last five years in this country, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is that document?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, do you have to ask? It is the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party. Let me read slowly:

> "Utilise the multipurpose community health clinics as the main instrument for making health care accessible to the people in the community where they actually live in providing ante and post natal care, child care, family planning, venereal disease control, care for diabetics and the aged, welfare and public health inspection services, psychiatric service."

You see, you would have had a whole service.

> "dental care, dispensing services, community nursing care and general practitioner services. The community health clinics will be free of any charge."

Then, it went on to say specifically what we would do.

Do you realise that if you go to a polyclinic you have to shell out some money? You see, Mr. Chairman, it is not enough to say you are going to have polyclinics, you must understand the nature of the concept and it is not enough to get a doctor to come down from North America which has no, I repeat no kind of example like the kind of community which we have in Barbados. There is no community anywhere with the possible exception of some parts of Brooklyn that is even remotely like the community which we have in Barbados. So, it would be fairly difficult for an adviser coming out of California to be able to give the Honourable Minister the kind of insights which would have come natural to those of us, who have lived in this community and worked in this community and especially those who have been involved in the delivery of health care in the community.

It would have been much better, if you had consulted with the professionals on both sides of this Honourable House and outside of this Honourable House. There is nothing wrong with your consulting the Association of

Medical Practitioners in Barbados. There can be nothing wrong with that. There is nothing wrong with consulting with the nurses in Barbados.
6.00 p.m.

The Public Health Nurses are the people who dispense a lot of medical care, health care into the communities in Barbados. Those people ought to have been consulted with. No, what do you do? You get a gentleman to come down to Barbados. He goes around and sees about 46 people, spends about half hour with each one of them, then he sits down and writes a report and he writes a report which says to you that you must include as the place where you dispense for the national health service the polyclinics. All you did with the multipurpose clinics was to change the name, but you were not able to bring the concept, because it was not your own and you did not understand it fully, and I do not think the professionals in the Ministry would be embarrassed if I say that some of them did not understand it fully, and so the fount of wisdom had left, so far as this particular item is concerned, and some of them were not sure what was intended. Now, since you came in and you wanted to give the public the impression that you were doing something in this wonderfully glorious national health service, you changed the name to polyclinic. You must be polyunsaturated. Then you proceeded to use the money which we had negotiated from the European Fund, and since the money had already been made available to Barbados, you proceeded to build the polyclinics. That is money we had negotiated for the purpose and you could not get it otherwise, so you said yes you will continue to build them, and you are putting up buildings, and you are convinced that the putting up of buildings is the creation of a policy.

You can have polyclinics without these big pretty buildings, you can have polyclinics out of chattel houses. (A VOICE: Out of a crematorium). Yes, you can have a crematorium too, but you can have it out of a chattel house too. What is important is not where it comes out of, what is important are the services which are presented from it. (Mr. WARD: Suppose you have both, the building and a good service). You use both, and that is why we do not understand why, since you have both a good building and a good service you will not use either. (ASIDE).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: We were going to finance it, Mr. Chairman, from the European Fund, we had negotiated that, but we are not discussing that, we are discussing that there was a policy. We are saying categorically that they are now in the process of formulating the policy. They have established a Committee, and one of the tasks which the Committee has been given is to formulate a policy for the polyclinics. That is well known. (ASIDE). The hon. member does not quite understand the concepts which I am trying to portray for him, and I understand that because this is not his field, he has not made a study of it. (ASIDE). No, Sir, it is more so that after certain hours the hon. member's capacity to understand diminishes, but we will not go into that, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, we come now to other aspects of public health. Just about two years ago, or a year ago, the hon. member came in here and said that she had a Dogs Act. Within two years, less than two years it seems, we have an Act repealing the Dogs Act and bringing in another Dogs Act. I really do not understand how it is possible? What is this obsession with dogs, Sir? We had a Dogs Act two years ago and we are in the process of getting a new Dogs Act, which is going to repeal that.

It is remarkable, Mr. Chairman, that we could have in Barbados this propensity for an additional Dogs Act. I do not wish to anticipate the legislation, and we will have something to say on that. We also had the Minister from time to time making statements to the effect that she was debushing. Do you recall the debushing campaign, Sir? Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that that side does not take health seriously. I am now beginning to believe that the Minister now must be trying her best but she is unable to get through in that political party, because if we can deal with the debushing programme and they can have that attitude to it, it is clear that they did not understand what she was trying to do, and as they made her eat her words on the question of free health, they have made her eat her words on debushing. Now, Sir, there is no more debushing. I am beginning to feel sorry for the Minister, having to deal with that kind of mentality it must be extremely difficult. Certainly the results which we see would tend to manifest the difficulty.

Mr. Chairman, we are going to be asking some specific questions as we come to do the Heads. There are some detailed questions which we wish to ask under the Subheads. We are going to ask the Minister some specific questions. I do not propose to take more time than I am allotted, and so I am going to stop at this point and give the Minister a chance to reply to some of the questions which have been raised, but I will finish by saying this, the whole question of the hospital must be seen as a management problem. Mr. Chairman, it must be seen as a management problem, both hospitals ought to be seen in the context of providing the kind of quality management which is required for a hospital. It is not sufficient to have the hospital merely as an appendage to the Ministry where the policies are adumbrated from time to time from the Ministry and the hospital's input is nothing more than the implementation of policies which they might not agree with.

Take, for example, the question of hospital plant. The hospital is now some fifteen years old, Sir. When

one looks at these Estimates one does not see the kind of forward planning which would be required for the replacement of plant and equipment in that hospital. One does not see it coming to the fore in these Estimates. When one looks back for the last three years the air conditioning in the operating rooms has not been functioning properly, and they have not been able to service it properly, that is an indication that the maintenance of plant and equipment in the hospital needs the kind of application which would normally be given to any kind of industrial complex.

Mr. Chairman, if one looks at the number of people who work in the two hospitals, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Psychiatric Hospital, when one looks at the kind of staff which the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has and at the staff the Psychiatric Hospital has, we are dealing with a large number of people, and yet if you look at the kind of personnel administration which the hospital is forced to engage in, you begin to realise that the kind of management impetus which ought to be brought to institutions of this kind is lacking and has been lacking. It is extremely difficult for people who carry the title of Director or Manager in an institution to function in a way they would wish to function, to function in the way they have seen other places where there are similar posts, see those people functioning and having executive responsibility in the truest sense of the word for the institutions which they are supposed to be managing.
6.10 p.m.

We do not have that in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we do not have it in the Psychiatric Hospital and the result is that the hospital continues to carry the blame for the ineptitude arising out of the policy regarding the hospital.

Mr. Chairman, recently we had a statement in the newspaper which said that the casualty had just been divided into two, that there was now an emergency section and there was a casualty section, but do you think the Minister had the decency to tell the people of Barbados that after a certain time it reverts to normal? She left us all to believe that we now have two systems up there, that you can go with an emergency any time and you will be going to the emergency section and when you go with other, what they call, casualty complaints, you will be going to the casualty. But she didn't tell the population that because of the staffing arrangements at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that after 4 o'clock everything is back to normal. I know this because I had a young boy nine years old in my constituency and somebody hit him around the back of his head with a big piece of wood; he went to the hospital at half past seven one night and at half past seven the following night, not morning, the following night his aunt came to see me and said "the boy" calling him by name, "and his mother have been at the hospital since last night". I said "did they keep in both of them?" She said "no, he got hit around his head with a piece of wood", and she identified the man who hit him. This is a boy being struck by a man with a piece of wood, and when I called the hospital, the nurse in charge of the Casualty – now I expect that if somebody turns up with a lash around the neck that that would be treated as an emergency, but I am no doctor – when I called the hospital the nurse in charge said "yes, the patient is here". I was embarrassed because this is not a case of rejoicing. I would have been embarrassed whether it was the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party, because we ought to be ashamed to say that anybody could go to the hospital with the complaint I have just described from half past seven one night and the following night at half past seven he is still there. The only place that could happen is in this hospital being run under the aegis of the Minister, and that came after they announced that there is a separation. Mr. Chairman, I consider that to be misinforming people. I consider that to be using the same techniques that they used when they said they were going to have a free national health service.

Mr. WARD: On a point of order, would the hon. member be kind enough to notify us what he did when he found out about that? Whom did he report it to? Are we hearing it now for the first time? What is the date on which this thing happened?

Mr. TAITT: Now, Mr. Chairman, one of the problems we have is the kind of attitude that the hon. member has just displayed. I will tell you what I did. I talked to the nurse and said, "nurse, please, they have been there since 7.30 last night," and you can ask any of the hospital authorities to check and see if that is not true. I said "please nurse, they have been up there since 7.30 p.m., the boy is only nine years old" and I begged her if she would try and see him next, and she promised me that she would. (A VOICE: Did she see him?) I do not know. I was too embarrassed to ask but I checked with the doctor the following morning and the doctor asked me to write a letter. (Mr. WARD: You do not know and you represent them?).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, Please! Please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: I would like my friend, Maurice Ward to come to Eagle Hall and talk about that. If you are a man, come to Eagle Hall. I challenge you to come to Eagle Hall and talk about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not referring to the hon. member by name?

Mr. TAITT: Of course not. We treat all people the same in Eagle Hall, so you come and I am going to deal with you in Eagle Hall as a courtesy to how you deal with me in Eagle Hall.

Mr. Chairman, it is not right that we should tell the public that we have two services, an emergency service and a Casualty, and then a young boy can have that kind of experience. That is the kind of thing I am talking about.

I know my time is running out, but I am going to ask the Hon. Minister more specific questions of that nature so that you will understand that the broad statements I have made are based on fact, based on research and based on information which is available for all who wish to get it including the Government if they would only show some interest.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, while the hon. member was speaking I tried to make some notes. Her speech was disjointed, indeed it was so poorly put together that if I attempted to travel along the same line, I might fall from my usual high standards in this Chamber. *(Interruptions).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, she started off by threatening to pelt licks into me; she started off in her usual bombastic manner, but was soon put in her place with one intervention, therefore I do not propose to travel along that road. She claimed that the Opposition was hiding from the debate last year. We were only too glad to debate health, but it was hidden from us until late on the Friday evening which was just before Defence and Security when the debate on housing was dragged on right through Thursday into the Friday, although we did not particularly participate in that debate.

I can remember very well, but indeed, Mr. Chairman, we all are accustomed to the kind of language of which the hon. member is capable, but I think it was a serious thing to suggest that a medical practitioner who is under a legal obligation to report a suspected case of typhoid and probably to treat it as such until such time as confirmatory studies are obtained or otherwise, made a wrong diagnosis.

As senior consultant physician and Head of the Department of Medicine over a number of years, I have had the responsibility to deal with many cases of typhoid in this country and some of the major tragedies that could occur is if ever you fail to recognise or in the alternate you fail to institute treatment at an early age. One of the most disastrous things to see is a perforated case of typhoid fever. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, even if a patient merely had a temperature associated with a low pulse and probably some degree of abdominal pain, that is enough to make a notification of a possible case of typhoid fever. If in conjunction with that you have preliminary positive blood tests, not even substantial tests, indirect tests that further give confirmation to that diagnosis, you have a legal obligation not only to notify, but certainly a professional obligation to start treatment until the diagnosis is disproved.

Mr. Chairman, when I hear the Minister of Health coming in here and pouring scorn upon any member of my profession that is doing nothing but his duty in the interest of this community, I think it is about the lowest that anyone can sink in the political arena.
6.20 p.m.

It is almost incredible, Mr. Chairman, that anyone who is responsible for the Ministry of Health to bring that kind of behaviour in this Parliament but I am not surprised, Mr. Chairman. It does not surprise me because when you have no policy at all, when you go to the public of Barbados and announce that you are introducing a National Health Service and when you have to face that same electorate and you have nothing to offer them, no wonder you get that kind of gibberish that you get coming out from the Ministry of Health every day on the radio and in the media of this country.

What are you going to tell the people in the City about a City College. What are you going to tell the people in Chapman Lane that they are not going to be moved from down there? What are you going to tell them after five years about a National Health Service? What are you going to tell them? There is not a single politician in this country, Mr. Chairman, who has a record of broken promises not only as a member of a Party but also in respect of her own constituency as the member for the City of Bridgetown. (ASIDES).

The hon. member for Christ Church South Central should not be talking about drugs in this House. I am a decent and respectable fellow. He should not be talking about drugs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, order.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on the question of typhoid. Typhoid is endemic in Barbados. Typhoid occurs in Barbados from time to time. Almost every year you get a few cases of typhoid of varying degrees of severity. The important thing when a case is identified it is important to identify the source if you can and to make sure that it is not occurring in a situation that can result in epidemic proportions. That is why, Mr. Chairman, it is so vital and because the doctors in this country having been exposed to this problem for many

years, that is why whenever they suspect a typhus case they immediately take steps to notify and therefore scorn should not be poured on them.

We have heard, Mr. Chairman, about the *ad hocism* in the development of the Health Services in this country. Let me tell the Hon. Minister who by her speech shows that she does not even understand the ingredients of what her advisers have been telling her either in the area of a drug service or in the area of a national health service or defining community health or secondary health care.

When it comes to the record of secondary health care of the Democratic Labour Party in this country there can be no doubt that the whole significance of secondary health care was changed in Barbados under the Democratic Labour Party.

When her father was Minister of Health in this country, rats were eating babies in the old hospital, the Barbados General Hospital. The same General Hospital was transferred across the road. In a 15 year period or thereabouts you saw the development of major sub-specialities within the secondary medical care sector of Barbados; the development of the Speciality of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The development of the Speciality of Pediatrics, the development of the Speciality of Anesthesiology the development of the Speciality of Diagnostic Radiology, the development and massive expansion of the Speciality of Pathology. The development, Mr. Chairman, of the Speciality of Intensive Care both within the concept of a medical ward and within the context of an area adjacent to the Operating Theatre, Radio-Therapy, Psychotherapy, the whole lot.

The scene was set, Mr. Chairman, for further tertiary care development and also for a most important concept and this is where you get the fundamental ignorance of the Minister being displayed of not only the relationship between the Secondary Care Institutions and the developing of the tertiary care superstructures but in the relationship of the primary care infrastructure within the community.

Of the $3 million or whatever she said that has been spent on drugs I have no doubt that $500,000 has been spent on persons who could properly be classified as secondary care patients attending the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The vast majority of that goes to serving the Primary Care concept which I think the hospital contributes to and justifiably so in the context of Barbados and even further.

The concept today – in North America, in Europe, in Sweden in Norway, the days are gone when you thought of a hospital as a secondary and tertiary care institution behind a massive wall away from the community. The concept is being brought more and more that it must be part and parcel, not only, Sir, to be responsive to the needs of the community so, therefore, although it appears in these Estimates as under the Queen Elizabeth Hospital it does not go towards the treatment of patients who are necessarily patients receiving secondary and tertiary care.

This has always been one of the problems with the Casualty. What is taking place, separating the Casualty into Emergencies and non-emergencies, that is as old as the hills. The first man to do a survey of the number of genuine emergencies that come into the Casualty was the now retired Surgeon Jack Leacock and I recall him putting the figure at 22 cases a day of genuine emergencies. I was Chairman at that time. Even if you doubled that you would not get more than 44 out of a population of a quarter million but the point is this that you have a whole lot of people who are not necessarily bleeding who necessarily do not have heart attacks and who still require immediate care.

Myself, Mr. Chairman, the Hospital Director and the Chief Engineer following that Report by Mr. Jack Leacock actually went downstairs in the Casualty and did identify an area where those patients who were identified as non-emergencies could be accommodated and the question was where would you put the Blood Bank and where would you put the matters in storage in that particular area. That is where the situation had reached but nothing has been done. Nothing has been done in four and a half years. What do you have now? You separate the two. You put the emergencies in one section but you do not provide the supportive services to help make the plan work.

Under our system we would have utilised an effective para-medical team downstairs or anywhere else in the hospital with proper allocation of the medical staff supported by a para-medical team. What is happening now. The emergencies, the few emergencies a day will probably go through with the one or two doctors they have allocated there during the day.

Sometimes at nights and early in the mornings there is only one doctor around there anyhow and under us they used to be six doctors in that Casualty and the big problem was that the patients were going through so fast that the back-up came at the Dispensary at the other end. The queues moved from the Casualty to the Dispensary within the hospital.

That was the situation but now you have the emergencies going through and all the rest of the day for 24 or 30 hours as obtained before because you just cannot separate them like you are separating cattle into two streams. When you separate them you have to have some other service that goes hand in hand with that separation and I support the charge of my colleague that it was a totally dishonest statement to make.

6.30 p.m.

I am glad that no trained person in an executive position in health would have associated themselves with it. Other persons did, but no trained person in an executive position did that, no one properly trained, over a number of years and with experience because they will know that it cannot work. You are doing nothing, whilst when you separate those from emergencies, you have supportive services put into that area.

Now, Mr. Chairman, they are areas which I will deal with. This is a matter of truth and do you know what will happen now? Unfortunately, you can produce bogus statistics and you can fool people. You can create the impression of massive job opportunities, even at the expense of the economic health of the community, by crowding your projects together. You can do all those things, but unfortunately, when it comes to health care delivery you are on a man to man basis and if a thousand people from the city of Bridgetown went through the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, they have to wait on one hundred and ninety-nine and they have to wait as long as they waited the last time. Then, immediately, they know that they are being fooled. Similar situations of ignorance in public advice and I charge good evidence submitted on the basis of dishonesty and racketeering. I refer to the Drug Service in Barbados and the use of generic drugs.

Now, Mr. Chairman, generic drugs have been available on this globe from the time I was a medical student, from the time I heard of medicine generic drugs were available in the developed countries and I presume in the developing countries. Basically, the difference is this. Generic companies do not have the same overhead costs because they usually use drugs, where the patterns have been experimented on and so on that do not have the same promotional cost. They do not have the same development cost, nor in many cases Mr. Chairman, and this is very important, they do not have to carry the same legal risks as well-established companies.

I will give you an example. If tomorrow I liked, in Barbados, I can open a factory and get a pill making machine and put a telephone call through to Italy and get a batch of medicine, let us say Chlorpropamide, or something like that and in my backyard, I can manufacture Chlorpropamide and market that as Chlorpropamide. Let us say that batch that came in resulted in blindness in people who took it. What legal recourse do they have? It is a different matter. If a company like Kaiser, the company which was the manufacturer of Thalidomide, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central will well know the international incident and a more recent incident of a drug causing blindness in Britain, where they had to cough up millions and millions of dollars and they had the resources to do so. Let me warn you, unless Government is prepared to accept that kind of liability in the first instance, then, be very wary of how you get into the area of generic drugs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up. If no other Honourable Member wishes to speak. Your fifteen minutes is up at this stage. Does any other Honourable Member wish to make a contribution at this stage? What is the pleasure of the Committee? Is there any other Honourable Member who wishes to speak?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am just warming up and he is trying to tone me down.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The rules say fifteen minutes.

Dr. HAYNES: I will speak about twenty times in this debate until Friday if necessary. (ASIDE)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, sometime in the past, when I held the Ministry of Health, we had some typhoid cases in this country and one of those patients died and there was a big furore created in this country by the press, by political parties, by other people in the public about this particular incident and even although the Ministry of Health, at that particular time tried to assure the public that there was no cause for alarm, that type of propaganda, that type of approach continued until after a while, I guess they grew tired of it and it stopped.

Recently, according to reports in the newspaper, there has been another case of typhoid, or cases of typhoid and the same sort of alarm is being sought to be created. When I was Honourable Minister, I did not permit myself to get ruffled and I am saying here, that I do not see any need for any person to get ruffled about these reports. The only matter which I feel we should be concerned about is if the matter could have been handled differently and the amount of publicity now being given prevented. The reason for that is this.

We are depending heavily on our tourism and we have to be very careful about the type of reports which we generate about ourselves because whether it be by maliciousness, a desire to undermine, we may find that although we may achieve the objective of embarrassing the politicians or person whom we seek to embarrass, we may offend a lot more than that and embarrass overselves and the country at large.

So, any politician especially one who is an Honourable Minister has to be very careful in dealing with issues such as this knowing full well that there are always newsmen, who are eager to lay their fingers on any small amount of information, which they believe could cause the paper to sell.

Mr. Chairman, I go a step further and I would like to say that under the Notifiable Diseases Act in this country, there are certain diseases which are laid down to

be notified to the Medical Officer of Health, or to the Ministry of Health as the case may be and a doctor is under strict obligation, at the slightest suspicion that any one such disease on this list comes before his attention in a patient, this matter should be reported immediately to the Medical Officer of Health, or to the Ministry of Health, as the case may be. There are no differences on this matter. The point is this. You do not wait to get reports back that what you suspect to be typhoid, or dengue, or even influenza, or the various forms of pneumonia have been confirmed, it is when you suspect that the person you are attending has one of these diseases.

6.40 p.m.

Furthermore, one has to bear in mind that in these cases, dealing particularly with typhoid and the other enteric type diseases, they have to be reported if you are interested in arriving at a definite diagnosis to, in this case, Enmore. The person who you suspect to be having one of these diseases is sent to Enmore to have blood tests, and further, if necessary, to have stool and urine tests – in this case, culture for the organism – and the practitioner outside relies on the report sent back from the laboratory people at Enmore to either strengthen his conviction or to tell him that he need not proceed any further.

It goes further than that. Whenever those reports are returned to the practitioner and he is further convinced in his suspicion that a person has one of these notifiable diseases, in this case typhoid, he has to draw it to the attention of the Medical Officer of Health at Enmore, or if necessary, to the Medical Officers of Health in the Ministry of Health. It is the responsibility of the Medical Officers of Health and the Public Health Unit to then make the necessary moves to arrive at a definite conclusion as to whether or not the person has in this case typhoid or one of the related diseases. They go out to the people's homes and they do their necessary inspections, they collect their necessary samples and take them back to the laboratory or to the bacteriologist or to the pathologist, as the case may be. If these further investigations prove to be negative or inconclusive, one arrives at the conclusion that the diagnosis has not been confirmed.

Now, I want to make it abundantly clear here for the benefit of the hon. members of this Chamber, and maybe also for the benefit of the public, that there is a large number of organisms related to the salmonella type or organism which is responsible for typhoid that can provoke a positive vidol reaction in a person, and until you have cultured and identified the organism, you cannot be definite whether it is salmonella typhy or some of the more recent organisms which have been associated with diarrhoea or so in a country which provokes similar complaints in patients, and in fact as evidence is now showing, in North America some of the more latter day organisms are more common in provoking these types of disorders like diarrhoea, fever, belly cramps and so on than salmonella typhy. In fact, one has to bear in mind that with the type of industries which we have in Barbados we are likely to see more and more of these newer type organisms rather than the salmonella typhy that we have been accustomed to in years gone by, with poultry, chicken parts, chicken and pig rearing, with some of the pie making that you have around this country and all the little hotels and so which are providing food, we have to be very concerned that the other organisms which have now been more readily identified as causing these symptons and signs in patients are not occurring in Barbados.

I find it extremely strange in this Hon. Chamber today when a Minister of Health who has responsibility for the health of every person in this country can be so incensed and seek to belittle the contribution made by a general practitioner where the law enforces on him that he has to take certain steps from the time he suspects that a person is suffering from typhoid or one of the rarer diseases. That type or remark does not do much to encourage any general practitioner or any doctor in Barbados to take his work seriously, because you tend to engender in those people who are responsible along with the Minister to ensure that proper health is maintained in this country, that they become lackadaisical, that they know that if they make diagnoses or they make reports that are subsequently not supported by conclusive laboratory investigations they stand a chance of being ridiculed on the floor of the House of Assembly or on some public platform. I think it is very bad and it is the type of thing that we should all deplore. We have to deplore it, because in this country if this type of attitude continues you are only discouraging people who have this responsibility from discharging their duties with the type of feeling, with the type of commitment, with the type of efficiency with which they are expected to discharge that responsibility to the people in this country.

I repeat, that I will agree that it is not the type of publicity that you want to have in this country, especially when you bear in mind that you are dependent to a great extent on tourism. But at the same time one has to bear in mind that unless you are prepared either by suggestion, motivation or by legislation to get the people who are responsible for ferretting out news and the printing of it to bear in mind that they have a responsibility towards the people of this country, and they should desist from publishing certain things, never mind how tempting it might be and how nice it would be to have it published because it would increase the sales of the newspaper, then we are all beating our heads against the wall until that day comes.

I do not think it is fair to insinuate that there is any political purpose when this type of thing happens. What we have to do, if we are nationally minded, is to

get together and ensure that this type of thing does not occur or repeat itself in the future.

I will move on from that to this matter of polyclinics. I am not one of the people who like to get up here and talk about what I did and what I did not do and that type of thing, but I want to make it abundantly clear here now that the whole concept of multipurpose clinics, or polyclinics in Barbados and the use for which they were to be put in this country, came about with Dr. Rameses Caddle in his capacity as Minister of Health. When I went into the Ministry of Health there was no such concept. I want to make it abundantly clear, but in so making it clear I am not attempting to criticise my predecessors who were not doctors, and because they were not doctors they were not as acquainted with the problems of the people of this country as I would have been, having practised medicine in Barbados for some time prior to assuming duties as Minister, and the files in the Ministry of Health, and there are members in the Ministry of Health, from the Permanent Secretary back down, who can stand up and say that that concept started with me. Changing the name does not change the concept, a rose by any other name is as sweet as a rose.

The concept of multipurpose clinics or polyclinics started with me as the policy or the guidelines which were all set down by me, and I have to admit that the slowness of the Democratic Labour Party in implementing those was due to the fact that I was suddenly removed from the Ministry of Health. That is not my fault, I will admit that, because I drew up all of these and I have copies of all the things that I drew up in my possession at my home, and if I am forced to I will bring them in here and make them documents of the House.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member will tell us what year he formulated these plans, what year he was removed, why he was removed and if there was an enquiry that he called for, if the enquiry had to do with a drug racket or anything, so, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

6.50 p.m.

Dr. CADDLE: I find it amusing after a long time to hear this harping about who started this and who started that, because that is not the point. The point that one has to contend with is that there are people in this country who need that type of service and we should get together and ensure that they get it. As it has already been read out by my colleague here, it is clear in this manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party what was the consensus of the then Minister about the use of the multipurpose clinics and the performances of the present polyclinics are no different from these.

I go a step further and say that they were predicated on the basis of one multipurpose clinic or polyclinic for every 30 000 of the population on the grounds that the population would be increasing, and where we differ is where we site them. I go a step further and say that the Ministry of Health then sought from the European Economic Community a grant to start the first one in St. Peter, and they got a grant of $903 000 for that purpose. It is unfortunate, as I said, that they were not implemented at that stage. That is all I have to say because if they had been, we would not be hearing a lot of talk about who started them and this type of thing. I am not seeking to get any credit for them if they were done before, but I think that this is a way of misleading the public about what has occurred in this country. What we should be concerned with is trying to ensure that those people in this country who cannot afford to pay adequately for their medical attention get it from the taxes which all of us joined together to pay, and I would say, whether the Minister wants to believe it or not, that I am one of those people who is interested to ensure that a service which would meet the needs of those people is introduced in this country and I do not care who introduces it, whether the Democratic Labour Party or the Barbados Labour Party, I would support it once it is for the benefit of those people. I want to make that abundantly clear. I want to go a step further, and the Minister can verify this, in my association with my colleagues I have always taken steps to see that they vote to encourage and to support anything that would help relieve this burden on these people, and she can check that out and find it to be true. I am not playing politics with health because all of us get sick at sometime, and we want to know that when we get sick there are proper facilities in this country. Some of us who are well off can take ourselves off to North America or England or Western Europe and get medical care, but the vast majority of us in this country have to remain here and seek our medical care. We have a responsibility whether we are on this side or on that side to ensure that there are always proper medical services in this country, because we do not know when our turn comes. Disease does not warn you when it is coming. Maybe if it did warn us when it was coming, a lot of us would escape it, and disease does not pick out people according to their social status or financial status. People who are rich die from cancer, people who are poor also die from cancer. People who are rich get high blood pressure and diabetes mellitus just as well as people who are poor, and then when you come to it, we all die when the time comes. So I do not see anything to make a political issue about the delivery of health care in this country. The people of this country need a proper health care and we should get together because we claim we represent them and ensure that they do get the level of health care which this country can afford.

There are certain things which we will never be able to afford because of the limitations on our financial resources. I do not believe we should seek to compete in certain things that are available in North America because

we would be over-extending ourselves, but at the same time with the type of money we are spending in this country, and we are spending a lot of money because on a per capita basis we have very high spending of money for health in this country, it is favourable when compared with countries in Western Europe, but in absolute terms you may not be able to afford what other countries of Western Europe or North America can afford. I am saying that whatever money we spend we must ensure that we are getting adequate care, and I think that is where the problem lies, because we spend money and somewhere along the line I am not convinced that even today we are getting adequate returns for the money we spend, and we have to look carefully to discover why we are not getting adequate care for the money we spend. We spend a lot of money on health; there is no doubt about that, and I have serious doubts about where some of the money is spent. I am not saying it should not be spent, but the way in which it is spent raises doubts in my mind.

Mr. Chairman, I know there are problems at the hospital. I have never called for an enquiry. *(Asides)* That is your responsibility to decide whether she wants an enquiry or not, but what I would say to the Minister is that I feel one has to take the hospital out of the political arena, and we may very well begin by looking seriously at a board for the hospital and consider that. We have to take it out because we are getting situations now at the hospital that should not have been permitted to occur, but now that they occur it would be difficult for you to eliminate them. One of the problems we are faced with at the hospital is a microcosm of the Barbadian society at large, and whatever goes on in the society at large will eventually turn up in the hospital. This happens too readily in a small society. You find that one of the staff at the hospital may have a grouse with one of her neighbours outside, and when that neighbour turns up at the hospital for care, then they seize the opportunity to satisfy the grouse that they have against her. That is a problem at the hospital and it is a serious problem. There are a lot of personal conflicts which really have nothing to do at all with the administration or the delivery of health care.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again. The hon. member can come back. We should have done this at 6.50 p.m., but I was really enjoying his speech and waiting on him to call for an enquiry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 8 p.m.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

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

7.00 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Suspension was taken the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. ODLE resumed thc Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I believe in giving Jack his jacket. The Drug Plan as presently conceived belongs to the Minister and I do not think that anybody on this side would seek to take that away from her but I would like to point out that you cannot expect to have a perfect plan from the inception or overnight. Perfection can only come as you dispense this proposal contained in your Plan and it will take time. It will take understanding and it will take a certain amount of flexibility on the part of the Minister and her staff to ensure that you get a very good operation of the Drug Plan as it goes along.

As it now stands there are difficulties and my colleague from this side has pointed out some of the difficulties and one of the difficulties is this. How are you going to explain to the people who now get drugs free when they go to the hospital that they will now have to pay for them later on. The past history of that type of exercise at the hospital should warn of the difficulties which you may encounter when you set about to implement that, but I am going a step further than that.

If you want to get the full co-operation of the doctors, the dispensers, the pharmacists, the nurses and other people who will be directly involved and responsible to a very great extent for making this Drug Plan work and be successful, you cannot begin by having a person being dogmatic and dictatorial in their approach to the administration of this plan and in dealing with drugs.

I am going to give examples. You have a case where the hospital ordered 40 bottles containing 1,000 tablets each of corgard. Because they are being used by the consultants at the hospital and they are satisfied with the drug. A lot of people in Barbados suffer from high blood pressure and not every patient who suffers with high blood pressure gets relief from one drug.

It has been included in the Drug Plan and yet we find the person who is responsible for the Drug Plan, the Director of the Drug Plan, single handedly decided that they were too much and went to Geddes Grant and asked them to take back those 40 bottles and when they said it was out of their hands because they are the local agents and the order was not made to them or through them, you get a telephone call being put through to Smiths to ask them to take back the 40 bottles of Corgard and when that failed also, the person responsible for the Drug Plan froze the stock of Corgard at the hospital with the result that the doctors at the hospital could not use the drug because the individual said that he wanted to investigate and find out how they came to order 40 bottles because in his opinion or her opinion 40 bottles were too much.

Another incident relates to the use of Navidrex at the hospital because doctors up there use Navidrex as a dietic and also in the treatment of hypertension and they have been satisfied for a long time with the use of Navidrex and its allied drug Navidrex-K and stocks ran out and no new drug was ordered but yet you find because of the use of a drug at the hospital it was being ordered by the hospital and then you get an impasse between the Director and the people at the hospital to the extent that the individual said that they must go down and check out the Dispensary and the stocks down there and the result of that investigation led to the writing of a letter in which certain words were expressed in that letter which suggested that the people in that department were stealing and it led to a confrontation between that particular individual and the National Union of Public Workers with the result that the staff on that department said they were not prepared to work until they got an apology.

That is the type of behaviour which would go a far way to ensure that the Drug Plan does not get off to the success that it deserves. I am not blaming the Minister for that. I want to make it quite clear but I am drawing it to her attention and these are the types of things you have to avoid because she cannot ensure success single handedly. She has to depend on doctors. She has to depend on the dispensers and a whole lot of other people and you cannot go around in this high-handed fashion and believe that people are going to co-operate with you because one of the things that doctors guard zealously and seriously is people not telling them what they should prescribe for the treatment of diseases they diagnose, what they should prescribe and how they should prescribe it. They do not even like another doctor who may be considered as qualified to make such suggestions telling them that, so how do you expect that they are going to feel when a person who is not a medical person wants to tell them what they should prescribe for a particular disease for a particular patient?

That is the type of problem you will be faced with and if you want your plan to succeed you must have that understanding and that flexibility to see that these types of communications do not occur because if it fails the criticisms will be levelled at you. Certainly, I do not wish to see any failure in that regard because there is too much money involved and Barbados cannot afford to be losing money to that extent in such matters.

I want to make it abundantly clear that I have never conceived the delivery of health to be a political issue and I have always resisted attempts to see it that way. I know that they are other people who see it who like to use it as a political football and my reasons for talking here tonight in the way that I have spoken is that I very much resent the way in which remarks have been made about a general practitioner in this country discharging his responsibility and dictated by the act relating to notifiable diseases and that is how I feel about it.

I am going to have some other things to say on a number of matters in here but in passing I would like to say that in relation to these Health Centres, whether you call them Polyclinics or Multipurpose Clinics, that is immaterial. They are there to deliver a certain quantum and quality of health care.

The National Division of Health Sciences was being re-organised for the specific purpose of training and turning out personnel who hoped to give assistance in these Health Centres. Under my direction it was turned over to the Community College although there has been and still is there a body of people within the Ministry of Health who still feel that it should have been retained by the Ministry of Health so that the Ministry can fashion its development as the Ministry saw fit.

I am a bit concerned about the way in which that Division is going. I hope that the Minister at some time will be able to throw some light on the present position regarding the Division of Allied Health Sciences.
8.10 p.m.

As I recall it, there were the proposals there to turn those practitioners, to turn out a host of people, who will be of great importance in ensuring that any National Health Service that is brought into this country, whether it is on a broad scale, or on a limited scale will not suffer from the lack of additional personnel to deliver those services and I hope that these plans have not been shelved because for a long time now, we hear very little about that in the area of development.

(Mr. TAITT got up.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, you will have a chance but I am saying this to everybody. Does any one else wish to speak? The Honourable Member, even though he is not standing in his place will understand. His colleague will enlighten us, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, we operate on the premise of who caught your eye and probably you are operating on that premise. I know that you are trying to find out if anybody over here would like to speak because he is going to recite all that he said before. We will speak in time, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must know that even if I am looking at him, he has not caught my eye.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. On occasions during the past three, or four years, Sir, I have had the honour to hold on for the Honourable Minister of Health, when she is out of the country and in the past fifteen months, I have been hearing complaints made by a number of general practitioners in this country and indeed by people who are not general practitioners, but are doctors of medicine, about the state of the proposed National Health Service and indeed, the Drug Plan and I have heard them make statements such as the type of statements made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West and on each occasion on which they made those statements to me Sir, I have endeavoured to investigate the situation and to report back to them. I have done it on more than one occasion.

It seems to me, Sir, that the medical profession, in the vein in which the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central just spoke do not like anybody to tell them what to do. I think that that is at the heart of it Sir and there is an almost automatic resentment of the fact that there is a proposed service, which is alien to the one that they were practising over a period of time. I have looked into it Sir, all these complaints about the Drug Formulary, what is on and what is not on and I hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West saying that there was no consultation with the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners, that the doctors were not brought into consultation at an early stage.

I say that all that is untrue because I took the opportunity myself to look into the files dealing with it and I returned to the doctors and told them that the propaganda you put out is not entirely correct because I checked the files and I have found that there have been meetings and I gave them the dates when meetings were held at which doctors were present and what was their input into the discussions and so on and so forth.

Now, the speech by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West is an entirely disreputable representation of the situation. When the Honourable Member gets up and launches a vicious, personal attack....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member under Rules of the Honourable House, as I understand it Sir, is not permitted to make offensive remarks and to say that my input was a disreputable representation is I submit offensive and I ask the Honourable Member to withdraw it, Sir.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I withdraw it, Mr. Chairman, but certainly, his contribution does not enhance it certainly does not. For him to stand on that side and jump up and shout with all his venom and all the malice the attacks on private individuals, who do not have the chance to get up in public and defend themselves, to me Sir is pretty sharp practice. This debate could have been handled with a certain tenor, a certain decency.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member has accused me of having, malice in my presentation, Sir. Again, he knows, he must know, that that is a contravention of the Rules of the Honourable House and I would ask the Honourable member to withdraw it, Sir. The word, "malice".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please withdraw.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw it, but you know, where I am coming from, he knows where I am coming from and the public knows where I am coming from and for him to get up and make the type of attack, which he made in here on private individuals, who have no public forum to defend themselves is something that I hope we will be ashamed of.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is accusing me of having attacked private individuals in here, Sir. I submit, that at no point in my speech did I refer to a private person in Barbados and attack them and I am asking the Honourable Member to withdraw that and desist from saying it Sir.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The Honourable Member is wasting time Sir. I do not know what point of order that is. He is very good at that Mr. Chairman in getting up and shooting off his mouth and using all those terms he has been using and when he has to get it back, he cannot take it. But, you should be ashamed of the things you said in here and when you go on to make all those wild accusations about the number of typhoid cases and all kind of babies.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is saying that I made wild accusations. That is unparliamentary. Let me point out

Sir, that I quoted from a report of the Ministry, when I talked about malnutrition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order, anyhow.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I do not know what malnutrition has to do with typhoid. He got in here and made a lot of wild accusations about typhoid, Sir, unsubstantiated. What does that have to do with malnutrition? He did not say malnutrition either, he said starvation. That is what the Honourable Member said.

One would have believed, Sir, hearing the debate from the Honourable Members of the Other Side – I think a certain measure of reason was brought back into the debate by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central – but you would have thought, Sir, that the Honourable Minister of Health, in introducing a system that would provide cheap and better medical treatment for the people of Barbados was something wrong, that to reduce the price of drugs is a heinous crime, to introduce a National Health Service that would make I hope – it is still in the hands of the doctors and I do not know what they might do – but to suggest that the Honourable Minister of Health in trying to introduce a National Health Service that might bring more immediate and better health care to the people of this country is committing a crime, Sir. I do not understand where the Opposition is coming from. You would have thought that nothing positive was done in health in this country, during the tenure of the Honourable Minister of Health, Sir.

The Division of Health Sciences, as the Honourable Member who just sat down raised this question, the Division of Health Sciences was set up under the aegis of the Barbados Community College back in 1974 and it is the Division of the College which is responsible for all the para-medical training in Barbados and a lot of things have been happening in that Division, Sir. The Division of Health Sciences is one of five regional centres participating in the PAHO/WHO sponsored Caribbean Regional Project that is well-established now in the region and we do have a number of students at the Barbados Community College benefitting from the objectives and the aims of that project. We have a number of students that are drawn not only from Barbados, but from all through the Eastern Caribbean and indeed, we have students drawn from as far away as, Namibia. I believe there are five students from Namibia in the Faculty, the Division of Health Sciences, the Allied Health Sciences at the Community College referred to by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central and we are running a number of programmes to provide the necessary personnel for the introduction of a National Health Service in this country.

We run courses in pre-health services, in public Health Inspection as the Honourable Member knows, in dietetic technology, in medical records technology, in medical laboratory technology and in pharmacy and in addition, we have also a plan to start at the Community College future offerings in basic nursing, community health nursing, rehabilitation therapy and the inspection of drugs, and other such substances. Now, these are the sorts of things that the Government is doing in trying to prepare the way for the implementation eventually of the National Health Service and all you can hear is the type of wild, reckless accusations being made by the shadow spokesman of Health in this Honourable Chamber.

8.20 p.m.

He came up the stairs, Sir, tonight with no knowledge of what was going on in here, he did not hear what the Minister of Health had to say and he was told untruly by one of his colleagues outside the Chamber certain things that would get his temperature up, and that is the way he tried to get it down. He rushed up the stairs and was met out there and told certain untrue things about what the Minister of Health said, and that is why he behaved in that fashion.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister of Health is well capable of looking after the matters that fall under her portfolio, and therefore I do not find it necessary to go to any further trouble in defence of the position as I am sure she will handle it later on. I really wanted to make a short contribution to this debate in another area.

The University of the West Indies Hospital at Mona is experiencing a great amount of difficulty both in developing its resources and keeping its teachers of medicine, the staff, and also in attracting the requisite amount of students from this part of the region. This has a lot to do with the social climate in Jamaica that has been obtaining over the past four years, and all the reports that have come to me have shown that there are very serious problems in the University Hospital in Jamaica. This has very serious implications for medical training for Barbados.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has taken a position in respect of the University, Sir, but I think I will go a little further back. In 1974 the Heads of Government of the CARICOM States decided that a Committee should be set up under the chairmanship of Mr. William Demas, President of the Caribbean Development Bank, to look at the restructuring of the University of the West Indies. The Demas Committee reported and made certain recommendations for the restructuring of the University that were entirely unpalatable to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago put in as the answer to the

Demas Report its now famous White Paper, a White Paper that set out in very clear detail the directions in which the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will be going with respect to university education in this region, and they had proposed to build a medical complex at Mount Hope in Trinidad, a complex that I now understand will cost about $800m T.T., and they intend to train 65 medical students at a time.

There is no doubt at all, Sir, that Trinidad and Tobago feels it can train its medical students in Trinidad and Tobago and it will not be necessary for it to be sending students in the future to Mona. That is the way it looks. I understand that the University in Jamaica is thinking that the Jamaican medical students can have the places at Mona, and there is talk that the proposed extension to the teaching facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados should be abandoned.

Now, the Government of Barbados views this development in a very serious light. I know for a fact, Sir, that medical students from the whole region – from Jamaica, Trinidad and all through the region – have a predilection for Barbados, they like to be trained in the last two years, what they call the post clinical years, or whatever the term is they use, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and it is in the interest of the Government and people of Barbados, and indeed of the medical profession in Barbados, to make sure that the proposed expansion of the teaching facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital be not lost in this power struggle between Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, and it would certainly would have been a far more useful area for a contribution in a parliamentary debate such as this for us on this side to benefit from the knowledge and the interest of the people who are associated with medicine on the other side, rather than the sort of thing we have been hearing here this evening.

The Mount Hope Medical Complex, Sir, covers not only medical training, as I have just mentioned, it also involves plans for the training of dentists, for nurses and for other para-medical personnel. I made reference earlier today, Sir, to this dark cloud on the horizon over the whole future of the University of the West Indies, and perhaps you cannot find a better example of what I am talking about, Sir, than in the development of medical training, the training of doctors in the Caribbean. I know that the Ministry of Education has to spend over $100,000 for the full course to train a doctor outside the Caribbean, and with the savage increase in fees in the United Kingdom, an area where many of our doctors have been trained in the past, it is becoming almost impossible for us to continue to place students in the medical schools in the United Kingdom. It is my projection that within another year or so it will cost more in the region of $200,000 to train a doctor from Barbados in the United Kingdom, and these are very frightening realities. Therefore, I would want to think that serious parliamentarians would bring their collective wisdom, their collective experience, and indeed if they have any commitment at all, their collective commitment to deal with a problem of this magnitude.

During the course of the next two or three months, Sir, important decisions will have to be made as to the future of the University of the West Indies, and more particularly the future of the University Hospital medical training facilities. I have detailed Professor Walrond to serve on a task force for the planning and development of the Mount Hope complex, and I have in repeated reports from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago the significant contribution that Professor Walrond has been making to the whole planning exercise on his bi-monthly visits to meetings in that territory. I think the Government of Barbados will have to make it known to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that the skills of Dr. Walrond have a price, because the input he is making as a professional into the planning exercise has a quantifiable value.

You hear a lot of talk, Sir, about the high price that is being paid to foreign consultants on projects less ambitious than the one we are talking about at Mount Hope, and I get the feeling that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is getting a whole lot for a very little, Sir, and I certainly intend to push this aspect of it both inside and outside this Government to make sure that whatever the plans are, whenever they are brought to fruition, that the citizens of Barbados will have some benefit from the input being made by Professor Walrond in the planning of the Mount Hope complex.

8.30 p.m.

Now Mr. Chairman, I want to make one further reference to this training at the Community College. In last year's Estimates the Minister of Health said that the School of Nursing was to be transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Education, because all modern thinking on these things feels that students of nursing should be exposed to the same general education and the same intellectual and social interaction with other students as students in any other discipline, and that although they will continue to do their practical work in the hospital, they will be involved in the day to day learning experiences with students of other disciplines in the Community College. I remember that at least one hon. member on that side getting up and making the usual sarcastic and cynical comments about the proposed school. I am happy to report, Mr. Chairman, that the move has been effective with minimum disruption, there has been a smooth changeover and the Ministry of Education is now responsible....*(Asides)*

I will deal with the hon. member for St. Michael South West as soon as I finish making this point. He keeps interrupting on matters he knows nothing about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks be struck from the record.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing again with the question of training at the Community College because I think it is important to make this point. I was trying to make the point that there was a smooth transition of the transfer of the School of Nursing from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Education, and it was at that point that the hon. member for St. Michael South West made what I consider a nasty remark, but I will leave that for the time being. It is important for me to say that there is a very close liaison between all the professional organisations and health institutions in Barbados and the faculty at the Barbados Community College is responsible for the allied health sciences and on the Advisory sub-Committee for each programme at the Community College is a representative of the medical profession and the other para-medical professions in Barbados, and indeed we have always thought to have a doctor of medicine on the board of the Community College who would be able to do a general overview in their development and planning for all our courses in this particular area; and the sub-committee that was set up at the Community College monitors programmes, it reviews curricula and it maintains that very necessary and essential link with the professions.

I wanted to make that point to let the Honourable Chamber know that there is an essential linkage in the planning and training of all the para-medical disciplines in Barbados at the Community College and the new school of nursing that has been transferred to that division.

That, Mr. Chairman, is the limit of my contribution at this particular point, and I have an invitation to meet outside the Chamber and I am going there now.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will not be diverted by the comments coming from that side of the House. If certain levels must be indulged in, I am not prepared myself to go into the gutter with anybody. I just feel that there are certain levels below which I do not want to go, but I would not like anyone to misunderstand the courtesy of fear. I would like to make it quite clear, Mr. Chairman, that my position has nothing whatever to do with the personal interference by anyone.

I am very pleased to see, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member who has just sat down is able to refer to Professor Walrond with such admiration. I find it difficult to believe that he could at the same time talk about inconsistency and cynicism when in fact this is the same Professor Walrond whom his political leader, the Prime Minister found it necessary to abuse in the public square in Barbados, words he said of him which I would not even repeat in this Honourable House. I am glad to see that the hon. members on that side can recognise the sterling contribution which that distinguished son of Barbados is making to all Barbados without reference to his political persuasion.

Mr. Chairman, I have been accused of making wild statements. I propose to take this fifteen minute segment to indicate in some measure the source of some of the wild statements so-called. I do not know how anyone could refer to the fact that typhoid has been reported in the newspapers in this country as wild and reckless if we call on the Minister to indicate what is the position with typhoid and if we found fault with the Minister's opening talk on a general practitioner who did no more than his duty. I do not know what is wild about it, what is reckless about it, if the attitude just taken of the particular general practitioner is merely because they believe that the general practitioner has a political point of view.

There is nothing more immoral than for a Government or another professional to make a statement that a professional would give his advice motivated by his political considerations in an area as dangerous as important and as vital as health. I consider that to be more reckless and more immoral than anything which might be said here.

Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners has been trying to establish a dialogue with the Ministry of Health. They referred exclusively and with great force to the number of reports which have been made by the K.F.I. study relating to the establishment of a National Health Service.....
8.40 p.m.

I do not think that anybody in Barbados would be prepared to label the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners as either wild, wicked or cynical. Some of the comments which have been made on the reports which were submitted to the Government and the other matters relating to the establishment of the Drug Plan and Health Services are statements which by themselves and without much ought to bring a measure of caution if nothing else to any Government that was planning to institute such a programme.

Mr. Chairman, I have had the privilege of seeing some of those comments. Some of them are too strong for me to put in the record less I be accused of seeking to make political hay but among the things which they drew to the attention of the Government while criticising the Report that was submitted, they

wanted to draw to the attention of the people of Barbados and they asked the Government to draw to the attention of the people of Barbados that they would wish.....

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Opposition wishes to draw to your attention that in its view the debating time for today's Sitting has expired. We do this in view of Standing Order No. 64(5) which states:-

> "Five days shall be allotted for debate on the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates, and the total debating time shall not exceed, on any of those five days, the maximum debating time allotted by Standing Order No. 6 for a day's sitting."

It is our submission that that time has expired and I am submitting that the highest Court in the land, Parliament itself, cannot be seen to be breaking its own rules, laws and standing orders.

I am further minded also.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this a point of order?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, continuation of a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I am further minded that the reporters in this Honourable Chamber are understaffed and therefore are very hard-pressed and I am submitting that taking everything into account, both the Standing Order and the fact that the proper provisions for adequate staff have not come into play, I submit those matters for your ruling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have to speak with Mr. Clerk.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I spoke with the Clerk of the House earlier this morning and he assured me that if we go up to 10.00 o'clock tonight that we will be on target and therefore we have agreed on this already but the Leader of the House and myself, in his absence, said that we were going to suspend at 10.00 o'clock tonight and that would keep us in line and we will determine what time we will start tomorrow.

I am not saying that we are going to start at 1.00 p.m., but I would envisage around 1.00 o'clock tomorrow we would probably start. We are well aware of the clerks and reporters and the staff. We are very well aware of that problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have to check the position of the staff with Mr. Clerk. My understanding is that we are still within time and there is no problem with respect to the reporters. The debate will go on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I read out the Rules quite clearly. You may be within time. I do not know about the time but it says quite clearly that on any of those five days the maximum debating time allowed by Standing Order No. 6 shall not be exceeded so you have to count the number of hours in the normal day and to see whether we have exceeded those hours today and if we have exceeded those hours we are in breach of these rules. I am not concerned with any agreement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just be seated. The hon. member suggested that the hours should be counted. I have checked with the Clerk. The Clerk assures me that there is no problem with the time. The debate will go on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am submitting that the normal length of a day according to that Standing Order itself is seven hours and forty-five minutes and I am submitting that having started at 10.30 a.m., today and working until 1.00 o'clock and resuming at 2.00 p.m. until 4.15 p.m. and restarting at 4.30 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. and now we are restarting at 8.00 p.m. until 8.45 p.m., I am submitting that that is already seven hours and forty-five minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: With all due deference to the submission of the hon. member my information is and this I accept that the time will expire and according to the Rules at 9.15 p.m. I accept that. The debate will go on.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If you start the normal day at 12.00 noon and go until 9.30 p.m. on a normal day, how can you start at 10.30 a.m. and say we go until 9.15 p.m.? This just does not compute.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am satisfied that the debate can continue until 9.15 p.m. without any interruption and I will entertain no longer any further submissions from this side from the hon. member for St. Michael South. The debate will go on and the hon. member for.....

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, you said that you will not entertain any further intervention by the hon. member for St. Michael South. I would like to draw to your attention....

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

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. According to the Standing Orders.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member say what Standing Order is the breach of which he is complaining?

Dr. HAYNES: Yes, the Standing Order which deal with the duration of Sittings,, Standing Order No. 6.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That matter has been dealt with and there has been a ruling from the Chair and the hon. member will take his seat.

(Mr. CHAIRMAN stands).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order. Please take your seat.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We started with a Resolution. We did not start with the Estimates Debate. We started with a Resolution at MCW.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must make this very clear.

Dr. HAYNES: If he can talk therefore I can talk. What kind of justice is this? Well, let him sit down too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that his conduct breaches very nearly the conduct that is grossly disorderly and any repetition he will be asked to withdraw from this House.

8.50 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: May I proceed, Sir? I was saying, Sir, the Association of Medical Practitioners in Barbados speaking of the system which exists in Barbados prior to the announcement.....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. You have to sit down.

Mr. TAITT: Do not speak to me like that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated.

Mr. TAITT: Certainly, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point of order.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the Standing Orders of the Honourable House make it very clear, that if one is quoting from a document, the document has to be made a document of the Honourable House.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West is quoting from a document and he must make that document a document of the Honourable House. He is wasting time talking about a lot of reports.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will look into it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member got up, I had a document going like this in my hand, I do not know what is bothering the honourable lady.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please get ahead. (ASIDES) The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Health would not like this document, which I have in my hand to be made a document of this Honourable House. What is inside this document would have been so embarrassing to her, she would not wish it to be made a document, so that the press could get it and print it. She ought to behave herself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member get ahead with the debate.

Mr. TAITT: Like I was saying, Sir, they said let me make sure where I was:

> "Bring the health indices of Barbados to a favourable....."

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member is quoting.

Mr. TAITT: I am not reading, Sir. No, Sir, I am not quoting anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you just holding it in your hand?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. Mr. Chairman, before I proceed, Sir, I draw your attention to Standing Order No. 28(1) which says:

> "A member may not read his speech but he may read extracts from books and papers other than newspapers in support of his argument and may refresh his memory by referring to notes."

Nowhere does it say that I have to make anything a document of the Honourable House. Where did she get that bogus ruling from?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If an hon. member is quoting, or reading from a document, he may be required.....

Mr. TAITT: That is right, Sir, and he may refuse.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing the Rules of the House.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will send it for you when I am finished. It said that:

> "We had moved Barbados from a situation where fifteen to twenty years ago when the public had to be accommodated two and three in one bed."

That is what the Association of Medical Practitioners said, Sir. It said that they had moved from a situation where there was a few..... You see, I am not reading, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your notes are rather copious.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, very much so, Sir..... at the hospital were on duty with one person attending in Casualty. Do you remember those times, Sir. As well as attending to patients on wards. Barbados had been moved where the effects of the improvement at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where there has been an increasing workload in terms of numbers and complexity of cases handled. One has seen tremendous development in this field and my colleague referred to a lot of it.

I am now going to quote from the document, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you tell us what document it is.

Mr. TAITT: It is a document – the truth, Sir, is that it got into my hands in a way which I would not like to explain to the Honourable House, Sir. I will tell you what it is. You keep insisting, you are going to get it. It is the draft response of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners to the KFI proposals for a Barbados National Health Service. (ASIDES).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. There can be no cross talk.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister is over there saying *sotto voce* .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: I am addressing you, Sir.....that I said that they were not consulted. This is a draft response to the report after she got the report of a large number of pages which set out the policy which they intend to follow for – I am looking at you, Sir – the National Health Service, then they go to the doctors in Barbados and the report which they have is replete with inaccuracies. (ASIDES). The Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central will not wish to feel that he said that tomorrow morning when it is explained to him. After he gets the Report from the Kaiser people, he is saying that they sent it to the doctors to check it.

But, the only thing is that they are not going to pay the doctors a quarter million dollars which they paid the clowns to write it. A quarter million dollars they picked up and gave to the Kaiser Foundation and they had said that they sent it to the doctors to have it checked. I think that all of you should go to the doctors to get yourselves checked. Dr. Mahy would be a proper place for you to get checked.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that this debate is getting a bit hairwire. I would like the Honourable Member.....

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is very familiar with Dr. Mahy.

Mr. TAITT: That is a fact, Sir. He was a witness in a case which I had to research.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have almost lost the Honourable Member.

Mr. TAITT: I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: About which item are you on, or what subhead are you at?

Mr. TAITT: I am at the Head, Ministry of Health that we are debating, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At which subhead? You know there are quite a number of subheads.

Mr. TAITT: The very first one.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get ahead, you only have five minutes.

Mr. TAITT: This is what the doctors have said of the proposed National Health Service. They said:

> "The essential corruption of thought in these proposals is shown in the opening statement of the chapter dealing with a section of which they deal with the strengths and weaknesses of the present systems."

They went on to say:

> "The Government's decision to restructure the health service was a political promise put out by the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto and predates any examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the system as documented in this study, or the Peat Marwick Mitchell Study."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are really quoting extensively from this document. You must make it a document of the Honourable House, if it is not already so. (ASIDES: It has to be made a document of the House that is a political document by Walrond.)

Mr. TAITT: Now, you see, Mr. Chairman for him to get in here and suggest that the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners is made up of Professor Walrond. This question of the National Health Service very much involves the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners.

The Honourable Minister of Education has just finished praising the integrity of Professor Walrond and then the Honourable Leader of this Honourable House comes in and sits down and immediately begins the attack and continues the attack which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister put on him. Do you know why, Sir? They believe that he has a different political persuasion from them. Anybody whom they feel even remotely disagrees with them, they will try, if they can to victimise them.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Honourable Member is quoting from a document, which sets out as one of its premises that they are discussing the matter against a political background. He just quoted about politics in it, so therefore, as soon as anybody, the author of a document postulates politics, I say that his judgement thereafter is political.

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have just about one minute more to finish that fifteen minutes and that allows for the time which you lost.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I draw to your attention that during the course of my speech, they had a discussion going on about the time and a Reporter, Sir.

9.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I accept that you have had quite a number of interruptions, in which case we will have to go on until 9.25, instead of 9.15.

Mr. TAITT: They went on to talk about the ends justifying the means concept of the proposals in the study, Sir. That organisation made it quite clear that the statistics – we come back again to the statistics – put forward in the report which now forms the backbone of the policy of that Government, and specifically that Minister. I do not believe that it is her policy anyhow. The statistics sought either inadvertently, or more probably deliberately, to understate the number of G.P's in one case, and where they were discussing the number of G.P's available to bring the scheme into operation, they overstated by as many as 36, Sir. How can we have any faith in a report which forms the basis for a policy.... The Minister talked about wild, reckless statements?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to inform the hon. member that if he intends to continue to quote from the document he will have to make it a document of the House.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I take your point, Sir. Let me show you that it has nothing to do with reading a document. Mr. Chairman, the Kaiser Report purported to be quoting the Chief Medical Officer's Report of 1978, it purported to quote the Chief Medical Officer's Report of 1978. Now can you imagine a study for which we paid $250,000....(Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is a lie). How much did you pay? Which part is a lie? I do not wish to lie, which part is a lie? Do not curse me, just tell me. Imagine, Mr. Chairman, they are purporting to quote the Chief Medical Officer's Report of 1978 and they make these kinds of errors. When they are talking about casualty visits.... Now, Sir, do you see what I am reading from? The document says 61,000, the C.M.O's Report had said 69,000. When they were dealing with district clinics, their document said 38,000.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That paper you are reading from also must be made a document of the House.

Mr. TAITT: Oh, yes, you can have this, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the one before.

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir. I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, I must tell the hon. member he is disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am waiting. Mr. Clerk....

Mr. TAITT: If you wish the document, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot continue under these circumstances. (ASIDES), Order, Order please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, as soon as I am finished my speech I will bring the document.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have it now.

Mr. TAITT: As soon as I am finished my speech. I am continuing to quote these figures, Sir. I cannot make my speech without.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A member cannot disregard the authority of the Chair. My ruling is that it will be made a document of the House.

Mr. TAITT: I accept that, Sir, but I am permitted to use it. I was saying, Sir. Mr. Chairman, they reported the Health Centres at 96,000 visits, it was 136,000 that was quoted in the 1978 Report of the Chief Medical Officer. That document itself is a bogus document, and it means that that Government has taken up taxpayers' money and paid to the Kaiser people who came down here and gave a lot of warmed over soup, wrapped up with a lot of management study. That is what they are good at, they do not know anything about health. The hon. member knows that too, they are good management people. The management part of their study.....(ASIDE). Oh, man, I wish you would not drink so much. I am sorry, Sir, I withdraw that comment. The hon. member does not give me any trouble and I really do not intend to interfere with the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, he does not normally give trouble.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish you would use the last two minutes to really get back to the debate.

Mr. TAITT: I am pointing out that the information coming out of that study, which is supposed to be the basis of which the Minister and her Government is making policy, that information itself is bogus information. If they had got the same Professor Walrond and other honourable members in Barbados and people who understand the basis of health care delivery in Barbados and had asked them to update their 1977 study which they had put forward as a proposal to this Government, if they had started out like that, they could have come with a national health scheme which might have been an improvement on the already free scheme which we have in Barbados.

In 1977 the professional people in Barbados put out their study which could have been the basis for a proper health service in Barbados, because we have always had some kind of free health service in Barbados. Anybody who wanted to could go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and get free medicine on a free ward with the highest technical skills and care available to him or her. That is a fact which cannot be disputed by anybody, whether they come from California or whether they come from Black Rock. What we have now in essence.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member wind up? One minute to go.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. What we have now is the imposition. Small wonder the Minister is trying to dissociate herself from.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Please report progress, Sir. That man is a real clown. (ASIDES)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order!

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, in deference to the hon. member's motion, but before you can put that motion there was a prior ruling by you, Mr. Chairman, that that document had to be made a document of the House and it has to be made a document of the House first in pursuance of your ruling before you can entertain the other motion. I fully support the other motion, but I also support your ruling.
9.10 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clerk, please collect the document.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am not finished speaking. I am using the document. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Prior to the motion.....

Mr. TAITT: Give it to the Chairman. I want to make it a document of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is one other thing I wish to say. Prior to the motion by the hon. member for St. James, I have given you one minute to wind up and you are still entitled to that if you wish.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. On the question of making this a document of the House, there are several.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have moved that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. TAITT: He is not Leader of the House and the Leader of the House is in here. He has lost his temporary place and he has no right standing up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are out of order.

Mr. TAITT: All right, Mr. Chairman, I am always respectful of you.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I ask that you report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 2 p.m. tomorrow Thursday, 19th March, 1981.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
9.20 p.m.

On Resumption:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

I have to announce that I have received copies of Accounts and Statement for the month of December, 1980 as prepared by the Accountant General.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, 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: The House is in Committee.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, to continue where I left off yesterday I believe that the Opposition has set out clearly the facts relating to the obligations placed by law on any medical practitioner in Barbados, and I hope that the slur on the medical profession made by the Minister of Health would be erased by an appropriate apology during the course of this debate.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, on the basis of facts that I intend to present to this Chamber now, I will be calling on the Ministry of Health and the Minister of Health to put an immediate end to the promotion of generic drugs in Barbados unless certain legal and medical conditions are satisfied. I believe that this is an important matter. I also believe that with my experience in this area I should allow members of this Chamber to share fully with me my experience.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the whole question of improvements in the health service in Barbados could have been dealt with far more cheaply and expeditiously if the Government had any respect for the contributions which Barbadians can make. When you consider the vast sums of money paid to the professionals from overseas to write a report that had to be dumped because it was nothing but rubbish, and when one considers that this soil can boast of people like Sir Kenneth Stuart, people like Professor Ken Standard, people like Professor Mickey Walrond, people like the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, I would exclude myself because I know how they feel about me and how I feel about them, so it is not a problem with me, these are persons who have been involved for many years within the Caribbean in the delivery of health care and in the promotion of health care delivery, and you cannot mount a better team anywhere in the Caribbean or anywhere in the world that would understand the needs of a third world country, and yet you find that people of that calibre that we have are never utilised in this kind of exercise.

The hon. member for Christ Church South Central should be ashamed because he should know since he is a member of that Government, the kind of contributions that such persons are capable of making to Government policy. He would know that, and he cannot get up and deny it. Professor Eugene Ward is an outstanding son of the soil, but I did not mention him because he was in physiology and nephrology than actually in health promotion unlike the others whom I have mentioned.

Now, Mr. Chairman, basically drugs in Barbados are either here as proprietary drugs or generic drugs. Generic drugs have been here for a long time, but also proprietary drugs. Now, Sir, there are distinct advantages attached to proprietary preparations. First of all it is a matter of a reputable company whom you can identify at all times. The cost of reputable drugs inevitably involves the cost of research, the cost of large capital deployment, also the cost of marketing and very importantly the cost of data collection once that firm markets that drug under a proprietary name. Now this data collection is vital to the protection of the community and the consumers of that drug. Mr. Chairman, yesterday, I referred to the thalidomide tragedy that hit the world some time ago inincluding cases here in the Caribbean, and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central can confirm not only that there were cases in the Caribbean, but also a Caribbean lawyer Sir Fred Phillips was able to join with lawyers around the world and legally establish a trust to force that company to meet its international obligations. I believe the matter actually reached the International Court of Justice in the Hague or it was withdrawn at the last moment, but it had reached that point. The company was reluctant to meet its obligations. One of my colleagues in Jamaica, his children were born as thalidomide babies and a special fund has been set up for

the education of those children and also for damages suffered by the children. Nowhere would you have that kind of protection with these generic companies right now marketing drugs – Bolivia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Italy. All around the place I see drugs and samples of drugs in my office and often you cannot even read the language in which the drugs are being pushed here in Barbados at present.

Now, Mr. Chairman, that was thalidomide, but right here in Barbados we have had Barbadians on drugs marketed which were subsequently withdrawn. There was one drug, practalol, which we used frequently here in Barbados because it had distinct advantages over its predecessor in certain types of disturbances of rhythm in the heart, but because that was a reputable company and because it had a world-wide data collection system, as soon as serious complications started to be reported, they were able to withdraw the drug. Now Mr. Chairman, we had one instance here of one complication from that drug, but fortunately it was reversible because in good Bajan style the patient was not feeling well and stopped taking the drug.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am not defending proprietary preparations as against generic preparations. I am considering the protection of the people of Barbados. You can be ripped off by those who sell proprietary brands and you can be equally ripped off by those who sell generic brands, and if you think that this question of legal protection is not important, I wish to make this a document of this House because it raises serious legal implications. This is a case in the United States. I am reading from the New York Times of Sunday, 1st March, 1981, at page 34, an article by Mr. E. R. Smith and the basis of this, Mr. Chairman, was this: in 1947 a person took a generic drug. That drug was subsequently shown to produce cancer of the vagina and cancer of the cervix in the children of those people taking that drug. Because it was a generic drug there was grave difficulty in identifying the particular manufacturer, and a United States Appellate Court had to rule that all the manufacturers are liable and damages were awarded against one particular company that was sued. The druggist gave evidence that at the particular time he stopped drugs produced by four different companies under the same generic title.

Now, Mr. Chairman, just imagine this is the United States where there are no jurisdictional problems in dealing with this matter. Could you imagine what recourse any Barbadian would have if he or she had been a victim of one of those drugs? Who is going to pursue these generic companies all around the world from Russia to America? Who is going to proceed on their behalf? Who is going to be held responsible? How do you know how to identify the makers of these generic drugs unless you limit yourself to generic drugs made by reputable companies? This is a serious matter and I consider that it is so serious that the Government should be sure that they have proper medical and legal protection for the people of Barbados before they get involved in any further promotion of generic drugs in Barbados.

Now, Mr. Chairman, they should ask themselves why it is that if generic drugs are the same and cheaper, why they have not been able to displace other drugs in any market unless they have the legal protection, the protection of the Government and the law.
2.15 p.m.

You know why, Mr. Chairman, because they cannot survive any competition with other drugs and there are many reasons for this. If you take the City of Massachusetts, I remember as far back as 1970 – this is not the first time they have been trying to get into Barbados and other Third World countries. They set up a Company in Jamaica some time ago. They infiltrated the market in Guyana and virtually ruined the drug market in Guyana until a Senior politician had a medical problem and said "this is a whole lot of foolishness. Let all of the drugs come in".

They have tried Nigeria. I have been in Nigeria, particularly Kano, in the Eastern Nigerian area, where they have infiltrated there heavily and found that they had to back off but even in the United States, 10 years ago, 90% and here they had Government's support, 90% of drugs sold in the State of Massachusetts and certainly prescribed in Government Institutions were generic drugs.

Today, it is less than 10% despite the so-called reduction in costs. I know exactly what happened because there is a question of quality and it is important not to come to me with any batch control that is done in the Ministry of Health. I am aware of what goes on but I have never complained about it because it has been limited to matters like cough syrup and the odd harmless antibiotics and so on; but where you get into drugs that can have serious hymodynamic effects that is a different kettle of fish altogether. It is a question of safety and a question of legal protection.

Let me give you an example of what I mean by quality. I prescribed a tranquilliser under a proprietary name for a patient and that patient was taking that tranquilliser for about a year. All of a sudden she was given a generic drug and instead of falling asleep at night she was falling asleep in the morning and I had to tell the patient to take her sleeping tablets when she woke up in the mornings so she could fall asleep at night. That is the kind of nonsense that arises.

Blood pressure tablets – I have been practising medicine in this region for a long time. I know, Mr.

Chairman, the level of dosages usually tolerated by patients. I have seen a patient recently on 2,000 milligrams of one of these generic drugs with no effect. You stop the generic drug and put him on 500 milligrams of the same drug under a proprietary name and you know what happened? The blood pressure came right back down again. You know why that was? It is a question of absorption. These drugs have different absorption profiles.

A lot depends not only on the amount of power. Even if you accept that the 250 milligrams is there, the fact is the way the blood is put together and in many instances these cheap pill-making druggists do not put the drugs together properly and you get all sorts of erotic absorption patterns.

Warfarin, an Anticoagulant and this is a serious matter and this has been reported to the Ministry of Health, at least the Department responsible for that drug. This is a matter where you put a patient on Anticoagulant to make the blood thin. The patient is stabilised for years and years and all of a sudden you find that either the blood is too thick which means he will get another thrombosis or too thin which means that he might bleed and when you check it, what you find is that the Morphine Sodium has been suddenly changed and that is the main cause. I think that the Chief Pathologist at the Hospital also recognised the serious problems involved and had to report the matter to the appropriate authorities.

Even more serious in the area of hormones, is a drug called Throxime, a thyroid hormone. The specific drug that was used in Barbados was a drug called Ecotrin of proprietary preparation. There is a generic drug on the market which has precipitated Angina Petrus in patients where it is most important to use a well defined and specific low dose of that drug, half a milligram, which suggests to me, Mr. Chairman, that there are serious problems in quantitating drugs of that kind of nature by these small Companies.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I say that for this reason. I said I did not complain before because we were dealing with cough syrups, a type of Tetracycline and those types of things put together here but now you are dealing with drugs of a serious nature.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I go further and I say this, that if the Government does not realise this to be a serious matter they will be in even further difficulties. I remember years ago when I was Consultant at PAHO in respect of the control of cholera, when the cholera pandemic was expected, a whole host of countries quite rightly started to stock-pile intravenous fluids and we had problems in getting intravenous fluids and we had to buy from one of those fly-by-night Companies and immediately we had massive amounts of pyrogenic reactions in patients offered in an acute post-operative state in Barbados. We have seen the situation of buying cheap fluids for peritoneal dialysis causing serious problems in relation to the proper management of those patients immediately and in the future.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is a fundamental problem that this Government must face. Barbados is a small market. It is no bigger than a street in the City of New York in terms of the volume of people. Generic Drugs survive here side by side with proprietary preparations and there is some element of competition. Situations have existed in a reputable firm like Hearst in Germany.

In fact, the first person who started to develop the drug Chlorpropamide was able to undermine the wickedness that a proprietary Firm like Kaiser was doing in respect of Barbados in keeping the price of Diabenese too high after they have given an indication 10 years ago and had dropped the price from 16 cents to 6 cents a tablet and then they allowed it to climb back up gradually over the years after cornering the market.

After the Generic Firms have taken over the Drug Industry in Barbados, then the prices are going to rise and you will be paying the same amount for inferior products. Let competition prevail. It is not enough to say that you do not ban a drug or that you can import a drug. The facts of the economy of the Drug Industry in Barbados are as follows, very briefly, Mr. Chairman.

Government is the largest importer of drugs. If the Government of Barbados commits itself to these Generic Companies then two things will happen. The reputable Companies will have no further interest in Barbados and secondly, we will depend and continue to depend on those reputable Companies for supplying small quantities of vital drugs that Barbadians, Mr. Chairman, have enjoyed over the years; until the Barbados Labour Party came along, access to drugs that no Third World country ever enjoyed and with this kind of intervention in the market place with no proper analysis of the long termed effects of the totality on our Drug Industry it is going to cause serious harm in the availability of drugs to Barbados.

2.25 p.m.

Every fifty prescriptions that you write in Barbados, you can be guaranteed that a druggist is going to call you, those who do not believe that they have the right to substitute – I am going to deal with that in a minute – they will call you, in respect of ten of those prescriptions. Do you know why? The drug companies, the agents are not stocking because they do not know what their future is and they have not been doing that for about four years now. Secondly, the supplying companies have very little interest in a contracted market in Barbados, when in point and in fact, they can spend

the time and effort selling drugs in large markets in Africa and elsewhere. I will come back on this matter and go on until six, seven, eight, nine, or ten o'clock tonight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am certain that after hearing that very masterful presentation, we have started in the same vein that we left off yesterday, there is no doubt that the Opposition Democratic Labour Party is well seized with the problems facing this country, that it has a clear programme which it has place and which it will place before the people of this country and that we are offering a clear alternative to the country, in terms of the type of Government and the goals and objectives which we are aiming towards.

Make no doubt about it. We set out our principles quite clearly because we have said all along in keeping with the definition of health, perhaps most widely used and adopted by the World Health Organisation, that we consider health not merely to be of the absence of disease and infirmity, but a complete state of mental, physical and social well-being. We base our approach to health on those principles and we believe that each Barbadian should be entitled to health so defined and we try to arrange our institutions in that way.

Now, in this first presentation, I will be dealing with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital not merely because I believe that that institution is the prime health institution in this country for I do not necessarily see our health resources in that particular regard. I believe that we are talking about an integrated service, in which both preventive and curative approaches to health must be given their true weight. But, it is because that hospital touches on so many aspects of our health problems that the people of this country must be aware of its place in our health infra-structure. That hospital is a most complex institution. It is an office building, it is a hotel, it is a restaurant, it is a pharmacy, it is a medical care agency, it is an educational institution and when you put all of these together and you add the very human element to it, you will see how very complex that institution is, dedicated as it is to prevention, to diagnosis, to therapy, to rehabilitation to education and research.

We start out from that position because we believe that that hospital, particularly the Casualty Department of that hospital is symbolic of the health problems facing this country. Mr. Chairman, I may go further, I believe that it is symbolic of the failure of this country to deal effectively with the health problems in this country and in this regard, I am not saying – do not get me wrong – that it is a Barbados Labour Party failure, or a Democratic Labour Party failure, I am saying that it is a national failure and it symbolises the inaccessibility to health care that the people of this country, particularly the poor people of this country face in terms of getting such accessibility to health care.

I am talking in relation to the Casualty Department because my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West gave an example of a constituent of his, who had to spend a very long time in that Casualty Department awaiting treatment and that treatment only became available after he had made a personal plea. A few weeks ago, I had a similar experience, where I received a telephone call, one of my constituents, someone living in my constituency injured at a school on some old can at one of our institutions with an open wound went to that hospital sometime after midday and it was nine o'clock when I received a telephone call that that particular student had not had the type of attention that they should have had and was still waiting at that Casualty Department. I also called and I must say that treatment was immediate after that call.

Now, I am not faulting the professionals in the hospital, nor am I faulting the management of the hospital. I am saying that we have a problem and there is no point trying to deal with the symptoms of the problem, we have to get down to the root causes of that problem and it is because the Democratic Labour Party recognised that there are problems and recognised that those problems cannot be solved merely on the call by an effective representative like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West, or the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, it is not merely because we do our job effectively as parliamentarians. The health problems of this country cannot be solved on that basis. It has to be a more fundamental approach.

That is why we analysed the problems of the Casualty Department and we could have set out in 1976 that the main problem there was a need to separate what was considered to be emergency cases, from those which may be urgent, but certainly were non emergency cases. We set it out in our Manifesto and if those particular policy lines had been adopted four years, five years, time enough to have adopted that particular policy approach, if we had got into power we would have done it. (ASIDE: Fifteen years.) Fifteen years. I hear somebody asking about fifteen years. I am not going to ignore it because it is a fundamental problem because somehow or other, the Barbados Labour Party Administration is trying to give the impression to the people of this country that they have only been in power for five years and that the Democratic Labour Party has been in power for fifteen years. Nothing is farther from the truth because you had the first Barbados Labour Party Administration which was in power for almost eleven years, if you go back to about 1951 and then, you had a second bite at the cherry in 1976. So, this is no five year anything that you are into now. You have had your fifteen years already, you are

into sixteen now. If we go back to 1948, it is even longer. You have governed this country for a longer period than the Democratic Labour Party. So, let us not talk about five and fifteen. It is not five and fifteen. You have been in power all this time.

I am challenging you to come out and let the people know that this is not only a five year period against fifteen. We are going right down the road on this. You had fifteen years in power and when you left the Government to us in 1961, we are saying that if you take one index for the health status of this country, let us take the area of children.
2.35 p.m.

Infant mortality rate, I believe something like 84 out of 1,000 live births. That is the state we found when we came into power. We were able to reduce it, I believe to about 29 per thousand of live births in 1976. (ASIDE). I am not denying anything, I believe it has gone down, it must be about 26 or so, so let us not talk about five years as against 15. I know the specialists, those who deal in this particular area, the top specialists – we have top specialists over here, that is why you have to listen to us in these areas – because when the Democratic Labour Party speaks it speaks from a position of authority and from a position of well prepared positions. That is why in these Estimates now you have been telling us that we have been running away from debates, and I have seen you dodging all over these Estimates. You are hiding Agriculture, hiding Housing, hiding Communications and Works, so we are talking about this question of health. (ASIDES).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! We are having too many interruptions, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: We are all for this question of health, and what I am saying is that we spelt it out in our Manifesto and our position has not changed on that particular matter. We said that we would separate the emergency cases from the non-emergency cases, and the Minister comes out and she says she hopes that this particular thing will work. Very surprisingly, she did not come out and claim it as her particular policy. I believe the announcement came from the administration, a far seeing administration at that particular hospital, and the problem is that we have identified an area. I believe my colleague, the member for St. Michael South Central referred to it yesterday, we have identified an area in that hospital itself, and it involves screening of persons when they come to the hospital – I believe the technical word is triagin or something like that – those who are specialists in that area can correct me if that is not the correct word, I believe it is triagin – but this is the situation.

When we look at that particular Casualty we are saying that the proposals for improving that hospital are well within the capabilities of this country, but do you know the problem, Mr. Chairman? That Government believes that it can deal with all the problems in this country by getting at the personalities, by getting at people, and it was very revealing yesterday to hear we thought we had dealt with the problem in the dietary department when we had fired, dismissed or booted out whoever it was that had to be booted out.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I will not have myself misquoted in here. I never said anything about firing, booting out or any other such thing. People must put words of their own for their own ideas and not seek to put words into my mouth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken. (ASIDE).

Mr. SANDIFORD: We cannot deal with problems on this basis, not in terms of obscenities. (ASIDE). Rehashing? We will rehash it for you, this is what is going to give it to you. You see, Mr. Chairman, the problem there is that we must have an integrated approach to this matter of the health services of this country, and that is why our approach to the delivery of health care was in the building up of infrastructures throughout the country, through the multipurpose clinics, and yesterday the member for St. Michael South West quoted our theoretical approach, the whole model for those multipurpose clinics, and up to this particular point the Minister has not been able to say in what way her approach differs from ours. What is the model that you are following both in terms of this and the model for that particular health service? The National Health Service was to be free, and then again in one of these marvellous turns around we heard that it was no longer going to be free.

Mr. Chairman, we are saying that that particular Casualty Department – I am not going into the other areas of the hospital, because I believe in terms of the management of the administration, if they would get the type of support from the policymakers that they should get, then we would have a finer institution. We started out by putting in trained administrators, getting the administrators trained, and I believe there are about five or so trained administrators in this country up to now. We hope you will be able to tell us how many more persons you are training or have trained in the area of administration. We say health is a very complex thing and it needs trained administrators.

Mr. Chairman, we will be back, because this is important, there is no running away, no running away from the lashes today. This is the Democratic Labour Party in action.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow the hon. member's distortion of historical facts to go

unanswered. The hon. member has quoted from his Manifesto and he has postulated a problem. I believe that I came back to Barbados in 1954. From then until now I always heard of the problem at the Casualty and the need to make the Casualty a genuine emergency Casualty and to separate what is regarded as general practitioner work from emergency work. From 1954 I have been hearing of that problem.

When the hon. member sets out that that is their policy in their Manifesto, that is a problem that we have been living with as long as I can remember, myself, as an adult, but the point that the hon. member misses is that he had all the time not only to postulate it but to solve it from 1961 until 1976, and all their Manifesto can contain is a restatement of the problem.

I also want to point out that the hon. member talked about multipurpose clinics and about the delivery of health care in the areas where the people live. The hon. member is a historian. I also recall – I think it was in 1956 – when the first Health Centre was opened in Speightstown. I remember it, with Dr. Byer. I believe it is now called the Maurice Byer Clinic, so the question of multipurpose clinics was going on for a long time. I remember, because I was present when the one in Oistin was opened by the father of the present Minister of Health, Mr. Freddie Miller. I remember that, where you had your ante-natal and all that sort of stuff, where the children could go and get their injections, where the mothers before the babies were born could go and get attention. I remember. I lived through this period when the hon. member was away. The one at Six Cross Roads, I remember that one. I remember Enmore, I remember those. This is no new thing by calling it a new name, multipurpose clinics, the point is that you failed to grasp the overall policy that was needed, that you have to have some kind of national health service so that people can get the best medical attention and that it is not a condition of their ability to pull out their money and pay the doctor, and pay the drugstore, something which they cannot afford.

2.45 p.m.

That is the point. We are trying to grapple with that. That is the form of mental distinction between the hon. member's side and our side. I heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central saying a very significant thing, that we have the best existing available facilities, but the problem is that people have to pay for those facilities if they do not want to go and queue up for the facilities to take advantage of the free public facilities. Now that is the problem we have to grapple with, and we want to have the delivery of these facilities in better conditions than people having to go and queue up and wait. That is why we want to bring in the general practitioners, those that are willing. There is not going to be any law compelling any doctor to join the National Health Service. This is a free country and we believe in freedom. The hon. member over there is free not to join; any of the other members are free not to join.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, that side has so set up the National Health Service that people who are specialists in private practice cannot join it.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: The hon. member is not obliged to join. Now if you have an ideological objection to participating in a scheme, that is a matter for you. you are free. You can go ahead and you still have your tourists dollars that you can make. You can still estimate and calculate that a man of your competence can work outside the scheme and that you will charge whatever the tourist traffic can bear. You are free, but do not seek to deprive that general mass of the population who are unable to afford your services. Do not seek to discredit a scheme which has as its objective such a worthy motive.

A question was raised in respect of the reports. Mr. Chairman, many decisions are made not only in this country but all over the world as a result of a well recognised procedure of politicians conceptualising an idea but bringing in consultants to develop the methodology of working out in practice the idea and submitting that idea and the methodology as set out in report form to the people who it is contemplated would have to implement it. We are going through an exercise now in respect of the reform of the laws of copyright, patents, trademarks and others. We brought in the World Intellectual Property Organisation to do a consulting job of setting out potential draft laws to cover the points. After the report was received, it was circulated to each and every relevant interest group for their comments. After their comments a final decision will be taken resulting in laws coming to the Legislature.

Now, Sir, we did the same thing in relation to the Land Law. We brought in a consultant, he produced drafts, we had meetings with the Bar Association, with the bankers, with everybody whose interest was affected, and after that a final definitive law and procedure was established and brought before the Legislature. We are doing the same thing with companies we are doing the same thing with the oil industry. Now what is wrong with the medical profession that they violently object to that? Do they arrogate to themselves the totality of knowledge in relation to this matter and feel that by some divine right they must be the persons who must conceptualise as well as make the proposals for implementation? What is wrong with that? Now if the medical profession was a profession that had all of those powers and all this wisdom, how is it that in 15 years of Democratic Labour Party rule and 11 years of Barbados Labour Party rule previously and in the last four years they did

not come out and as a matter of public duty report in great detail a practical scheme which they could have implemented and we could have implemented.

Now the hon. member was not always in the House of Assembly. How is it that they stayed here in this community and allowed a situation to continue for 15 years or 12 years or whatever time the hon. member was back here as well as the present people here? How is it that they allowed it to continue and did not come forward with a practical scheme for implementation to get rid of all of us? Everybody knows the history of health service introduction in any part of the world always meets with resistance from the vested interests, namely the doctors. There is no country in the world which has not gone through this exercise. They are going to magnify the difficulties they are not going to be constructive. It is the nature of their training that they are trained to understand that they are an elitist group that their training takes very long they have to go through a lot of hard work to be trained and they believe that their earning power must be such as to put them in a superior position in relation to the other people. They are God's gift to humanity. That is what they feel and believe. They have to go through long, rigorous and hard hours and they feel that the tangible and monetary rewards must flow back like a river overflowing its banks as soon as they get their certificates. They believe that, therefore it is not surprising to me that there is an element, a very small element now – and I am pleased to say that from what I have been reading and from what I have been hearing, the excitement of the implementation of this grand plan to cure some of the obvious difficulties in health delivery in Barbados has now reached a stage where it is mushrooming. More and more of the general practitioners in particular and more and more of the specialists are becoming more co-operative, more constructive. It will not get 100% support, let us get that straight, and we as good Democrats are trying to reach a consensus provided of course that that consensus is not achieved by sacrificing the fundamental concept and intent of the National Health Service, and that is, that people must have access in the most tolerable conditions to the best medical care in this country. That is our objective, so don't try to make any politics out of this, because we on this side will point out to the public what the real position is, that this is a question of a belief by a small group. After all, all the doctors in Barbados only consist of a small group and we are not dealing with all; we are only dealing with a small number of the small total. We will soon start pinpointing and identifying them, and we will soon be able to find out how many they are. We will be able to point out that this is an attempt by the Government to solve some of the acknowledged difficulties of the delivery of health care here in Barbados.

2.55 p.m.

Sir, on the question of Drugs. I believe that it is well known that in all Third World countries the cost of drugs is a very, very important part of the national budget. The argument about generic drugs and brand name drugs, I have heard that going on for all of the years but I think it is true to say that this subject has been under such intense examination that most of the potential problems if not all of the potential problems outlined by the hon. member, solutions have been devised to deal with them.

I do not think that the hon. member could fail to recognise the important contribution being made and still being made on this question by people like Dr. Boyd at the Health Desk in the Caricom Secretariat.

I think from reading back decisions of Health Ministers not only in our time but previous times – I believe it even went to the Heads of Government. I believe that it was as a result of the Heads of Government decision for an endorsement that the Health Desk was set up in the Caricom Secretariat and one of the areas of great concern at that Health Desk was the question of the high cost of drugs and their impact and drain on Government Budgets and the community generally so that when the hon. member sets out these problems, these people are dealing with these problems. It is not only a problem in Barbados and the Government of Barbados is aware of the concerns expressed.

Systems have been set up to deal with these problems. (ASIDES). I am sure that the hon. member is fully aware of the purchasing procedures, how the drugs get on the Formulary and the method of composition of the Formulary. I am positive the hon. member is aware of all of that. Now if he wants to come in here and debate the system that we have set up and criticise that system, let him start with that today. Let him get down to the specifics. Let him say where the system is, where it is defective. Let him make suggestions as to how it can be improved.

Do not let us get into a general debate about the benefits of brand names *vis-a-vis* generic names. That is a debate that has been going on all over the World but the point is that positive steps have been taken all over the World to get the advantages of the reduction in cost by the use of generic drugs but at the same time all safeguards have been introduced to ensure that the disadvantages are removed. Let us get down into that area.

I do not like to bring Professional Associations into the House of Assembly. Everybody knows what is the object of a Professional Association. A Professional Association is designed to protect the interest of the profession. That is what it is and everybody knows that one of the hallmarks of a general body in a Professional

Association is to resist change. It is the same with Lawyers. It is the same with Doctors. It is the same with Dentists. It is the same with Pan Boilers. It is the same with Trade Unionists. It is all the same. That is when you are coming to deal with Trade Union Organisation, not when you are coming to deal with the third party. It is when you are coming to deal with the internal structure of the Trade Union Organisation. They like to be there for life. That is only an instance of their conservatism that they do not like change so I do not wish to bring in the Professional Association.

I know that the Professional Association of Barbados cannot say that they did not participate in the Drug Formulary. I know that. Neither the Pharmacists nor the Doctors can say that, that they have not been consulted in that respect and they did not have a big input. I know also that they are members on Standing Committees and that the General Practitioners and others have representatives so if you want to attack, attack them. Attack the people whom the Professional Association have put on this Body. Say that they are incompetent. Say that they do not have enough academic qualifications. Say that they do not have enough experience. Say that. Say that they should have a wider body or something along those lines that would be constructive. Do not let us indulge in a debate like what the hon. member has said.

Of course there have been law suits in relation to drugs. Once you manufacture products you are likely to expose yourself to a law suit. If you manufacture soft drinks you expose yourself to a law suit so that the basic position is, tell us that the procedures that have been established are such that drugs from non-reputable firms are purchased. Tell us that. I want to hear that. You know what the List is. Tell us that you have evidence before you that there are drugs that are purchased under the Purchasing Scheme that have been established which are unsafe. Tell, us that. That is constructive. Tell us how you can improve the system.

As far as I am aware, I have Druggist friends too. I have Doctor friends too. You have them and I have them too. There has been a consensus between the Pharmacists and the Unit in respect of the purchasing procedures of the drugs. That is what I understand. I understand that. I have not heard from any of my contacts in this area which would suggest to me that there is a fundamental difference between the Pharmacists, the Importers of drugs, and the procedures that have been established and the tenders. I have not heard of that.

If the hon. member has information otherwise I would be glad to hear. As a taxpayer naturally I am interested, Mr. Chairman, in ensuring that this National Health Service that we are going to have in Barbados does not saddle the taxpayers with an unreasonable expenditure. I am interested in that. I am interested in the economical aspect of it. I am very interested in that. All taxpayers would be very interested in that but to me the idea that you can so organise your professional medical talent and your delivery of drugs to the population that people can get it when they need it in the most tolerable conditions irrespective of whether they have money in their pockets or not in a very exciting one and that you can pay for it by a levy under the National Insurance Scheme, it is a very exciting one and I believe that many countries in the World have tried to do it.

Whether you do it like the British Scheme or you do it like in New Zealand or like Ontario, there are many different approaches to achieving the overall objective.
3.05 p.m.

What we are trying to get at is a scheme which is workable in the context of Barbados, bearing in mind our problems, bearing in mind the man power that we have available and bearing in mind the economic position of Barbados. So that, I hope the debate is conducted in that light.

I want to know honestly, are the Honourable Members over there saying that it is Democratic Labour Party policy that a National Health Service cannot work in Barbados? Are they objecting to the fact that the Ministry of Finance, by way of contribution to the National Health Service has removed the Duty on drugs imported into Barbados or the Consumption Tax? Are you objecting to that? We want to know. We want to see the defences. I want to know whether there are only personal, professional, or if there are political ideologies in relation to this. Tell us, tell the public that if you get back to power that you will put back the Duty. Tell the public that you will put back on the Duty. Tell the public that all the plans which we have for the National Health Service, all the plans which we have in relation to allowing general practitioners to have their surgeries in Government buildings that you are against that. Tell the public that you are against having other para medical personnel, as part of a general practitioner team.

Tell them that you want to continue, where a doctor sets up his surgery and if you go across the door, you either have to have a Poor Law ticket, or money in your pocket, or subscribe to a private insurance company and the insurance company pays the bill. Tell them that you do not want to be part of one general scheme. I want to know that. That is what we want to know.

I was saying, Sir, we are not ducking this debate, we are trying to bring the debate down to the fundamental issues and to leave out all the histrionics and all of

the well-known tactics that can be employed, whenever you are talking about a National Health Service, that you can pitch yourself in such a manner, as to create a scare in the community. In other words, you try to confuse the debate and appeal to the emotions of the people and not to their heads.

I want to know what are the alternatives. Give me the alternatives of the Democratic Labour Party and then we can deal with that.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman.....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, now that sanity has returned to the debate on Health, there are a few points which I want to make without prejudicing my right to wind up. I have noticed that Honourable Members are not speaking to any particular subheads in the Estimates, they are all over this Head and so, since that happens to be the pattern of the debate. I will make remarks accordingly.

The first thing that I want to talk about again is the business of drugs. Now, some questions were asked and I will try to answer some of them, some of them are not worthy of answer. I really do not understand how a person who did not have any visible job for the last five years will stand up here and ask me about what the Drug Director earns, or what the Medical Consultant to the National Drug Service earns. I have no patience for people who are willing to pay expatriate consultants vast sums of money and take exception when we think that our own local consultants, who are of equal, or of better quality ought not also to be paid equal wages for the work that they give. So, I am not into that.

The qualification and the competence of the Drug Director have been brought into question. It is not the first time Mr. Chairman that it has been brought into question on the floor of this Honourable House. At the time when the Drug Service Bill was brought to this Honourable House, this same question was asked, I answered it then and I will answer it again. The man who is the Director of the Barbados Drug Service is a man who has for twenty-five years Mr. Chairman been the Executive Director of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association. He is a man who has been the founding Director of the Pharmaceutical Limited of Canada, he has been the founding Director of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, all under the aegis of the Commonwealth Foundation. He is a man, who has served two four year terms as a Vice-President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation. He is a man who has been awarded the Order of Canada and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. He is a man who has served the Government of Canada as an expert in all sorts of areas to do with drugs and I could go on and on and on. He is a man who has served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He is a man who has even been awarded the honour in that respect and this man is now the Director of the Barbados Drug Service. He is a man for whom we have come to have great respect, he is a man in whom I have great confidence.

He is a man who is presently training a Barbadian, who at long last we have found to be coached to take over this job, when the time comes. People who are trained in this area are very scarce, a very scarce commodity and we have looked in vain for many years for a Barbadian and at long last, we have located one, he is here now and working, I am happy to say in the Drug Service Office and that is all that I am going to say about the Drug Service Director in fact, if I need to say any more about him.

But, I want to follow up on what the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said. He is following up on a challenge which I gave out yesterday. Let the Democratic Labour Party remember that it was their Administration which put a sales tax on drugs in this country. Let them remember that. Let them remember that they were embarrassed when there was public outcry about it. People will remember that the Democratic Labour Party put the sales tax on drugs and that the Barbados Labour Party removed import and Consumption Tax from it and if you think that the people in this country are to be bamboozled by the Democratic Labour Party and are to be fooled, when they have to dig into their pockets to pay for drugs and can see the difference to the tune of 40% to 45%, that they are going to be fooled, well then, the Democratic Labour Party seriously and dangerously underestimates the quality of the Barbadian and Barbadians consider these things, Mr. Chairman, when they go to the polls to vote. The Democratic Labour Party knows without having to be told that when Barbadians went to the polls to vote in 1976 that they had the sales tax right in front of their heads when those Xs were placed. So, like the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central, if the Democratic Labour Party wants to put it in their 1981 Manifesto, that they are going to return the sales tax and they are going to return Import Duty to drugs, let them do it and the people will be their judge.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Sir, again when the Drug Service Bill was introduced into this Honourable House, I went to great pains to name even the persons who sat on the various Committees and will continue to sit on these Committees. There is a Committee known as the Drug Formulary Committee. These are the people who monitor and control what goes into the Barbados Drug Formulary. This Committee sits continuously. Representations can be made to it for drugs either to go on, or to go off. It is no good for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to come in here and tell us that there are two, or three drugs which he can call now, which ought not to be on the Formulary. He must go to the Formulary

Committee and make his representations and as the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said.....
3.15 p.m.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There is nothing that I said that could possibly be construed as that. A drug is in a formulary under a generic name. The supplier of that drug can either be a proprietary or one of a thousand different manufacturers, so it is not a question of challenging what is in the formulary, it is a question of challenging in many ways the actual preparation taken. It is a different thing altogether, and highlights the ignorance of the Minister in respect of matters in relation to her Ministry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is an interruption which is not a point of order.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am obliged, Mr. Chairman. If I may continue, the Formulary Committee has on it several doctors, and pharmacists, and I am going to name it again, because if the hon. member for St. Michael South Central wishes to question the competence of this Committee, then he is entitled to make representations to me about that. The Committee comprises Dr. George Mahy, who it is expected will represent in particular the interest of drugs to do with psychiatry and the area of mental health. On that Committee we also have Dr. Henry Fraser, who is the only clinical pharmacologist in Barbados, a member of the Faculty of the University of the West Indies, much respected in this region. That Formulary Committee also has on it Dr. Graham, who is a well known paediatrician not only in Barbados but in this region, it has on it Dr. Jane Yeo, who is a well known general practitioner in Barbados, and who sits high in the councils of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners. That Formulary Committee also has on it Mr. Noel Parris, who is the Chief Pharmacist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It also has on it Mrs. Edna Franklyn who is the President of the Pharmaceutical Association or Society in Barbados. It also has on it the Director of the Barbados Drug Service.

Now, if the hon. member for St. Michael South Central thinks that this eminent group of people comprising doctors, pharmacists and administrators, is incompetent and incapable of monitoring and controlling...

(Certain remarks were ordered by the Chairman to be expunged from the record).

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Further to this, Mr. Chairman, there is a Tenders Committee which is involved in the business of monitoring and controlling resources from which these drugs in the Formulary come. They look at the tenders, they look at the companies they look to see what is reputable and what is not reputable. All of the people I have just called out also sit in addition to some others on the Tenders Committee. Again, if the hon. member is going to question the competence and the capability of these people to monitor and control what is in the Formulary and what comes up for tender, well then he must openly say so.

Now, I wish also to point out what has already been pointed out, but it needs to be said again, Mr. Chairman. All the drugs which are to be found in the Barbados Drug Formulary are drugs which have been available in Barbados for the past several years. I have never heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central or any other doctor for that matter, make any untoward statement, make any criticism or outburst about the quality of drugs formerly imported into Barbados. I have never heard anything like this. I have never heard any big quarrel about what is generic and what is proprietary, I have never heard that until the Barbados Drug Formulary comes into being, and until a statement comes from the Barbados Government that we have a policy, that we will go generic wherever we see fit, never sacrificing quality, and the hon. member has heard this and he knows this. The Formulary is not a closed document and he can make recommendations before the Formulary Committee if he wants certain items put on to it, or even if he wants certain items taken off it. I have said before and I say again, that items not on this Formulary are not banned in Barbados. It is no excuse for him to tell me what he can get the Commission Agents to import and what he cannot get them to import. If he wishes to import drugs not to be found in this Formulary, he is free to do so. Not only doctors and pharmacists, any individual in Barbados is entitled to do so. (ASIDE). Oh, no, they are going to pay the duty, that is where the difference lies. The patients in the end are going to decide whether they will pay the same money or less money for the same item.

The last time I spoke in this Chamber on this item, Mr. Chairman, I used some examples, I really hoped that I would not have to come to this situation yet again, but I do have some more recent examples to hand. I just want to give some examples in the area of price reductions which are already in place, which Barbadians have been experiencing since I would say, about December of last year. A simple multivitamin well known to Barbadians, B–Complex tablets, before September of 1980 I am reliably informed by the Drug Office that these were to be bought at the price of $58.50 per carton of 1500, and I am told that today, at March 1981, they are to be bought at $45 per carton of 1500 tablets. There is an antihypertensive drug which I quoted in this Hon. Chamber before, and I am going to quote it again, because the price has fallen even further. The drug is Altomet. Before September 1980, $146.95 at March 1981, $39.50. This is a drug much used in Barbados, much used in the treatment of antihypertension. I could

go on. There is a drug here used in the treatment of glaucoma. (ASIDES)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, pelase.

Hon Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, just let me make the point. It is very easy for doctors on the other side to get up and try to blind this Hon. House with science, and that is part of the problem why it is not the most advised thing to make a doctor a Minister of Health. You see, when you put a man whose discipline is the area of political policy into a chair as a Minister, he gets very much tied up at the level of the technicians and never gets beyond that to the area of policy, which is the business of a Minister. I do not get down on the ground and argue with my technicians, they are there to advise me. I deal in broad areas of policy. That is my job.

I could go on and on, Mr. Chairman, but I do not really want to spend too much time with that list, because I could find myself going right through this whole Formulary, and these are facts known across the counter in Bridgetown today. Hon. members on the other side know that and they cannot take that knowledge out of the heads of Barbadians. When the special benefit service comes in and the over sixty fives are getting their drugs free of cost, and the Government is paying half the bill for children under six, and for people suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer, they are not going to be able to take those basic facts away, these facts are going to speak for themselves in fact, are now speaking for themselves, and it does not matter what they say on the other side, the people will know the difference when the Democratic Labour Party brings out its Manifesto with the promise to return to the sales tax and to return to the import duties.
3.25 p.m.

Now I want to say other words, Mr. Chairman, on broader areas of policy. There has been a lot of talk on both sides about the difference between multi-purpose clinics and polyclinics, the difference between a casualty upstairs and downstairs at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the difference between a casualty divided into two, part of which would look after non-emergency walk-in cases. Now this difference is fundamental, Mr. Chairman, and is the basic difference between a broad policy that the Democratic Labour Party claims to have and the broad policy that the Barbados Labour Party in fact has and is in the process of implementing. In everything that you will see printed from the Association of Medical Practitioners in Barbados – and I will say this, Mr. Chairman, if the doctors in this country had wanted to bring to this country a national health service such as the Barbados Labour Party is bringing, they would have presented it to this country a long time ago, but it is only since the Barbados Labour Party has come into power in 1976 that we are hearing all of a sudden that the Association of Medical Practitioners has always had the answers.

Now there was a document of which much was made last night by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, and another doctor on the other side had much to say about another doctor. We are at the stage of implementation. A National Health Service is actually being put into place now. The Government of Barbados does not consider that every report that is made to it and every recommendation that is made to it is expected to swallowed hook, line and sinker. We have always maintained that we are tailor-making a service and a system of health care in this country for Barbadians. We are not lifting anybody's system wholesale; we are not swallowing anybody's advice wholesale. We will look at all the advice and all the recommendations with a most critical eye.

It has been said in here that we have not consulted the professional associations. I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the level of consultation with medical practitioners in this country has gone on at such a level and at such a rate in the Ministry of Health that I have had to have a private telephone line put in the Ministry of Health to cater to the doctors who come to meetings with me by way of accommodating their calls. You could not put them through the PBX when the things are going at 6 o'clock and 7 o'clock at night; they must have a direct line to meet emergency calls, and I have had to go to that kind of length to accommodate the doctors and I did it willingly. I do not know if I would have gone to that trouble if I was not talking to the doctors, and at least one of the doctors on the other side knows better than that. But this is election year and we are going to hear a lot of hot air being talked.

Mr. Chairman, if I may get back to this basic matter of the difference between our policy that is being implemented and a policy which has been described by them over there today as theoretical, the hon. member for St. Michael South said they left a theoretical policy about multi-purpose clinics. I came and found a failed crematorium converted into a clinic at Warrens and a hole in the wall at Bayville specially built to accommodate the constituents of the then Minister of Health masquerading as multi-purpose clinics. That is all I I can say of multi-purpose clinics; but the difference between a multi-purpose clinic and a polyclinic, Mr. Chairman, is a deep and fundamental difference as far as the Barbados Labour Party is concerned.

In all the talk that we have heard from that side about what should happen in the Casualty and what should happen in a multi-purpose clinic and what should happen in a polyclinic, I will tell you what the basic difference is, Mr. Chairman. The Democratic Labour Party has never had a vision, has never conceived

of a health service where ordinary Barbadians might be able to go to a doctor of their own choice, money not being the arbiter, and get health care. Their attitude has always been and still is now that those who can afford to pay general practitioners and private specialists would continue to pay them and that the rest who could not afford to pay them are the people who should go downstairs into a special clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and who should get these charitable works handed out and doled out to them. That has always been their policy and it is still now their policy. You will search in vain to find any indication that wherever intended that in the same way that tertiary and secondary health care have long been nationalised in this country and really is truly and freely available to everybody, that primary health care is not so.

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central yesterday said something about health care being available to all, and he stopped there. I want to go a step further. It is our intention that primary health care, secondary and tertiary health care must all be affordable to all Barbadians. It is not now affordable in the way that we want and will not become affordable in the way that we want until this whole service is put in place. The National Health Service is a high undertaking and we are doing it step by step. I am not going to be harried or harassed by anyone into making a wrong step, because, Mr. Chairman, we are planning for life: we are dealing with the lives of people. For 15 years no care was taken and no thought was given to relieve Barbadians in the area of primary health care, and now that the first steps are being taken, we are hearing all kinds of negative talk coming from the other side. I do not know how they are planning to justify their opposition to a national health service on the platform outside or on the street, but I am willing to take them on in here if they are in a position, as the hon. Deputy Prime Minister said, to let us know what their alternatives are.

Mr. Chairman, there is a serious inequity in the delivery of health care in this country, and it cannot be denied. The Casualty is full of non-casualty cases because it is full of people who cannot afford to pay a private practitioner or a private specialist. The answer to that problem is not to build a special room downstairs and send them to be treated down there. The answer to that problem is not to build multi-purpose clinics and send them there for any second rate or charitable attention or for any social service attention. Those days are gone, Mr. Chairman. Just as those people who can now afford to put their hands in their pockets and take out money and go to the doctor and be able to pay and get first rate service, we feel that everybody in Barbados, since health is such a fundamental right must have the right to do that, and this is what the national health service is all about. It is a re-emphasising of the importance of primary health care; it is the bringing of the quality of access to primary health care to all Barbadians in a way that has never been conceived, has never been conceptualised by the Democratic Labour Party and is not even now so conceptualised by that party.

A lot of fuss was made about documents in here last night; I heard a lot of nonsense being talked about how I should have let Professor Walrond and the doctors form a national health service policy for me to follow. The doctors are not formulating the health policy of this country. Let us have no mistaking of that fact. The Barbados Labour Party has formulated this policy. What we are seeking is the cooperation of the doctors in the implementation of this policy. Irrespective of what is said on the other side the doctors are cooperating with us. 3.35 p.m.

Now the document which was referred to last night and which is now a document of this Honourable House, Mr. Chairman, Sir, was a critique. I cannot describe it otherwise, from the Association of Medical Practitioners and in sum, what it sought to do was to criticise a Report made by the Consultants and they were entitled to do that. Even I criticised the Report of the Consultants. That was not to be swallowed whole and chewed. That brought criticism from the Government too.

Some recommendations were accepted and some were not but there was a document offered to us by the Association of Medical Practitioners even before the document which was put on the Table of this House last night and they claimed and I heard from one of the members that it was their idea, that these three categories were their idea. Now, the colossal ignorance of this point of view is difficult to explain to you, Mr. Chairman, but let me say this. I am going to try. It does not take a Solomon to know. Barbadians are educated people.

In Barbados great deference is shown to the aged. It does not take a Solomon to know that any first steps when it comes to Health Care and we have a whole pension service and a whole welfare service which bears this fact out. Anybody over the age of 65 is treated with extra special care by Government or both sides of this House so it really does not behove the hon. member for St. Michael South to come and say that the doctors said that it was a brilliant idea on their part that the over 65's are a special people.

In every home in Barbados grandfathers, grandmothers, great-uncles and great-aunts are revered so it does not mean that it is super brilliant for you to come and say that. It is not something that we have not recognised in the Ministry of Health. Just as the children under six we regard as extra special people it does not take a pound of Barbados dollars to make the man in the street understand that these people are the future of Barbados so we treat them with extra special care.

It does not take a panel of Barbados Scholars or the Association of Medical Practitioners, Mr. Chairman, to point out to us that people who suffer chronic illnesses in this country are people who ought to have extra special benefits but that was the sum total of the representation of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners that the National Health Service should deal with these three areas, fullstop, because you see, Mr. Chairman, they cannot get away from the concept, Mr. Chairman, of a fee for service in the area of primary care.

In other words you provide a special thing for the old people and the young children and the chronic patients and the rest of us, the working population, the earning population will continue to pay General Practitioners and those who cannot, as I said before, would have to go to the clinics with the poor law dignity, as the hon. member for Christ Church South Central still calls it, or with a cheque from the Social Welfare Office or wait for 17 hours at the Casualty of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

I have said it before, Mr. Chairman, and I will say it again. The problem at the Casualty at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital can only be cured by the National Health Service which this Government is now in the process of implementing. It is the only cure. You have to face the facts. The people who are queueing up in the Casualty are queueing up only because they have not got the money so they do not wish to set their budgeting priorities in such a way that they can afford to pay a Private General Practitioner and so no amount of shunting, room dividing, panel of doctors, casualty doctors, none of those solutions are really going to work in the end. They are only plasters to cover the old sores.

The hon. member for St. Michael South said that we must get to the root cause of the problem. When he was Minister of Health he did not get to the root cause of the problem. This Minister of Health has identified the root cause of the problem and to the root cause of the problem there is a solution which would cause those people not to have to go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Casualty at all. Those kind of people need not be in the precincts of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at all. Where they will find themselves is in the surgery and offices of the General Practitioners and it will not matter then whether they have $10, $15 or $25 in their pockets because the National Health Service is going to be a prepaid Insurance system.

We hear of freenesses in this country. I do not know of anything that is free. They talked about a free School Meals Service for years, for 15 years, and we came in here and found that the children were still paying 10 cents. We took off the 10 cents and we are still hearing from them that it was a free School Meals System. It is a free School Meals' System at the point where the children get it in the schools and we the taxpayers pay for it, Mr. Chairman, and Barbadians must understand that. Barbadians have this thing about a freeness built into their heads. (ASIDES).

Yes, it is written there. The National Health Service will be free at the point of delivery just as a child now goes to school and does not pay 10 cents or any cents but they get the meal and so will Barbadians go to their doctor and pay nothing at that point and get attention. (ASIDES).

When you said in your Manifesto that there was going to be a free School Meals Service and free textbooks, what is the difference? We will not worry with the free holiday homes for workers by the seaside. We will not worry with that today but when you said in your Manifesto that there was going to be a free School Meals Service, was it any less free because the taxpayers were paying for it? Did that stop you for the years even though you were still charging 10 cents at the point of delivery? That did not stop you from shouting that it was a free School Meals Service so do not let us hear any more rubbish now that we said "free" in our Manifesto that it is no longer free. It will be free at the point of delivery.

What has to be my business, not only as Minister of Health but as Minister of National Insurance, Sir, is that it does not bring any unnecessary burden on Barbadians and it is important that we understand how it is intended to finance this primary health care system which is being put into play, very important.

My time is up, Mr. Chairman? I will rise again. Thank you.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am sure you heard the opening sentences of the distinguished lady who now fills the role of Minister of Health in this country. She wondered, if I may recap for you, Sir, how it is that persons who have had no physical means of support can get up in this Honourable House and raise questions?

Mr. Chairman, at the Estimates last year or the year before I remonstrated with one of my colleagues who referred to viragoes and I suggested that we ought not necessarily to acknowledge every deficiency which we saw in every person.
3.45 p.m.

I would like to apologise to him on the Floor of this Honourable House. I feel that while I do not wish to descend to the level which is constantly being urged upon me that it is necessary to draw to the attention of the Honourable lady that while my parents were

poor, they were decent and while it is difficult for her to understand why I do not beg, it should not be difficult for her to understand that poor people can have integrity. When my father sent me to school on the morning, Sir, he used to say, goodbye. When my father sent my sister to school he used to tell her, "goodbye". I hope that I never reach the stage where I have to describe the methodology used by her father when he sent her to school in the morning. I just want her to understand that if she starts in that vein, she is going to get *quid pro quo*. There are many forms of prostitution, Mr. Chairman.

The Honourable Member who spoke before the Honourable Minister raised some questions which I think are worthy of response. I shall like to deal with a few of them. I want to make the point that has to be made, that the mere naming of a programme, "The National Health Service" does not a health service make. The question which the Barbados Labour Party must answer before it raises questions with the Democratic Labour Party are:

> Are the doctors in Barbados professionally competent to comment on a proposed National Health Service as seen by them?
>
> If the doctors in Barbados are competent, does that competence diminish in any way by the fact that they are members of an Association called the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners?
>
> Is the Barbados Labour Party saying that doctors in Barbados are so motivated for personal gain and show such disinterest in the patient care of the people of Barbados that in pursuance of that gain that they would be prepared to make untrue, or unprofessional statements about a system purporting to be introduced by a Government?

If the Barbados Labour Party and more specifically, the Honourable Minister is not saying that, then the Honourable Minister will have to give some credence to the statement made by the medical practitioners about any scheme proposed by either that Government, or this Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the document which is now a document of this Honourable House and which I may now quote from freely, at page 14, paragraph 45 of that document, the Association of Medical Practitioners has this to say and I quote:

> "The Government's decision to 'restructure' the health service was a political promise put out in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto and predates any examination of the strengths and weaknesses of a system as documented in this study or the Peat, Marwick Mitchell study. This example of ends justifying the means is a predominant feature of the methodology used in this document.
>
> Findings are produced to fit into Government's health care goals and established operational guidelines. It should be clearly recognised that the study is not an indepth one and therefore its recommendations cannot be seen as necessarily proposing the best type of health care for Barbados. It is by their own words, a rationalisation for the political aims of the ruling Party."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I remember correctly, that is a document of the Honourable House and I just want to inform you that you do not really have to read the whole thing out.

Mr. TAITT: For the purpose of my argument, Sir, there are certain excerpts from this document which I would like to appear in the Record. It is important, Sir. The paragraph preceding that paragraph....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, this document is a document classified in the Ministry of Health, part of the negotiations between the Association of Medical Practitioners and the Government, which now finds itself in the hands of an Opposition MP and is laid in this Honourable House as a document of this Honourable House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue your speech.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I just wish to remind you for the record in the light of that interruption, that last night, I strove very manfully to avoid this becoming a document of the Honourable House. It is in keeping with my responsibility but now, it is no longer a classified document. The press may publish it because it is a document of this Honourable House and things that the doctors because of their professional position might not be able to say publicly, may now be said to all and sundry, so that the people of Barbados will know that the doctors, the people who will be called upon to perform in any health service are the ones who are pointing out the grave deficiencies in a Report on which hangs the entire policy of that Government.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Government's policy hangs on no report, neither in Health, Agriculture, Finance, Trade, Education, nor else. This Government does not hang policies on Reports of consultants.

Mr. TAITT: Well, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is a remarkable statement for if the Government can pay

$250 000 for a Report on which it is going to hang nothing, Mr. Chairman, I can only conclude that it must be the most inept Government. But let me stick to the Honourable Minister because I do not believe that her colleagues accept that they would like her to make that statement. I do not know if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister hearing her make that statement will not give her some instructions on what kinds of statements Honourable Ministers should make.

Mr. Chairman, not you Sir, you cannot be in a debate. But, were you sitting in your seat, you would have been thoroughly embarrassed that an Honourable Minister, who goes around and has been going around for some time giving the impression that she had her head for other than carrying her hair, she gave people the impression...*(Asides)* Let me quote her, "This Government hangs its policy on no Report".

Mr. Chairman, you will recall, that the Honourable Member came in here with the executive summary of the Report and she stood up right there and she told us and the people of Barbados and I remember her holding it up and saying: "Here it is at last, the National Health Service is on the way" and now, she says that the Government hangs its policy on no Report. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars later and a.....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Government has never paid $250 000 on any Report. The Government paid not one cent. Not one cent of the taxpayers money was paid for any study done by the Kaiser Foundation International, not one cent of the taxpayers' money.

Mr. TAITT: Well Sir, it gets as the lady said in Alice of Wonderland, "Curious, Sir, I am curious, Sir." 3.55 p.m.

Are we to understand that the Kaiser Foundation did the study as they say in Barbados, free, gratis and for nothing? Or are we to understand that it is out of an abundance of admiration for the Minister that this study has been done? She said that the taxpayers have paid not one cent. I believe that that will haunt the Minister in the not too distant future, for she will have to tell us if they are making secret deals with people we know not about. You will recall, Sir, that this Government came into power that it must be open Government with open decisions openly arrived at. We had been led to believe that this study was paid for by the people of Barbados, now we are told that the taxpayers paid not one cent. (ASIDE). No, no, we have not got to that yet. No doubt we will soon hear that the funds which we queried earlier to find out of the structure of the P.D.I.U. which we questioned..... (ASIDE). Sir, I am not a doctor, but if I see the professionals questioning it, I feel that I have a right to come and draw to the attention of my colleagues in the House that they question it. We will soon be hearing that that will cost the taxpayers not one cent. We asked her what was the cost she has not told us. We believe that the Minister has a responsibility to tell us what the cost is. But that is how the Government functions. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You know we get international funding). Now we are hearing *sotto voce* that they get international funding.

Now, we have intelligent journalists in this country, Sir, who must be concerned that the Government will seek to separate international funding from taxpayers cost. All through this Estimates debate so far, Sir, one of the things which has been very important was the whole question of the National Debt. Now, Sir, when you get international funding you have to pay it back. That is why the National Debt of Barbados is half million dollars.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN On a point of order, Sir. I must not let the hon. member mislead the journalists. He knows that there are various categories of international funding. They may be non-reimbursable grants, in which case you do not have to pay back anything at all. They may be loans on very soft terms at 2% interest over 40 years, they may be loans on very hard terms, so the hon. member must not seek unwittingly to mislead.

I just want to let the hon. member know that he is still on the floor, but that it is 4 o'clock. As usual, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Mr. TAITT: That is right. Run again, run again.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member obviously did not see the usual communication between the Chairman and the Leader of the House.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, I merely said it is a proper time for such communication. This is the correct time for such communication, but the blows are coming and you are shading her. You cannot give her a concrete umbrella.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, the time being 4 o'clock, this is the usual time that we have our 15 minute break to allow the staff and everyone to have a little recess, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 4.15.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
4.00 p.m.

On Resumption.–

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said to this Hon. House that if the doctors wanted to participate and propose and consult, that they would have done so. You will recall, Sir, I know you will recall vividly, that it was in September 1976 that the hon. member took her place as the Minister of Health. Mr. Chairman, on the 19th November 1976 the Association wrote to the Ministry, wrote to the Minister, wrote to the Government and said to them, "We wish to participate in any formulation of a national health service according to your political indications in your Manifesto." That was the 19th November. I prefer to believe that the Minister does not remember, although on an occasion such as the Estimates she should have the file, so the question of remembering does not really arise, so to tell this Hon. House that the doctors ought to have made a suggestion, or ought to have come forward, Mr. Chairman, you could wish more coming forward than two months after they take office, give her a chance to go and find out what kind of staff she has, to find out what kind of Ministry it is.....

Certain words were ordered by the Chairman to be struck from the record.

On the 19th November they tried, but more than that, and I wish to enlighten the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, because his instincts as a rebuttal lawyer come to the fore every time he sees one of his colleagues in trouble, but today and yesterday evening he has merely been performing a miracle, or trying to perform a miracle: He is trying to bring back the dead to life, because he cannot rebut what has been going on, and as far as I know he is not a medical doctor, but, Sir, he himself needs to be enlightened because he said that they are sitting on the Steering Committees. What he does not know is that it was 18 months after they formulated the policy and the report was submitted, 18 months later they seek to get the assistance of the doctors. That is like when a person gets into a bad accident and you say send for a doctor, and somebody says what doctor, you want Two Sons, you do not want any doctor. But then, of course, the hon. member has said that the report was sent to the doctors to check it.

Mr. Chairman, the doctors – and I have to continue to say the doctors, Sir – because we are not discussing sugar, we are not discussing a commodity, and one of the fundamental errors that continues to be made by the hon. members on that side is that they continue to discuss the delivery of health in the same way they would discuss the delivery of coal or the delivery of sugar, or the delivery of cement. It is not like that. Whereas if a lawyer makes a mistake, most time the worse that can happen is that the person will lose the case, when we make mistakes in the area of health people stand to die. We have demonstrated, and it is there for any one who has the capacity to observe although we do not wish to alarm the population, it is there to see that mistakes that have already been made have resulted in the premature death of people in this country. It is there for all to see, you only have to deduce the circumstances.

We do not wish, Sir, unless we are forced to, we do not wish to give a catalogue of all those persons of whom it could be reasonably said that were it not for the particular policy of the particular Ministry – and I really think it is in some ways unfair to talk about a Ministry, because when one talks about a Ministry one tends to be bringing in the officials that work in a Ministry – but I want to make it clear, Sir, we on this side are satisfied that within the Ministry of Health, and especially within the hospitals, we have a large number of committed, dedicated people. We do not believe that they are thieves and vagabonds, we do not believe that they are people who do not understand what is happening with the poor people in this country. What we wish to point out Sir, is that those committed people are not being given the opportunity, and were not given the opportunity, to flower, were not given the opportunity to put the vast collection of experience and expertise which they have garnered over many years, the many years which saw the delivery of health care in this country moving from a position of a high death rate, both at the ages over 60 and the ages before 5, to a point where the quality of the delivery of health in this country was second to none in the Caribbean by the time this Government came into power.
4.25 p.m.

We had an unmatched reputation for the delivery of health care, and except for the occasional question raised by members on both sides of the House, they never used to be this general call which hangs over the whole question of our health care in this country which now exists, and I am saying that the same people, the same professionals are still functioning. It is wrong for the Minister to try to suggest that we would never attack any of the professionals who functioned in our administration of the hospital and the health services. What we are questioning and what we are

attacking is the wrong-headedness, the arrogance, the stupidity and the colossal ignorance which is now brought to bear in perseverance of a system which has been demonstrated time and time again by professional people, by people who care and a system that will not improve the health of the country and if anything can bring it down.

Mr. Chairman, the professional people in Barbados said to the Minister that the system suggested is worse than that now existing in the casualty. That is what they said of the system which he is putting forward and which the hon. member for Christ Church South Central in his innocence calls the great plan. The suggestion seems to be that there was no health service in Barbados prior to 2nd December, 1976. We all know differently. The other suggestion seems to be that this is a free service that were available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other institutions around this country were only available to poor people. That is not true. There was a choice. You could choose to pay or you could choose not to pay, and it is well known that a large number of people who could afford to pay have chosen not to pay. That was a free system. It was free in the sense that people had alternatives. People like me who have no available means of support could choose not to pay irrespective of which section of the social strata I might have come from. People who were poor and could not afford to pay would choose not to pay, and more, Sir, there is not a single individual in Barbados, not even the hon. member for Christ Church South Central who will not agree that the general attitude of doctors in Barbados whether they are specialists or general practitioners has been over many years, certainly for as long as I can recall, that those who can afford to pay more used to help carry the weight for those who could not afford to pay, let them get up and deny that that is the general attitude of the practice of medicine in this country. We all know that there are private doctors who see patients and who never receive a cent from them. It does not therefore behove the Minister of Health who is not Minister of the Barbados Labour Party but Minister of Barbados, it does not behove her or any member on that side to get up and try to run down the doctors in Barbados because they have a professional difference of opinion with a man called Mr. Roemer or anybody else whom they bring from wherever they bring, who could not possibly be acquainted with the nuances of health care and health delivery to Barbados to compare with a large majority if not all of the practitioners in this country.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that no attempt on the part of the Government to invalidate what they have to say in trite statements on the question of alternatives will take away from the fact that even the consultants whom they employ acknowledge that Barbados has a high standard of health care delivery. What is remarkable though is that there found so-called weaknesses, in any of the documents which they have produced – as Mr. Chairman, I have studied them certainly from a management point of view – they have not been able to compare the systems which they described as weak with the systems in any other part of the world. They have not taken the trouble to look at what has happened when they had tried to equalise the delivery of health care, and it seems to me, Sir, and I believe this is a view shared by the professional people that what they have sought to do is to freeze the present situation until they are able to institute what they describe as the national health service.

Mr. Chairman, here is what the professionals have to say again. I am quoting from paragraph 149: "The proposals for the reorganisation of public health services remain vague. This is unfortunate for the proposals call for a major conceptual change in the system and the assignment of the public health nurses to community nursing as part of the G.P. team. This is an extremely crucial weakness for a system that has served Barbados well is to be destroyed to satisfy a theory of equalisation and integration. Furthermore it might well be untested before the proposed destruction of the system. It is also clear that the study team has chosen to ignore the historical precedent of Puerto Rico where the integration of the preventative and curative services led to the rapid decline of the preventative service."

Mr. Chairman, if faced with a report about the movement of goods and services from a team that has been involved in the movement of goods and services for a long time, I would say let us stop, let us see what it is these people are saying, if they have experience, they have expertise and more important they have goodwill.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, if I could just ease the pressure on the Minister a little by making an intervention and just shifting the debate into an area other than that of drugs, I know that it will be returned to by my other colleagues, I think it would be useful at this point in time to just look at some other areas which are covered under this Head of Health and National Insurance. There is no doubt that health is vital to the welfare and well being of the citizens of any country, and in this particular regard I am sure that the concerns which my colleagues have expressed in the area of improving the health and welfare of the citizens in this country are suggestions which ought to be taken into consideration for the indepth analysis which they have given and certainly for the kind of input which they are able to bring to bear on this particular debate.

There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that the Democratic Labour Party has an input of some

fundamental importance in this particular area, particularly in an area which certainly will continue to arouse a tremendous amount of debate in this country. If I could just refer to an area of health on which I would like to get a response from the Hon. Minister, it is an area of occupational health and the question of occupational disease and indeed the kind of strategy which the Government has for dealing with this particular aspect of health. There is no doubt that with the growing industrialisation in Barbados, the fact that industries are coming into this country and indeed are in this country which use chemicals and substances which can cause serious damage to the health and well being of workers and other people in the society who might be exposed to these substances and chemicals, some important strategy has to be developed in order to cope with and be able to manage this particular area.
4.35 p.m.

I can draw to Your Honour's attention that, for example, we have the Bayer Company here which uses chemicals which can cause very serious damage to the health of people. We have also more than one Paint Company. There is talk about the establishment of a Chemical Plant with all of the ramifications which are involved in the establishment of a Chemical Plant and the kind of substances which are used therein and there are one or two Companies dealing with plastics.

Only recently, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to draw to the attention of this Chamber that the workers at a Company which deals in plastics protested against the use of a particular substance which was causing them to have some kind of reaction and the substance was sent to the ICI Laboratories in England for testing and the reports which came back from the Laboratories indicated that the substance to which the people were exposed could be dangerous and made certain suggestions as to the way in which people who worked in that area could be dealt with.

I am mentioning this, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that because of the fact that we are in the whole process of industrialisation that these are matters which should be of some concern and certainly the Government should have a particular policy to deal with it. The whole question of industrial dust, the question of noise pollution is something which I believe that the Government again should pay some attention to particularly in view of the fact that at the present moment there is in circulation and happily in the not too distant future there will come into existence the new Legislation dealing with the safety and health in the factories.

This new legislation would, without doubt, impose additional and wider responsibility on the Ministry of Health for ensuring that the working environment remains a safe and healthy place for the workers. I believe that because of that there will be need for a wider training of professional and para-professionals in the area relating to the whole question of health and safety and I wonder if the Minister could give some indication as to the way in which the Government proposes to approach this particular matter and furthermore, I would think that if one is not already established, it should be established and if one is already in existence I think there is some aspect of it here but a proper Laboratory for testing the kind of substances which will be questioned from time to time by people who are exposed to these areas should be provided.

Now I will like further to draw to the Hon. Minister's attention the difficulties which are experienced by people who sometimes have to take care of some of our senior citizens, difficulties which they experience in sometimes getting into the Geriatric Hospitals. This is a problem and I think I heard somewhere along the line that the Government is developing some programme called the Home Help Service.

I am not sure if this is connected with it but I know, for example, that a number of people from my own constituency and from other constituencies have been raising questions about the difficulties which they have experienced with their senior citizens or old people who might be called upon to stay at home and thereby forego getting a job and earning their wherewithal and therefore I wonder if the Minister can give any indication as to any plan which the Government has for relieving the people of this particular problem. I think it is a matter which is of utmost importance and some concern.

My last point at this stage relates to the question of Cemeteries. Now there is a vote in these Estimates for Cemeteries. I believe that the vote relates specifically to those cemeteries which are financed by the Government but I would like to put in a plea once more for those cemeteries or burial grounds which are operated by the Churches.

Churches, particularly, in the rural areas in Barbados have, and I notice that you are nodding – I believe that this goes for some of the Churches in your constituency of St. George, also that they do a very important community and national service by making their burial grounds available to the people in the community but if you examine particularly some of the Churches, which are not so well off, the burial grounds maintained by them, you will see that they are in a dilapidated state.

These grounds are full of grass and bush and I am wondering if the Hon. Minister can give any indication as to whether the Government would be giving or indeed can give some assistance in this area to make

sure that the general upgrading of these cemeteries would be consonant with our national image and the kind of aims which we kind of put into this society.

Those are the three areas that I would like to raise and hope we could get some response from the Hon. Minister.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, as this debate progressed, I was prompted to make further inquiries into the history of the sequence of events in relation to the National Health Service and indeed in relation to the real intent of the Democratic Labour Party when they were in power and when they drew their Manifesto.

I am now more than convinced that the real reason for the Opposition to the National Health Service by the Other Side is because they could not believe that Barbados is ready for a National Health Service. They are opposed to it in principle, hence any evidence that they can garner up which will cast a reflection on it, they will use.

These are the facts. On the 29th of October, 1975, the Democratic Labour Party then in power went to the Inter-American Development Bank and asked for a non-reimbursable loan to finance the Study of the Health Services in Barbados. The Study was to review the existing Health Services and facilities including Mental Health in their institutional, functional and administrative aspects at both the central and local levels. To identify their shortcomings with the services provided and to prepare a plan outlining the proposed possible ways of improving the efficiency of the system by achieving better co-ordination between the integration of the available preventative and curative services and to establish the possible needs for expansion and/or the construction of the Hospitals and other health facilities identifying specific proposed possible areas which may be the subject of future projects which in turn would be subjected to additional technical co-operation for the preparation of future feasibility studies.

Now, Sir, this is what the Democratic Labour Party's conception was. Let us go to the Inter-American Development Bank to look at the existing systems. All right. You did not go to your experts. You did not go to your Barbadian BIMAP. You did not go...
4.45 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member said that we went for money, a non-reimbursable grant. That is what we went to them for, we went for money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us avoid interruptions wherever possible.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You went for money to hire consultants? Who did you get? You did not insist that you must have people with local expertise, people with experience in the local condition. You went to the bank and the bank gave you Peat, Marwick & Mitchell, an international consulting, accounting firm. (ASIDE: Who has local representation here, local people. Do not mislead) Peat, Marwick & Mitchell International. Ken Hewitt & Company are the local partners. (ASIDES) It was not Sir Kenneth Straughan, it was not Dr. Waldron, it was none of the people whom you thought that we should go to and I am going to show you, Sir.

The Government – before that Agreement was signed, the good people in Barbados in their wisdom, impressed by the bold concept on Health, as contained in our Manifesto endorsed us with the power to implement what is set out in our Manifesto. (APPLAUSE). The first challenge came. We immediately went to the Inter-American Development Bank and told them, that we are not interested in that exercise, that the last Government put in their application to you. We have a Mandate from the people of Barbados to introduce a National Health Service for delivery of Health care. (ASIDE: That is your problem. You cannot move from that.) You are saying that we, who made a most solemn promise to the Electorate, that we must move away from that? That kind of political lack of integrity does not reside in this Side. I know that the Honourable Member's attitude to politics is that that is proper conduct.

Now Sir, we said to the Inter-American Development Bank, let us get this straight, the fundamental conception of the Barbados Labour Party is that we must have a National Health Service integrated in the National Insurance Scheme so that there will be a comprehensive scheme for delivery of health care. The Inter-American Development Bank refused – let me give you the facts – to accept a change in the Terms of Reference. So, we said, but that is alright, you can determine how to spend your money, we will determine how we will interpret our political Mandate which was given overwhelmingly in September.

We then appointed a Steering Committee and they are going to talk. The facts are going to hang out and to show the nonsense that you are talking. The Cabinet appointed a Steering Committee to formulate a Terms of Reference, within the context of the political Mandate that we had and who did we appoint on the Steering Committee? Dr. Hoyos and Dr. Gale as medical practitioners of Barbados. Their task..... *(Aside)* What are you saying, that they do not have any intellectual integrity? If the Honourable Members are going to say that one of the most experienced general practitioners that we have had in Barbados because of his association with the Poor Law ticket system, the indignity of the

ticket system, Dr. Gale, who was a PMO of St. Michael, a man who deals with delivery of specialists services, no high priced services, he deals with the day to day problems of the sick people in the background of the City of Bridgetown, who was in touch with the poor people's problems. That Steering Committee was appointed to formulate with a Terms of Reference within the overall conception. There is a conceptual difference between us. There is a policy difference between us. Let it hang out.

I ask you what is your policy because I know it now. Your policy was contained in your application to the Inter-American Development Bank. You have never contemplated the concept of a National Health Service with an Insurance Scheme.

That Steering Committee, a local Steering Committee drew up Terms of Reference. We went back to the Inter-American Development Bank and said, now this is our political Mandate. We also applied for a non reimbursable loan for consultants to implement the conception that we have a Mandate for. That is the point. We have the Mandate. We conceptualised it. The consultants must carry out the functions as to how to implement that Mandate. You cannot question the political Mandate and that was endorsed by the Electorate.

Now, Sir, then in accordance with the usual procedures of the Inter-American Development Bank, just as they hired Peat, Marwick & Mitchell, they hired the Kaiser Foundation. *(Aside)* When the World Bank told you that you had to hire as you said, dealing with cement; that you either had to hire La Farge, you had to hire Holder Bank, or you had to hire somebody else, you said that you picked them. *(Aside)*

Now, Sir, from the very beginning practitioners in Barbados participated in drawing of the Terms of Reference, Dr. Gale and Dr. Hoyos. Well, the Kaiser Report was published. The Honourable Member knows better, but this time of the year and this year in particular prevents him from acknowledging that when you are carrying out a conceptualisation, you have to go through certain procedures. The concept is there, you get a Report, you get a document, you collate your ideas. That is what the Kaiser was supposed to do. That was the feasibility study. But, the point is this, having got that, then Sir, you submitted now to the test of practicality for implementation. You get a pre implementation stage. So therefore, you then circulate that to the doctors, the professional association of doctors, the pharmacists, the nurses.

But, this is where I beg the Honourable Member to lend me the document which he read from. The Honourable Member quoted something very interesting. I want to deal with that... *(Aside)*.....because I want the public to know this. Look Sir, I remember it so good that I can quote it from my head. This is the position Sir, instead of the doctors making their criticisms on the practicality of the recommendations, they go out of bounds. They challenge the very concept of a National Health Service. That was what you call cheek and rudeness. It was not within their power to challenge the conception. They are not politicians who went before the public and got a Mandate to implement that. They went into the political arena. I am not questioning their competence to deal with the practicalities. I question their competence to deal with the political idea of a National Health Service. As soon as they decide in their minds that they are going out in the highways and byways and beg for votes, then, I am going to respect their opinion. That is the point, the public must know that the first response of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners was to challenge the very political concept of a National Health Service. That is a very, very serious thing because the whole of their Report will be coloured by the fact, that they tell you from the very beginning, "we are not in favour of this."
4.55 p.m.

They therefore go ahead, they are not objective any longer, they are subjective, their minds are coloured by the fact that they disagree with the political conception of the National Health Service.

Now, Sir, I think the Minister of Health showed remarkable restraint in dealing with the doctors in the face of this bold challenge to a political concept which we had a mandate to implement. They are lucky they were not dealing with me. People do not realise this, professional body is asked out of courtesy, out of a fundamental belief in the consultative process, give me your views on this report which is an attempt by us to implement a political mandate, and they tell you – listen to the quotation, I want to read it in context – "It must be remembered that this report is to implement a political decision." They used the word "political', they say that "its recommendations must therefore be seen as a rationalisation of the political idea." I am not misquoting them, that is right. So what are you telling me? That a group of professional people are going to say that this is a political idea, therefore we are viewing the report not because of its intrinsic merits, but because of the fact that it is a political idea with which we disagree.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. What the doctors said, as I read it, 'it should be clearly recognised that the study is not an independent one and therefore its recommendations cannot be seen as necessarily proposing the best type of health care for Barbados " Then they go on to say, "it is by their own words a rationalisation for the political aims of the ruling party." They say it is not in the best interest, they say the best type of health care. (ASIDE). But the doctors are bound to know about health care, more than the politicians.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Exactly. They know more about health care than the politicians but the politicians know that the public cannot get the health care unless they have money in their pockets, and it is the politicians' duty to see that the best health care flows to the people regardless of whether they have money in their pockets or not.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Sir. What the public believe is what they told them, that they would get it free. You told them in the Manifesto that it would be free and you have reneged on that. You have no mandate to renege on that, you had a mandate to provide what you said you would.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, the public knows how to differentiate between the substance of a matter and the periphery. The substance is the delivery of the health service for no money out of the pocket when you go to get it. Sir, the doctors said: "We discussed and rejected the philosophy that a new system must of necessity be defined or that a new system would necessarily solve the existing health problems. This point may appear to be subtle, but this is important, for since 1976 a system has been proposed as a political objective." The doctors are talking about politics, they do not like it. Mr. Chairman, the doctors at that time advised, because subsequently – the hon. member is not going to tell you this – that document was a first angry reaction to the Kaiser Report, but when they saw that they were dealing with a determined Cabinet, determined but not interested in promoting any dog fight in public, determined, we decided when this came up that we were going to insist that this thing should be separated from politics, and we decided that it should be separated from politics and we let it be known. Do not challenge us on politics, if you challenge us on politics you are going to bring your profession into the political arena. We seek your co-operation, we beg your co-operation.

Subsequently, Sir, more and more the doctors begun to understand – not all though, there are still some who are against it – they begun to understand that this was not a question of politics, this was a question of people who genuinely believe that one of the fundamental rights of a human being in a society is that he must have access to that basic necessity of medical care. So we were able by quiet persuasion to get a little bit more reason, but the Barbados Association subsequent to that document after they found out they could not challenge us on politics.....(Mr. TAITT: Give me some dates) I am going to give the hon. member the facts.

The Barbados Medical Association, or more and more doctors, whether they are members of the Barbados Medical Association or not, then participated in a Committee which was appointed to evaluate the recommendations.

Now, Sir, Dr. Walrond and Dr. Yeo were brought in on the Steering Committee, representing the same BAMP, at the first Steering Committee. Subsequently, after the Roemer Report, a Task Force was appointed and Dr. Walrond, Dr. Yeo, and Dr. Hoyos and Dr. Ramsay were put on it. (ASIDE). What about the Steering Committee? Is the hon. member denying that Cabinet in October 1976 appointed a Medical Steering Committee to draw up the terms of reference to implement the political idea of a National Health Service in Barbados, and Dr. Hoyos and Dr. Gale were on that Committee; it was subsequently expanded and Dr. Walrond and Dr. Yeo were put on that Committee. Deny that. October 1976. (Mr. TAITT: Yes, I deny that). You deny that? Well, you would deny anything.

Mr. Chairman, let us go further. The Kaiser Report, and Dr. Roemer was hired by the Kaiser Foundation. Discussions were held on the report as it progressed and a Task Force was appointed, but the doctors reneged from their position in their first report. They are ashamed of that document, the doctors are ashamed of that document, they do not mention it any more because they are co-operating now and they are trying to put their shoulders with our shoulders. They know it is a determined Government which wants to carry out its mandate. Now they know that, they are working. We have a Medical Director, and as usual any feasibility study, any report is subject to modifications in the light of comment and suggestions that are made.

I want to get those facts across to the public that the Democratic Labour Party s conception, nowhere in the terms of reference in the Democratic Labour Party's application to the Inter-American Development Bank on 29th October, 1975 did they postulate that they wanted to implement a National Health Service in Barbados. Whereas we had it in our Manifesto and we immediately applied to the Inter-American Development Bank to vary the terms of reference that they had sent in because we said that this was our conception. Therein lies the difference between this side and that side.

5.05 p.m.

I still invite the hon. member on the other side to tell the people of Barbados, are you or are you not in favour of a national health service in Barbados, paid for through contributions to the National Insurance Scheme. You can answer that now. Let me hear.

Mr. TAITT: I am going to answer it, Sir, so it will be clearly said.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute the hon. member for St. Michael South indicated that he wanted to make a contribution. Would you give way?

Mr. TAITT: I am going to answer so that you can be in no doubt. The Report of the Kaiser Foundation

which forms the basis for the policy which you have outlined is unacceptable to us, and when we become the Government, wer are going to scrap that by whatever name you call it.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, the hon. member for St. Michael South West cannot insist on misleading this Honourable House. I have said it before and Your Honour has ruled on it. Government policy does not hang on any report. The Government's policy is to be found at page 11 of the 1976 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. TAITT: Let me read page 11 because a whole amount of nonsense has been spoken in this debate and the Government Party continues to attempt to mislead the people. Mr. Chairman, she said the policy can be found at page 11 and I am going to read the policy which is found at page 11. You cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time. You cannot tell the population that you are going to give them bread and then give them biscuit, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am trying to find where the policy begins. I do not see any policy here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member.....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am on my feet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I know you are.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, can I help the hon. member at page 11?

Mr. TAITT: I do not need any help from the hon. member. Let me read it, Sir. "The Party will therefore provide for....." this is where it begins. Am I correct?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No. Read from the beginning.

Mr. TAITT: Do you mean the Preamble? The policy cannot be included in the Preamble. You always have a Preamble and an operative part. The Preamble says "The B.L.P. has always been the Leader in planning for the health needs of Barbadians." Is that policy?

Mr. Chairman, I am not beginning to understand what is the problem with the Minister. The Minister starts off the policy by saying the DLP has always been the Leader in planning for the health needs of Barbadians, and she wants me to read that as the policy. I cannot bother with that. Everybody has seen it. I know how you feel. Page 11 is available as well as the rest of the Manifesto for everybody in Barbados to read, and everybody will see that you promised them a free, F-R-E-E national health service. You have reneged on that within months of going into office; you said nothing is free, and that is a turnabout.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to deal with the points made by the hon. member. The hon. member for Christ Church South Central is very good at this question of rebuttal, but in rebuttals you have to listen very carefully. He sought to suggest that the doctors have moved away from a position which they took. He sought to suggest that the doctors had changed. Their first position was "the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners cannot support it if it does not have as a premise the only principle BAMP can support, improvement of health care to the people of Barbados." That was their 1979 position. Their 1980 position on the 11th September, 1980, has not changed in fact. Their opposition to it had increased.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER. On a point of order, please, the hon. member is reading from another document. He is reading from the 1979 document.

Mr. TAITT: Oh, yes, but we are stating the position.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: We are entitled to have the document identified. We are entitled to know what you are reading from.

Mr. TAITT: Don't think not. Not today. I am stating the policy; that is all I am doing.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You are not entitled to make your speech from any written document.

Mr. TAITT: Don't be mad, woman. Mr. Chairman, I have stated what the policy of the Association was in 1979. In 1980 on the 11th September.....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I am appealing to you on a point of order. We are entitled to know what document he quotes from.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The hon. member will tell us the document he is quoting from.

Mr. TAITT: With the greatest respect, yesterday evening I sought when I was quoting from a document.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is asked by the Chair to state what document he has been reading from.

Mr. TAITT: I was not reading, and that is why I cannot state what document I was reading from.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What document was he quoting from?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I have about 20 documents in front of me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member telling the Chair that he does not remember what document he was quoting from?

Mr. TAITT: I have said no such thing. What I am not going to allow is for my rights to be.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair believes we have been wasting quite a bit of time with this cross talk and in matters that are not at all connected.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, what I am trying to do.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt the Chair when it is speaking. The hon. member knows better.

Mr. TAITT: I beg your pardon.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some semblance of order and decorum. You may continue now.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in 1979 the position of BAMP was that they could not support it because it was not based on the single principle which they acknowledged as a principle upon which health should be based, a principle of the improvement of the quality of health to people. That was 1979. The document which is now a document of this House is September, 1980, that is the position which they took then. That is not the first position. The position where they are still opposed was 1980 and in 1981 faced with the unrelenting opposition of the association of medical practitioners to the implementation of a health scheme based on the Roemer Report, the Government has retreated from the two documents which they sought to disown. Now the Minister is telling us that is not the basis of their policy. The Minister told us in this House that that report from Kaiser would form the basis of the policy for the National Health Scheme and for the drug plan. She told us on television that phase 1, phase 2, and phase 3 would arise out of that report. She told us that.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, the Standing Orders of this House which are not known to the hon. member for St. Michael South West do not permit the hon. member to go on and be in breach of the same Standing Order. I have appealed to Your Honour already in this debate that he is not to misquote me on this point. The Government policy is to be found at page 11 of the Barbados Labour Party manifesto which he was afraid to read out just now and you must not persist in saying that the Government policy hangs or is to be found in any report.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I expected from the hon. member a complaint of repetition on the part of the hon. member, and I would like to warn him that he has been repeating himself quite a lot.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, I have been listening to the debate in this House from 10 o'clock yesterday morning until 5.17 this evening. There is a Standing Order which was used repeatedly by the other side when we were in the Opposition known as "Closure of Debate". I am saying, Sir, that the Leader may not agree with me on this but I am drawing to the Opposition's attention that as far as I have been able to understand what has been going on, they have been repeating one thing over and over. The only contribution that I can recall coming from that side apart from that of the acting Leader of the Opposition was by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, and I am prepared if they continue in this vein to move Standing Order No. 36(1) and have this debate closed and get on to other matters that are before us.
5.15 p.m.

I want to draw it to your attention, Sir. I know that as long as you feel that it is a breach of the Chair that a member from this side can move the closure and I am prepared to do it because there is Housing, there is Agriculture, the Ministry of Communications and Works and many more Items to be discussed and all day from 10.00 o'clock yesterday morning until 5.00 p.m. this afternoon we have a set of clowns getting up all the time skylarking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You must.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I withdraw the word clown, Sir, no useful debate at all, a Doctor.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am putting it in a manner that they will understand it. That is what I am trying to do. Do not tell me that I am making a point. I know what I am saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has made his point.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And I am going to move the closure.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has only forgotten the contribution from the hon. member for St. Lucy. He too made a contribution.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I said a worthwhile contribution, a worthwhile contribution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please let us get ahead with the debate. Please let us not be repetitive.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect. The hon. member for Christ Church South Central made an input into the debate. The hon. member raised certain questions which he directed towards this side. Mr. Chairman, I believe that in keeping with the normal debating procedures all over the World that it is only reasonable that we deal with them.

Mr. Chairman, I go further. What I have said that the hon. member continually gets up and suggests is not right is what the hon. member herself has said inside and outside of this House. If she wishes to say that she is repudiating what she has said in the past that would be acceptable to me. She says and it is on page 11, and page 11 says:

> "A BLP Government will establish a Free National Health Service for all Barbadians. The Party believes that no further time should be lost in bringing Barbados in line with those countries, for example, in Europe, where free medical schemes exist."

That is what she said is the policy. We accused the Government of reneging on that. I go no further on that, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I recognise the attempts which would be made from time to time to shield the Minister. That is perfectly proper in Parliamentary democracy. We understand that if they wish to have closure they will try to move it but, Mr. Chairman, there are techniques for dealing with that and I will allow my colleague to get in his points.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Michael South please let us get ahead with this debate.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think we are coming to the end of this particular debate. I do not know why he gets annoyed because of what the hon. member for St. Michael South West has just said because for the whole day the Leader of the House has been getting up along stop for the Minister of Health and that is plain for everybody to see. On the last occasion he actually left his seat and went down there and held her hand and got up and spoke in defence of her.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get to the substance of it all.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, on a point of order. Obviously if the Leader of the House got up along stop with the Minister there is nothing wrong with that. Yesterday you were not even long stop, or short stop or side stop for the Shadow Minister of Education. He was heard in stoney silence yesterday, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken. Order, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, we expect that the next Head will be Agriculture. I hope the Minister is ready for Agriculture because we are ready for the Minister. He has been very silent during this debate. I believe he has made three interventions into the debate so far but you know, Mr. Chairman, one thing concerns me very much when I look at the Government front bench.

I believe it is replete with Lawyers. I believe that except for two members, the hon. member for St. James and the hon. member for St. Andrew, there is a front bench of Lawyers and you know, Mr. Chairman, something that really concerns me is that this front bench of Lawyers... *(Asides)* We have a couple of Lawyers out here too, only one, not you?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I am really wondering about the nationalisation, Mr. Chairman, because you know these Lawyers, Mr. Chairman. If nationalisation is such a good thing I am wondering why all of these Lawyers are always ready to nationalise everything else except the legal service.

I do not know why these Lawyers do not get up and say that the legal service, their service to the community, should be free. I have never heard one of them got up and legalised that. I wonder why. I have often wondered why it should not be.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is a Head, Legal Affairs, Ministry of the Attorney General, you will have a chance to come to that.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I think that at the end of this debate there is one thing that we should recognise. One thing is that this country has a dedicated band of health officials who have served both Governments with distinction and I think we should recognise that.

I do not think they had been tested very much during this particular debate. I would like to pay tribute to those in administration and in the professional and technical fields and I am looking forward to reading the book which was produced by one of our distinguished physicians. I would like to congratulate him on the

achievement but we are looking forward to being able to read this book. We think very highly of him and all of the other professionals who worked with him.

But you know, Mr. Chairman, I believe that this debate will long be remembered. This particular debate. I do not think that the member for the City will forget this debate because it is accepted that she did not really measure up on this occasion. I think that is accepted on all sides. This is the basic problem. This has always been the problem that they accuse us of running from Health. That is what she said last year and now when we put her to the test it is found that she cannot stand up to it. We are going to bring this to an end now and we will wait for the Minister of Agriculture.

I would like the Minister to tell us about the Emergency Ambulance Service. *(Asides)* You may have spoken about it yesterday but you mean you do not wish to answer the question?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Maybe you can tell us what you want to know about it.

Mr. SANDIFORD: She would not even let me ask the question. She said she spoke about it yesterday. She said, as far as I can recall that there will be a transfer of the services to the Fire Service and I would like to know if this involves all the members of the Emergency Ambulance Service. If all of them would be transferred what criteria you will be using for taking that service into the Fire Service, what standards, what criteria will be used? Will anybody be omitted, generally speaking, not at any great length, but just that we will know about it.
5.25 p.m.

We have taken note of the National Health Service. We know that it will put a lot of additional weight and workload on the National Insurance Office. (ASIDE) No extra work for them. The Honourable Minister says that there will be no extra work for the National Insurance on this particular matter, so I accept her assurance on that.

I would like the Honourable Minister too – I will give her some time to consult further with her officers – I would like to invite her to consider her submission yesterday evening in which what I consider to be disparaging remarks about an unidentified member of the medical profession in his professional capacity, his or her professional capacity. That is how it came through to me. I believe that if one gets up in the high position of honourable Minister....(ASIDE)...and states that a member of the medical profession misinterprets – or words to that effect – a test and then proceeds on a diagnosis, or course of treatment on the basis of that misinterpretation, I believe, even to suggest from the floor of this Honourable House, by someone who is responsible for the Ministry of Health, I believe myself that it is falling from the high standards of ministerial conduct to call into question the skills, the professional competence, or whatever it may be of a medical practitioner. I believe that the approach in that case would be that if there is any doubt at all, or evidence.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. C. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Honourable Member would give way. I am aware of the references. The Honourable Member should perhaps set his own and the medical practitioners' minds at rest on this particular matter. The Honourable Minister was indeed pressed by her colleagues to say who the doctor was and she absolutely refused to tell me as Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, or any of her colleagues who the doctor was.

She said that the doctor has co-operated with the Government in many ways and it is not fair to him, he was only doing his duty if he saw the test in a particular way in prescribing the course of treatment and that the people she blamed where other people altogether, the newspapers for picking it up. It is not fair to the Honourable Minister on this occasion to say that she in any way compromised the medical secrets of the hospital records or anything else. She put a most powerful case to her colleagues against canvassing this matter in any way and speaking for myself, I can assure Honourable Members that she has not divulged to me who the doctor concerned is because she said that it would be incorrect, especially since she does not believe that there was any intent on the part of the doctor to embarrass the Government.

She said that in his medical capacity, this particular practitioner has never attempted to embarrass the Government and she has no wish to embarrass him in his capacity as a doctor.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like very much to say something in this respect. I happened to be in the Chair last evening and I listened to the remarks of the Honourable Minister and I, at no time discerned any reflection on the conduct, or the character of any physician, nor was there any suggestion of impropriety on the part of any medical practitioner. The thrust to the attack as I saw it was the publication in what newspaper it happened to be.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to what the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has said and I have read between the lines also, but I want to make it quite clear that in my view, no Honourable Minister should even contemplate even a hint, or suggestion, or intimation that there has been any lack of skill, lack of competence, or whatever, on the part of any medical practitioner, or any other health professional in this country in that way.

I believe that Laws passed by this Honourable Chamber for procedures within professions make for procedures for dealing with any such matter and if there is no evidence, if the particular person has been so co-operative, so helpful and competent, then I believe that not even a reference should have been made to it and I believe that if the Honourable Minister would like to retain her standing in the face of the people of this country and before that particular profession in particular, I believe that she should be big enough to get up and to apologise for the remarks which she made yesterday. I put it no stronger than that. I leave it to her good sense and her good judgement on this particular matter. I believe that it was very unfortunate and I leave it at that. Our case rests at that.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, in my earlier contribution, after very thorough reflection on the unfortunate statement just referred to by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, I started off by asking for an apology. It should not come from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, it should come from the person who made the remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. It is my view that this matter has been dealt with. Will you please deal with the Head before the Honourable House, or let me know what subhead you are speaking to, or what item you are speaking to.

Dr. HAYNES: I am speaking on the Ministry of Health, I think that it is Head 41 that we are discussing here. I am dealing with Policy and Administration.

Mr. CHAIRMAN The time has come when as Chairman, I will have as a matter of necessity to insist that Honourable Members address themselves to the subhead and the items as listed before them.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, when one heard the Honourable Minister of Health outlining the policy of her Ministry in respect of health, one wondered whether or not that was a reflection to articulate a policy, or whether there was no policy at all. When I listened today to the Deputy Prime Minister, who in his second contribution did absolutely nothing but indulge in useless rebuttals, or to try and divert the thrust of this debate by the Opposition in its analysis of the defects in the Ministry of Health
5.35 p.m.

When one remembers that it was the Prime Minister himself who made the very grave error of saying in this Chamber about five years ago that a complete and totally free medical health service could be introduced in this country for the mere expenditure of another 3 to 5 million dollars, somewhere in that kind of region. That shows that at that time he had no idea of what he was talking about, when they came into power they had no idea of what they were talking about, and now they are going out of power they still have no idea of what they are talking about, because the most conservative estimates of the total cost of a free national health service in Barbados would be over $100 million per year. That is the extent to which the country was misled by people who do not understand what they are saying. I have heard a merciless, virulent attack on the medical profession in Barbados today, and the doctors in this country are going to have to make a stand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not supposed to enter into the debate, but as Chairman I have not heard any merciless.....

Dr. HAYNES: That is what I heard.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I would just wish that you..... anyhow, carry on.

Dr. HAYNES: Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, I was trained under a free national health service system in the United Kingdom. I did post graduate work under that system. I worked as a Research Fellow at Edinburgh University under that system, I worked in Barbados under a mixed system of public medicine and private medicine. I have never come across a doctor either in this country or anywhere else who does not believe that if a situation could be created where he can practise his medicine in the best possible manner, where he can get a reasonable reward for his work, and where he can have time to advance his knowledge and particularly to indulge in research and other activities, that he would not endorse such a system. What the doctors have always been concerned about is when politicians make decisions out of ignorance and they come up with formulae which might result in a decline in medical care. That is the area that the medical profession has always been concerned about, and it is quite wrong to try to spread nastiness around about the medical profession, that they do not wish to participate in anything. The medical profession will participate in anything that represents an advancement in medical care, but they reserve the right at all times not to allow their professional competence to be frustrated or in any way compromised by ignorant politicians.

Mr. Chairman, you take an example. I heard the extent of the ignorance today, the National Formulary. Few people in this Chamber would believe that as far back as 1973 a Committee in this country was set up under the then Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Wells. That Committee was subdivided into two Committees, one dealing with the hospital section, of which I was Chairman, and many of the people on the same Formulary Committee participated in that – the present Formulary Committee – and the other one was dealing with other areas of medicine, and a National Formulary was put together, and not only

was it functional in relation to drug acquisition within the hospital.....(Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Where is it?) Ask the Hospital administrators where it is, I have not got it at home. It was functioning there, and even a subsection of the Formulary was used in Casualty. There is no question about it, there can be no question about it.

Now, I have in my office the same national Formulary that I used as a medical student, the British National Formulary, the same old book. In the past 24 years I doubt there are 16 additional drugs inside of that. What do you think would have taken place in terms of additions of drugs in a matter of seven years? The Formulary you have here is exactly the same with a few additions here and there. Mr. Chairman, the principles are the same. The guiding principle is that we use generic names. Where that might be inconvenient because of a large number of constituents of a drug, you may use an approved name, and in situations where there is only one manufacturer of a given drug it does not matter whether you use the approved name or the generic name or any other kind of name. It is as simple as all that, so the basic principles remain the same, so it is nothing new. *(Aside).* I was not attacking the Formulary, and this is what you do not understand, and you still do not understand, that although you have a generic name in a Formulary, if you take a generic name like Diasapan, that there could be 50 different companies supplying Diasapan with different constituents in it, different dyes, different plastic, different sugars. One may use sucrose, another glucose and all sorts of constituents, so that the eventual efficacy of the tablet can vary considerably although the basic formula is being used, but Mr. Chairman, we also took certain precautions, and this is a matter of even greater concern to me today.

We, as a Medical Staff Committee, and I myself in my capacity as Chairman of the Medical Staff of the hospital at the time, delegated a doctor's responsibility to the dispensary in the hospital on a purely institutional base, where the responsibility resided completely with the Medical Staff Committee, not with the pharmacists, to substitute drugs under certain circumstances. Now this drug substitution business is a dangerous practice and I will not accept responsibility, and the medical profession should not accept responsibility, where if they write a prescription that that drug can be substituted when it is presented to a druggist, whether it be in Government or otherwise, and I will tell you why it is dangerous.

Mr. Chairman, I have two bottles in my hand. One bottle contains four tablets and the other contains one capsule. These four tablets are four tablets of 40 milligrams of a drug called Inderal, this is one capsule of 160 milligrams of the same drug. Now, when I prescribe this drug, 160 milligrams, this is what the patient should get. If it cannot be given it should be sent back to me. You cannot take up four tablets of 40 milligrams each, amounting to 160 milligrams, and give the patient, because you can kill him. This happened to a patient of mine recently and fortunately he has been resuscitated. This is not only 160 milligrams, but this is a capsule that is specially prepared containing tiny released granules where that 160 milligrams is released over a 24 hour period. This one is totally absorbed within the absorption profile of this particular drug, a matter of two hours or so, and out of the body in a matter of six to eight hours or thereabouts.

5.45 p.m.

Now the patient who took this in the treatment of his disease for heart condition had an immediate collapse of his high blood pressure. I prescribed this, the druggist gave him this. The whole point is that under the system a druggist is given the authority to substitute drugs as he likes all around this country. It is a bad practice. It can be done in a controlled environment of a hospital because you know what comes in, you are in day to day communication with the pharmacist and you also have on the spot corrective measures and I will call upon Government to review that entire policy which empowers Government pharmacists wherever they may be when presented with a prescription under the national health plan to be able to substitute a particular preparation for another one, because you will end up in a lot of trouble. There are possibilities of serious errors being made.

Earlier this morning, Mr. Chairman, I drew attention to a situation where because of the way in which a particular tranquilizer was constituted a patient took it at night and went to sleep in the afternoon and you had to tell the patient to take the sleeping tablets when you get up in the morning. The situation as far as we are concerned, Mr. Chairman, is that I do not think there is any point trying to deal with anything else that the hon. member for Christ Church South Central said. We have called for a free legal service to compliment a free national health service to stop the rip-off of the millions of dollars that takes place in James Street by the lawyers from year to year. I am glad to see that the Prime Minister of this country and the Deputy Prime Minister agree with me that they would be interested in the Democratic Labour Party instituting a free legal health service when they return to power.

Now, Mr. Chairman, ...

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I do not understand. I am pretty ignorant and foolish. I am not one of the lawyers in James Street so he could not be referring to me. I practise in Lucas Street, but I want the hon. member before he finishes to explain what is illegal about the health service. He just said a free legal health service and he repeated himself. I want him to tell us what is illegal about it.

Dr. HAYNES: I meant a free legal service. I am sorry about the word "health" coming into that. The Hon. Minister does not even bother to study or have any regard for the work that takes places in the Ministry of Health before she comes in here. We have exposed her on about a dozen occasions during this debate. Before the policy of multi-purpose clinics was developed in the Ministry of Health, let me tell you where this goes back to now. This goes back to just around the time of the change in the Hospital Director, back to 1968–69 when the late Dr. Pearson who was then Head of the Department of Medicine was asked by the Ministry of Health to carry out a study of several factors relating to the demography of Barbados and relating to factors such as transport and probably projecting against that the development of transport routes in this country in order to determine how the primary health centres could be developed around the country and would be maximally utilised by the people of Barbados. All that background work was done. I helped him to do it. I went out in the field with him, and when I hear a joker like you coming in here and saying that this kind of background work was not being done for the further development of the primary health care sector, I can pinpoint exactly where it was done, and that resulted in the plans for the Maurice Byer Clinic, because that was one of the areas where it was identified because a conjunction of optimal factors that that would be the ideal site for a clinic, and that was pinpointed. I can still remember the map, I can still remember the night when Dr. Pearson came to my home and showed me the final study, because that was the same night when he brought me his conclusions as to whether cane arrows in Barbados were contributory to asthma, and the study turned out to be negative as done by him. I can remember the exact night that he came to my house, and I can remember the way in which he had the various health centres pinpointed on the piece of paper and the various sites that could be utilised.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not think there is any doubt that the Government has had absolutely no answer to the kind of detailed analysis to which this Ministry has been subjected by this vibrant Opposition Democratic Labour Party which shows itself very much ready and prepared to take over the next administration by the people's votes. *(Asides)* I am not getting involved with you in that. You are trying to divert me.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I will say that the overall impression we must get is that the Minister is not only incompetent but incapable of handling the Ministry and I think that not only is the Minister incompetent and incapable but there is clear evidence of this being true of the Deputy Prime Minister himself and the Prime Minister who incidentally must bear the fullest responsibility for the fact that you cannot get sheets, towels, linen, toilet paper, food, soap, drugs, various materials in the operating theatre, because he has starved the health service of funds from year to year and would not even provide them with enough to take care of the natural increases in costs due to hyper inflation which he has inflicted on this community by his policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am sitting here in peace and quiet offering peace and love to all and sundry, trying to pour oil on troubled waters, and I really have to wonder if I am hearing correctly when I hear that the operating theatre cannot get towels, sheets, toilet paper. Do you use toilet paper in the operating theatre too? I think that statement is of the same category as the statement which three times called for a free legal health service. Does the hon. member really think he is doing anything for the morale of patients in Barbados when in order to gild the lily yet further he gets up and says that you cannot get towels and sheets in the operating theatre in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? He knows it is not true.
5.55 p.m.

What he has to remember, with great respect to the House, that he is Dr. Haynes and when he says something about the Hospital that is not true, a lot of old ladies in Belleville and in the Pine will tremble at what they have to face if they go in to what is in fact one of the best equipped Hospitals in any Third World Country. He knows that. You have to be very careful, I would suggest to the hon. member, before you try to drag down people s confidence in their own institutions just because you have a platform from which you can make a noise.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. The hon. member has said that I am trying to drag down people's confidence in various things. Is he denying that there has been a shortage of linens, a shortage of gowns, recurrent breakdowns of the air conditioners and also of the operating theatres, the operating tables in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and that operations have had to be postponed again and again because either the Doctors did not have linens or a shortage of anaesthetic gases or otherwise. Are you denying that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All right. The hon. member is making a speech, please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, what I know is that all of the air-conditioning units for the last 15 years have been allowed to be run down under the Democratic Labour Party, that they did not know proper maintenance. What I know is that they did not replace any of the basic equipment. I did not intend to deal with this. The Minister will deal with this but I know that I have granted money for the air-conditioners to be replaced in this particular year.

I know that all of the things that were asked for in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, not in an Election Year, but they have been getting things every single year. They get new machines every year and they are questioned carefully about them and they are given because the Subhead provides for the replacement of certain equipment of plant which through age have become unserviceable. Show me the Estimates of the Democratic Labour Party that contains that entry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Any other hon. member wishes to make a contribution?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the first point which I must answer because I believe it was made in a very dramatic fashion for the Press for the 7:30 p.m. News has to do with drugs and substitutions.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central well knows that there is a very long and ancient tradition in Barbados whereby Druggists or Pharmacists have always had the power to substitute on prescriptions. There is a long and ancient tradition. The Druggist never substitutes without first consulting the Doctor. When this Drug Service was first being formulated the Doctors and the Druggists insisted that we should respect and retain this tradition and that is why that it is still possible under the Barbados Drug Service for substitution to take place after consultation and he well knows that.

Dealing with this business of a free National Health Service. The School Meals Service which is supposed to be free, if we look at the Estimates for this year, this Financial Year, the Estimates which we are dealing with now, Sir, at Page 82, under the Heading "School Meals Department", you will see that the current cost at Subhead 18 for the free School Meals Service is $9 million and if you go down to Capital at Page 89 you see that in excess of $1 million is what it is going to cost so that in this coming Financial Year the free School Meals Service instituted by your Government is going to cost the taxpayers $10 million. You can explain that to people if you like. Try to do that.

All of this talk you have heard from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central about generic drugs, again, Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot of dramatics to catch the attention of the Press. I wish to state that I am reliably informed and this is what makes it so dishonest that this is within the knowledge of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, that 55% of generic drugs manufactured and marketed in the United States of America are in fact by five of the largest brand name drug manufacturers in the entire world and he must know that.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am not giving way on any bogus point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. The hon. Minister cannot seek to make a point by deliberately misleading this Honourable House. I was most....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have your chance to speak again. You have made your point. Please sit.

Dr. HAYNES: I have not completed my point of order. (ASIDES) No, I do not wish to make a speech. I just want to tell you why it is a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. If you wish to explain a situation.....

Dr. HAYNES: No, Mr. Chairman. She accuses me of being dishonest and that is an imputation of improper motives.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member, please take your seat. This is not a point of order. You should have asked the hon. member to sit and give you a chance to explain. You are not on a point of order.

Dr. HAYNES: I will get back up again on a point of order.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is quite wrong to try to make this Honourable House believe that by going generic wherever we can reasonably do so that people are going to die. That has been suggested in here all day but I will say it again and I know it is within the knowledge of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that 55% of generic drugs manufactured in the United States are done so by...

(Certain remarks made by the Hon. member for St. Michael South Central were ordered to be expunged from the records by Mr. Chairman.)

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman do you mean – This is the second time that he is walking out of here today – that we are to believe that the five largest drug manufacturers in the world are incompetent. Is that what is now being suggested to us? It is no wonder that he has to run out of here. I do not take on these charges about my competence and my inability coming from him. He is accustomed to writing off Ministers of Health on his side but he is a man of no importance on this side so he does not have any power to write me off and he must understand that, Mr. Chairman.

The trouble is that people like him and people who are on his side have no respect for Barbadian womanhood and that is why they cannot find a woman

candidate to field in this 1981 election. They are terrified of free, single, independent black women like me and that is why he must seek in here and try to patronise and denigrate the likes of me.

You hear all this talk about somebody coming and holding my hand and I this and I that in here? In 1976 on the 12th of May when I was up on the platform alone facing the whole Democratic Labour Party Government at that time – you had the whole Government – when I faced you and defeated you on my own who was holding my hand then?
6.05 p.m.

When we came back in September and I faced the Democratic Labour Party Government in the City of Bridgetown for the second time within six months, who was holding my hand then? I do not need to have anybody to hold my hand, Mr. Chairman. (ASIDE: That is a song).

Mr. Chairman, I want to answer one question asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South asked about the Emergency Ambulance Service. I dealt with the Emergency Ambulance Service in great detail yesterday. I know that you are very worried about your political appointees in that service and you are worried about whether these people are going to measure up and be acceptable in the Fire Service, but I give the assurance Mr. Chairman, Sir, that all of those people who can qualify for the Fire Service will go to the Fire Service and those who cannot qualify for the Fire Service will go back to their substantive posts, whatever these posts are in the Government Service, in the Ministry of Health. That is the simple answer that I know that you are looking for.

Now, if I may answer questions asked by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. He wanted to know what the Ministry's position was on Occupational Health. I am in a position to say, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that a post of Senior Medical Officer of Health specialising in Occupational Health has been recently advertised both at home and abroad. We have in fact had an applicant and we are in the process now of trying to firm up an appointment to that post.

The Ministry of Health has taken a particular interest in the matter of Occupational Health. The new Factories' Act which will in a very short time I believe come before this Honourable House was carefully veted by the Ministry of Health and we had a significant input. The Ministry, I am pleased to report is in the process too of obtaining the services of a consultant in Industrial Hygiene and we hope to do this some time later this year, probably by mid-year, June or July. I am in a position too to report, Mr. Chairman, that four Public Health Engineering Assistants are being trained in Occupational Health, – one has just returned from a six months course in the United States of America, – the Public Health Engineering Assistant, Mr. Chairman and the engineers to assist the Department of Labour in monitoring various pollutants in industry including noise, fumes, dust and other toxic materials. This is already, I believe well-known to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

He also asked a question in respect of the Geriatric Hospital. The Geriatric Hospital is now very much a genuine Geriatric Hospital. It is not meant to be a home, or last resort for old people. The Home Help programme has one objective in view, the Geriatric Hospital has quite another. It is intended that the Bayville clinic, when it is absorbed by the new Ladymeade polyclinic will be converted into a day care centre for senior citizens. This information has already been made in this Honourable House in the form of a reply to a question from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. It is unfortunate that perhaps the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was not here at the time and therefore, this information is simply a repetition of the answer to that question.

I feel that a day care centre for senior citizens situated within the precincts of the Geriatric Hospital is an excellent way of encouraging free intercourse between people who are inmates and are resident for the most part in the hospital and people who are coming into the precincts of the hospital on a daily basis. People are locked up in there, they are so ill, they hardly get to go out and it helps us too because we would be able to share the occupational therapy and the physiotherapy equipment and facilities between those who live in and those who live out and that is the kind of direction that we want to go on, in respect of the Geriatric Hospital.

In respect of cemeteries, if Honourable Members would only have adhered to the proper layout of the Estimates, when we come to the Capital under Head 81, you will see that the Sanitation Service Authority is going to be receiving considerable money in this year's Estimates for the purpose of paving the roadways and weeding in the cemeteries which are run by the Sanitation Service Authority. We are not in a position to make policy statements about those cemeteries which are owned by private organisations such as churches. I can only speak for the public cemeteries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe that this debate has quite unnecessarily gone on for an ordinate number of hours and at this point, I beg to move that Head 41 as amended stands part.

Hon. H B. St. JOHN I beg to second that.

The question that Head 41 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 81 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE $26 353 462

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in moving Head 81, there is only one final thing that I wish to say. Now, I have been called upon on the floor of this Honourable Chamber tonight to make a certain apology. I wish to say now, that I do not consider that I have any apology to make. I have named no one. In fact, Mr. Chairman, I have forbidden Honourable Members on this Side to name anybody, in respect of the matter to which an apology has been called.

It is my view, Mr. Chairman, that Honourable Members on that Side should be grateful that I did not allow Honourable Members on this Side and members of the press to maul a certain general practitioner. I have absolutely no apology to make because I have not insulted or denigrated anyone.

With those words, I beg to move that Head 81 stands part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on a number of points in these Capital Estimates beginning with Subhead Two Psychiatric Hospital. I would like to point out that for a very long time in this country, most of the attention, most of the money, facilities and so have been spent on the general hospital. I am not for one moment saying that that money should not have been spent, but what I want to impress is that when one looks at the needs of the people who have to go into that hospital in Black Rock and as the Honourable Minister has pointed out, in terms of beds, it is the biggest hospital in this country.

I have to urge on this Government, or any other one that takes responsibility for the administration of Health that I think it is time for serious attention to be given to the provision of a more modern institution taking into view that with the concepts about care in that type of hospital and maybe at the same time allowing land now occupied by the broad and roaming expanse of buildings down there to be more economically used.
6.15 p.m.

Sir, we are moving away from the concept of the custodial type of mental hospital where due to the fact that in the past people thought that when you were mad you had to be imprisoned, kept out of the way of other normal people. It has come to be recognised that just as people can become physically ill they can also become mentally ill, and they can be treated and nursed back to proper mental health.

It has also become a practice in modern times that you try to retain admission into a mental hospital for those cases where it is absolutely necessary, and you try to treat as many people as possible within their environment, sort of day care centres or out-patient type facilities for these people. When you look, Sir, at the amount of money that has been spent over the years on that hospital in repairing it, in upgrading it and things of that nature, you still have to recognise that in spite of the spending of these large sums of money you really cannot change or convert it into the modern type of building you would like to convert it into, I think serious thought should be given to the idea of building a new institution, maybe in some small part of the same site or in some other area of Barbados, and I personally would believe that a case may be made out for moving the hospital away from that area altogether and taking it somewhere else.

They have a large amount of land, maybe 25 or 27 acres, and adjoining that land is a housing scheme, and not far removed from that area is the extension to the Deep Water Harbour and the other development that is taking place in and around the Deep Water Harbour, and it should be obvious to people who are concerned with the development of this country and the best use of our resources, that maybe better economic use can be made of that large quantity of land than having it confined as it now is, to be used by mental patients.

I hope the Minister in her reply will be able to take this not as a criticism, but as a suggestion that could be investigated and maybe assessed to see if there is a need for that type of structure. In passing, I would like to point out that it was the intention of the Democratic Labour Party to make provisions for a new mental hospital, but that is all passe, we are not now dealing with what the Democratic Labour Party would have done if they had continued in power.

Turning a step further to hospitals generally in this country, I note that under Subhead 4 under Hospital, and we take in under that Head the Gordon Cummins Hospital, the St. Lucy District Hospital, the St. Andrew District Hospital and the St. Philip District Hospital. If you look carefully at the requirement for health care in this country, and you become aware also that people are becoming more and more concerned about health and they are making more and more demands for proper health care, it does not take much to convince you that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will never be able to satisfy the health requirements of all the people in this country. The hospitals I have just mentioned, although they carry the name hospital, still have a far way to go in terms of develop-

ment and facilities to convince anyone truly that they merit the name hospital.

If you look at the amount of money that is being spent on the upkeep of these various individuals hospitals, again one has to address oneself to the needs of the people not only at the present, but in the short years ahead before the end of this century, and you have then to start looking at the question of whether or not a small hospital in the full and true sense of a hospital could not be created somewhere in the northern area of Barbados and allow us then to dispense with these small individual buildings with their limited facilities which have been glorified by the name hospital. We have to look seriously at that, because what has been going on over the years is that you are making more and more additions to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and over there is sort of becoming more and more congested, and then with all the other problems that surround that hospital, one wonders if it is the right thing to do, and then you also have to bear in mind that if you have problems over there, whatever the source of the problems, and that hospital goes out of operation for any short period of time, then you may be hamstrung because there is no other hospital of commensurate facilities and so to turn to.

One could have looked under the Democratic Labour Party at the question of using the St. Joseph District Hospital to cater more fully to the needs of the people in the northern parishes, but obviously there have been some drawbacks to that and that has not met with the amount of success that the previous administration would have liked, but at the same time I am not throwing that out as a recommendation for the present Government to follow. What I am indeed saying is that I think it is high time that the Government should look seriously at the provision of health services in this country and their further development, and that the question of another hospital much smaller than the Queen Elizabeth Hospital should be looked into, not only for providing better care for the people in the northern parishes but may be as a means of getting away from this type of situation where you have these small institutions with very limited resources, very limited development going on, because people do not consider them as they should be considered and there is a sort of reluctance to spend money on them, and maybe justifiably that is correct, and they should look seriously at the question of removing them and replacing them by one better institution in terms of buildings and in terms of facilities and equipment.

Sir, going on a step further, I hope the Minister in her reply can bring us up to date on the Bridgetown Sewerage Project, how far we have got in that project, how soon we can look forward to an end, and how soon after that it will become functional.

I think one of the problems that we are still encountering with that project is the disruption of the roads and the amount of dust that does occur from time to time when these roads become disrupted. As a result of the disruption of the roads we find often there are problems with traffic which have to use these roads, and we are all looking forward very eagerly to a time when that will come to an end and the people of this country will be spared that type of inconvenience. I believe the Hon. Minister should be in a position to bring us up to date on what is taking place now with the Bridgetown Sewerage System.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, just a very few brief observations, comments and questions in regard to the Capital Head, Ministry of Health. On the Geriatric Hospital, I should like the Minister to indicate what steps have been taken to tighten the management of these institutions. I do not recall there being a ministerial statement on the matter, but I think that the Geriatric Hospital at Beckles Road has had a situation where patients who are somewhat mentally deficient have been known to wander away from that institution, and indeed there is some indication that one old gentleman had wandered too far and had ended up in the ocean, and I believe that that is a matter on which we have never had any public statement from the Ministry.

I feel that where the Geriatric Hospitals, as they are called, have the custody of the indigent and the old, the elderly, that steps should be taken to ensure that, as happened in this case as I understand it, they are not able to wander away from these institutions and end up dead, as happened in this particular case.

6.25 p.m.

There are a few other questions I would like to raise. The Bridgetown sewage project is one of the projects which I believe excites no arguments on one side or the other, and I would like to thank for our side the Project Manager whose commitment to public health in this country is second to none anywhere in any country, but at the same time I would appreciate it if the Minister would give us some indication as to what has happened as regards those two persons who unfortunately died during the course of the construction of the sewage operation. Are there two or one? I do not want to quarrel. I just want really to find out what happened. I understand there were two serious incidents. I believe one gentleman was killed. If the matter is *sub judice,* let us know it is *sub judice.* If it is not *sub judice,* let us know what steps the Government has taken to recompense the family of the person who died in an unfortunate accident, let us know if there was in fact the kind of negligence which was suggested in newspaper articles or whether the correct construction standards were observed at all times. If the Minister says she is

unable to discuss this because of reasons of its stage, we would understand and we will not press her on it. If however the matter is not a matter that we cannot discuss, we would like to know that the Government, humane as all Governments of Barbados ought to be would be taking the necessary steps to recompense the family adequately, indeed recompense the family beyond what would perhaps be considered adequate if the situation had been one of a private concern. That was a man whose family had looked forward to his providing for them over a period of years and if he was killed through the negligence or the near negligence of an agency that is functioning for and on behalf of the Government, then I believe that this Honourable House has the right to hear what the circumstances were. We should get the facts, the truth. We do not wish to go on the basis of certain speculations which have been made, but if we do not hear from the Minister and/or the Government, we like the rest of the population would be free to raise our own questions especially on the political platforms.

I believe also that in the course of the construction of the sewage operation that the Government and/or the project people made an error of calculation on the River Road site. We would like to know. The Minister assured us soon after the break down of that particular installation that she was looking into the matter, that she was going to hold the contractors to their contractual obligations, and we got the impression from the statement she made in here that the Government would pay not another cent beyond the contractual cost because as we understood it from her at that time it was the fault of the engineers which resulted in the form of collapse, and hence delay in the implementation of the scheme. I say that notwithstanding the fact that recently the Project Manager indicated that the project as a whole was proceeding on schedule. I believe further that the Minister had indicated to us that that break down in construction arising out of the miscalculation on the part of the engineers or the project people would result in some delay and as a result some additional cost. We would like the Minister to indicate what the position is as of now, whether the cost has increased and to assure us as she indicated at the earlier stage that that increased cost will not be borne at least any part of it by the Government.

When the sewage project was about to be implemented, we had recommended that a good public relations programme be carried out, the record would so show, so that the population would cooperate in the construction of the sewage project. We see that the advice has been taken to some extent and I believe that this is one project in Barbados which has not occasioned as much negative reaction as it could have occasioned, because this is one of the areas in which the Government was not so arrogant as to deny advice coming from any quarter. That notwithstanding, I believe that persons living in the constituency for which the hon. member was elected and which they hope she will represent them for the next few weeks that she has to go as representative, have had some difficulty with dust and grime, and I myself have accepted the explanation given by the project people in this regard. We believe that the efforts of the project manager and his team are sincere, but we think that while it might be intellectually acceptable to persons who understand these difficulties, that some steps ought to be taken to assist those constituents who live in the City in the cleaning of their houses cleaning of some of their linens and indeed some of their clothing which apparently, and I say apparently because I am going on the advice of that indefatigable gentleman who will be representing them soon who has indicated that they have suffered some loss arising out of the particular difficulty. I would look forward to hearing from the Minister on that.

I note, Sir, that there is a Head under Public Convenience and I say no more except that I believe that since we have brought Barbados and Bridgetown to a state of modernity that we really ought to upgrade the public convenience facilities which can be found in the Bridgetown area. I do not believe that what is described as a public convenience satisfies the requirements of the 20th Century for a community like Barbados.

On the question of derelict vehicles Sir, it will be well remembered that the Minister with quite a fanfare pronounced that the question of derelict vehicles would be dealt with in a particular way. We have not had any information since then and we have not had any indication that the dumping of derelict vehicles at sea has been a resounding success. We would be interested to hear what the situation is.

So far as pollution detection is concerned, we assume that the small sum being allocated here under Subheads 12 and 13 – Pollution Detection and Marine Pollution – is only an indication of the Health Ministry s input in an overall study. We expect that the Ministry responsible for the environment will be participating in this study and will in fact be using more funds for a more definitive examination of a problem which has passed the stage of an embryonic problem and has become something of vital importance to the development of Barbados not only in this decade but over into the next century.

The question of pollution, whether it is noise pollution or whether it is dust pollution or the question of marine pollution is one which does not admit of any amount of delay, recalcitrance or ignorance on the part of any administration, and when one looks at the relatively small sums which are being allocated here, I hope that this is not an indication of the priority which is being attached to this particular problem. It would seem

to me, Sir, that for a country that boasts of its tourist potential and its tourist resources, the study of pollution of our coasts ought to be a top priority. Now I recall the hon. Leader of the House indicating that a substantial study was being done along the south western, western and to some extent the southern coasts of Barbados.
6.35 p.m.

I recall his making a very fundamental speech in this matter and I look forward to hearing of the plans which the Government have for that particular study.

I note with a certain amount of interest that the Government is now pushing one of their grand plans, a conceptual device called the East Coast Lagoon and while we shall not take this opportunity because I am serious to deal with that particular matter, I would like at the same time to hear from the Minister something perhaps more within our grasp what plans she has for a study of and correction of the pollution which is occurring either through the normal agents of denudation or through the man-made agents of the dumping, for example, of the waste from various liners passing our coast.

We would like to know what steps the Minister proposes to take to ensure that our East Coast which has over the last 20 years been suffering as a result of both the natural and man made pollution, what steps we are taking to ensure that we preserve that coast.

I am aware that the Government has announced quite grandly that it intends to have a Park stretching from the Northernmost tip of Barbados right down to the South along the East Coast. It is one thing to announce such a policy. We expect to see that policy adumbrated in the Estimates by way of steps to bring the policy nearer to fruition and make it more than a mere dream of the idle world of a sometimes tired Prime Minister but what we wish to have is some indication that steps are being taken to protect our coastline all around Barbados.

When one looks at the amounts that have been allocated and unless these amounts are going to be supplemented under another Head of the Ministry of environment then one can only conclude that what has been offered is nothing more than a palliative and as my friend the hon. member for Christ Church East would say from time to time what we need is not the palliative, we need bold steps in the direction of grand policy, not for this generation but for the generation to come. We need bold initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, in keeping with my attempts on this ground to restrict my questions to the Minister to areas which I believe fall within her competence to answer, let me just simply find out what is Government's policy regarding the Family Planning Components. They have it in the Polyclinics but, Sir, we know that the Family Planning operation has been a successful one in Barbados for the last 20 years and we know that this is an area which is unlikely to excite any political reaction from one side or the other. (ASIDES). No, he was fired under your administration.

The fact I wish to get clear, Sir, is whether the Government continues to see Family Planning as part of the total policy of population control and if the Family Planning is to form part of the education in schools, not by way of the odd statement made in a Ministerial announcement from time to time but whether any attempt is being made to consolidate Family Planning as a curriculum item as all our curriculum items in our schools. To what extent Family Planning as it is adumbrated here is an exponent of a wider need that is family life education?

We believe, christians as we are, that Family Planning must form part of the total family life education. We expect that in Barbados any Government in power will view Family Planning not in its miniature form, not in the form of any little boy running around in a constituency promising 13 and 14 year olds family planning materials, but rather in the context of a total family life education policy for the community.

We expect that the Ministry of Education, together with the Ministry of Health will be preparing, if they have not prepared, we recommend that they prepare a comprehensive Family Life Education Programme, that they submit it for examination by the professionals and para-professionals and more important the mothers and fathers in the community, Parent Teachers Associations, the various Clubs, all of the social gatherings and to discuss this so that we have a policy which will be a national policy, one that would fall within the total ambit of what is desirable in our total community.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that with those few queries for the Minister that I can sit and await her elucidation. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, Subhead 9, Sanitation Service Authority. I consider it my duty to draw to the attention of the Honourable Minister a very serious problem which occurs from time to time in the transportation of garbage to a Dump, especially in St. Philip.

I live approximately one mile or less from that Dump and on several occasions in travelling from Bridgetown I have noticed open trucks transporting garbage and I travel behind those trucks on several occasions and from the time I leave I have noticed the garbage dropping from the trucks, especially all the papers on both sides of the gutters, in the roads and sometimes when the truck reaches the Dump I am sure that it has less than one-fourth of what it left the firm with.

Now, if we are to keep Barbados clean and not only the City, we have to think about the rural areas

because if we have certain diseases in the rural areas with the people coming into the City, I can assure you that these diseases will spread throughout the Island.
6.45 p.m.

In addition, not only papers, but you have seen beds, old beds, boxes, card boxes and all kind of things knocking around spreading throughout the whole area. I think that the time has come when your Ministry will have to give serious consideration to this matter. We depend on Tourism and we cannot only present a clean front in the city and around the city and in the rural areas you see garbage here, there and everywhere.

There is another point which I think should also be drawn to the Honourable Minister's attention and it is about dead animals. Having served in Local Government for several years, I am in a position to state that in those days, Local Government had people employed to go around and to check on those dead animals and to bury them, but at present, there is no person who takes care of that. The animals remain on the roads for several days and occasionally, you get people, who, if these animals are near their homes, they themselves have to pay, or bury the animals which do not belong to them. It is a serious matter, not that I for one moment am criticising the Ministry for negligence, but I consider it my duty to draw the matter to the Honourable Minister's attention and I do hope that something will be done to solve these problems which I have drawn to your attention.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will try to answer the questions put in respect to these Capital matters. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central remarked upon the fact, that in recent years the largest sums in the Ministry of Health's budget have been spent on Tertiary Care institutions and in particular, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This is true and this is one of the reasons why it is so important for us to re-emphasise the part which Primary Care must play. It is not a matter of taking away from Tertiary Care to give to Primary Care, but we must re-emphasise Primary Care.

It is not intended, as I said earlier, that the Barbados taxpayers should face any further burden, in order to pay for the National Health Service. Health already enjoys the second largest chunk of the national Budget. Between Current and Capital this year, Health is getting almost $100 000 and it is important that people understand that the National Insurance Scheme will have a health benefit which will have a separate fund because the health benefit is going to be quite different from any benefits of the National Insurance Scheme. All of the benefits now known under the National Insurance Scheme give money payments of one kind, or another, either lump sums or regular weekly payments.

The difference with the health benefit is that people will receive a service as opposed to a lump sum, or money of any other form. People will be given a service. That is why the health benefit has to be funded by a separate fund within the National Insurance Scheme. But, to follow on the question put by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central, who clearly was not in his seat at the time when I introduced Head 41, I went to the very great detail, Mr. Chairman, as you must recall, on the Ministry's view for the future for the Psychiatric Hospital. I discussed the type of complex which we would like to see at Black Rock by the year 2 000. I really do not intend at this late hour to go over that presentation simply because the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central was not in his seat. I am afraid that he will have to have recourse from the Record, or consult with one of his colleagues.

Now, in respect of the Bridgetown Sewerage Project, there is no way, Mr. Chairman, by which we can escape the nuisance and the irritant of dust in that project. This is part of the price which we are paying for progress. It is true to say that the project unit, the contractors are doing everything in their power to minimise the dust irritant. We have been using a sodium chloride solution sprayed on to the roads to hold down the dust and this holds down the dust very successfully, where the surface is not entirely smooth. On smooth surfaces it tends to create a slippery surface and we are warning motorists, where we have not been able to avoid the calcium chloride finding its way on to smooth surfaces. We have been spraying too with a thin colas solution in an effort to keep the dust down.

In recent weeks, from time to time we have suffered as the Ministry of Communications and Works and other Government projects have suffered a lack of colas on the island and so, there has been a little more dust than usual. But, I can only give Honourable Members the assurance that everything is being made to hold down the dust as much as possible. We are never going to be able to do it entirely, but we try.

The completion date of the entire sewerage project is expected to be August, September of this year. The Sewerage Treatment plant itself at Emmerton Lane is fairly well complete and I believe that commissioning of that plant, and for the benefit of the press commissioning means running in, service trials, commissioning does not mean that the plant is actually working in service. Commissioning of this plant, I believe will start either by the end of this month, or at the very beginning of next month, April.
6.55 p.m.

We believe that it may take a few weeks after the final completion of the entire project for a general clean-

up of roads and by-ways, so that certainly by Christmas of this year we hope that the inner City of Bridgetown will have a completely new and clean appearance.

In respect of the River Road Pumping Station, at the time when I reported to this House on an earlier occasion, Mr. Chairman, I specifically made the point that the River Road Pumping Station was only a component within the Bridgetown Sewerage Project and that stoppage of work would not constitute any time loss or time delay to the overall project. I specifically made that point and yet still I hear myself misquoted in here tonight. May I take the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to say that work has been restarted at the River Road site and that the fact that we lost time on that site as a result of the work stoppage will not constitute any delay to the overall sewerage project.

It is important that I should point out that negotiations are under way now between the Government and consultant engineers who were appointed by the last administration, and the contractors, in respect of the failure of the first structure attempted at that location, and it would be quite improper of me on this occasion to prejudice those discussions or in any way to divulge what is the Government s position.

There has only been one death on the sewerage project. We regret this, it was an accident. A Coroner's Inquest is under way, which puts this matter into the realm of being *sub judice.* It is not that we do not want to answer it Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can reassure hon. members that all of the contractors in all of the Government's projects have got to be properly insured, and are in fact properly insured, and so there is no possibility that if parents or relatives, personal representatives of people who are injured on any Government project, there is no possibility of them not receiving due compensation as long as they are entitled to it.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South West asked a question about the Geriatric Hospital and the answer to that question is that a newly and suitably trained Hospital Manager has recently been appointed to the Geriatric Hospital and I would like to report that improved methods, improved management techniques are being applied at that hospital, and I believe that the results are already being seen.

It was said that some suggestion or recommendation about public relations in respect of the Bridgetown Sewerage Project was made from the other side.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, if the hon. member will give way, on the question which had been raised on the Geriatric Hospital, I had asked the Minister if she would give some information as to the truth or otherwise on the question of the security within the Geriatric Hospitals and more particularly the one at Beckles Road. There was some indication that a patient at that hospital had wandered out of the grounds of the hospital and had in fact met an accident in the ocean not far. Can the Minister shed any light on this? Is she aware of it?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes, I am fully aware of it, this happened a few years ago. Again, I would like to regret that accident, but it happens. It happens everywhere in the world, you are dealing with a person who was very senile and who walked into the ocean. The hospital is a walled hospital, it has got a gate and it has a Gatekeeper. We have been trying so far without too much success to persuade the Ministry of Establishments that we need to have a few more Security Guards at the Geriatric Hospital, but I believe that this plea may very soon be answered. I do not think there is any more I can say about that.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman. I think this would be in the interest of all concerned. Quite recently we have been saddled with the problem of people going on the roofs of the hospital and attempting what I believe to be suicide for one reason or the other, and in recent months I had cause to be in and out of the hospital with a patient, and I would like to draw to the Minister s attention, and I am quite sure she will take this in good faith, that there must be a tightening up of the security at the hospital. I have seen with my own eyes people using the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a short cut from Martindales Road to the bus stand, and I believe that in the interest of the patients at the Q.E.H. that we must insist that a degree of security must, I repeat must, be at the hospital.

I am quite sure the Minister will take this in good faith and will look into this matter. I am drawing it to her attention here, I have drawn it to her attention before, and I have no doubt that she will accede to my request. I am quite sure that she knows I will try to guide and assist her in every way I can.

Mr. TAITT: While the Minister is consulting with her officials, and before she answers, the question of the man walking away – I tried not to be too specific when I posed the question – but the manner in which the Minister dealt with it is not satisfactory, Sir. When a patient is in the Geriatric Hospital and that patient walks out of the Geriatric Hospital and walks overboard and drowns, I expect to hear that there was an investigation, that the result was that somebody was lax or that somebody was not lax, that steps have been taken and that it is not likely to occur again. I do not wish to hear that this is something that happens all over the world, because that is not true.

One of the things where you have especially geriatric hospitals, where people are going to be suffering from

hardening of the arteries and that sort of thing, you are particularly careful to ensure that the older people do not walk away. I prefer a more specific answer from the Minister.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I could only know what I know because there was an enquiry. As a result of that we have asked the Ministry of Establishments to give us a complement of Security Guards at the Geriatric Hospital in addition to the Gatekeeper at that hospital.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would just give way, she said that this thing happened a couple years ago. Is it that she asked for these Security Guards since then? I formed the impression that she has not yet got the Security Guards. If this matter occurred two years ago and a man died as a result, I do not believe that the Establishments people would be so lax as to wait two years to give her the Security Guards. I wish to know what the position is.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The time has come, it is five minutes past the time, and the Chairman has intimated very clearly. I beg to move, Sir, that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 8.00 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. The Hon. Minister may wind up.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was winding up under Head 81 – Ministry of Health, Capital Estimates. The hon. member for St. Michael South West asked questions about public conveniences for the city. Last year's Estimates would have shown that provision had been made for a public convenience to be constructed in the city on Liverpool Lane just behind Collins Limited. It is unfortunate that on account of a number of capital projects undertaken not only by the Ministry of Health but by several other Government departments it was just physically impossible to get around to the construction of that public convenience in this last financial year, and so what we see in this year's Estimates is really a revote for the public convenience which we expect will in fact be built in the coming financial year. It is also expected that in the old city a new commercial complex is expected to be constructed and although the Ministry of Health – Sanitation Service Authority – is not expected to replace the convenience now located just beyond this Hon. Chamber here, a convenience, construction of which has been approved by the Ministry of Health, is going to be incorporated into the new building complex there and will in fact be run and managed by the Sanitation Service Authority; so we can look forward to the construction of two modern, well tiled and well run public conveniences in the city of Bridgetown in the coming financial year, one just off Broad Street and one on the old Trafalgar Square just behind us here.

In respect of derelict vehicles, this programme depended a great deal on other departments of Government for success. It depended on the Ministry of Communications and Works to provide trucks to move the vehicles in the first place, and it depended on barging from the Harbour to the selected site on the West Coast for dumping. In this financial year we have had tremendous difficulties. For pressure of work we have had great difficulties securing trucks from the Ministry of Communications and Works and even greater difficulty booking the barge from the Port Authority, and so rather than give up the programme, we have in fact looked at old possibilities afresh, and what is happening now is that we are crushing, now that we have our new traxcavator at the Oldbury land fill site, we are in fact crushing the old motor car bodies on that site and disposing of them on land at that land fill. I am not in a position at this time to say when we will be in a position to resume the disposal at sea, but happily the programme is underway again except that we now dispose on land.

In respect of marine pollution, there is quite a bit that I can say, Mr. Chairman. The Ministry of Health

has in very recent months signed with the Inter-American Development Bank an agreement for feasibility studies for the sewering of the south coast and the west coast of Barbados to be undertaken with the object in view that as soon as possible after the completion of the Bridgetown sewage project we should start to sewer the south coast of Barbados and then the west coast. It is not simply a matter of extending the sewage system which we are now putting in Bridgetown. The fact is that the south coast is literally at crisis point. Most of the low lying coastal area unfortunately has a very high water table and with the intense hotel, guesthouse and residential density particularly between the esplanade, and, shall we say, Oistin town, the truth is that the immediate south coast strip is under very serious sewage surcharge, and some of the problems which we see at Rockley Beach and some of the problems which we can smell at other points along the south coast are really part and parcel of that problem which exists, and so we are hoping that at the beginning of 1982 we will see the undertaking of works to sewer from the leave off point of the Bridgetown sewage system which is the bottom of Beckles Road because we had applied for an extension to tie Government headquarters and the geriatric hospital into the Bridgetown sewage project, and we have succeeded in getting that extension; so we look forward to sewering of the south coast to run from the esplanade where the Bridgetown sewage project leaves off right up to the new Oistin town and beyond perhaps into that heavy residential area beyond Oistin. When that is well underway we are hoping that we would be able to start the sewering of the west coast because we are beginning to see now the kind of build up which has reached crisis point on the south coast and on the west coast. The small package plants which most hotels are required by the Ministry to maintain do not work very well, there are frequent break-downs particularly on the west coast and we have other beach and marine pollution problems which are being aggravated by the illegal sewage disposal on the west coast. We are proposing that this should go as far as Holetown.

I am mindful of the fact that the Heywoods project at Speightstown is going to be a sizable development and that consequent upon that development a great deal of private development is springing up in the strip between Holetown and Speightstown, so it might be that by the time we get into the actual implementation of the west coast sewage that the scheme may well have extended its feasibility from Holetown to Speightstown. There have been other steps taken in respect of marine pollution, Mr. Chairman. A special oil spill contingency programme has been set up within the Ministry of Health in the Public Health Engineering division of that Ministry which is very shortly to be incorporated into the new Department of the Environment.

On Family Planning matters, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health has articulated in recent years what I like to describe as a new direction for the Barbados Family Planning Association which has enjoyed subventions from the Barbados Government from its very inception in the fifties. We think that the time has come when with the network of polyclinics and Health Centres in this country the Ministry of Health is really the most suitable agency for the administering of the clinical side of family planning. We can give a greater coverage, a more extensive and comprehensive physical and other coverage than the Family Planning Association used to do. We think that the Family Planning Association has done sterling work, but I am afraid that it has come to the point where it has outlived and outgrown its potential in respect of the clinical programmes, and so the Government proposes to take over the clinical aspect of the Family Planning Association's work and incorporate it into the polyclinics, and this of course is already underway. In fact there are special Family Planning nurses specially trained in Jamaica who are already located in the clinics.

8.15 p.m.

At the same time I have given a new charge to the Barbados Family Planning Association. I consider that in the decade of the 1980's a major thrust of the Family Planning Association must be in the area of education. I have very strong feelings about that. I have very strong feelings about Family Health Education which goes back to my days as a member of the Council of the Barbados Family Planning Association and Family Planning still occupies a very special privileged interest for me and the Family Planning Association has taken this new charge to heart and we are working very closely with the Ministry of Education for the restructuring of a more meaningful – and I am not using that much over-used word in the sense we see used most often – but in a generally more meaningful family life education for the schools in particular.

The old Family Life Programme, Mr. Chairman, Sir, was a highly euphemistic thing in which the word 'sex' was hardly mentioned and which skirted around the subject and served to do more damage, I think, than good. We hope that the collaboration between Health, Community Services and Education that these three Ministries will bring the expertise lying within those three sectors together to really knit a sensible pragmatic programme which will do something long before the 1980's are over to arrest the frightening increase in the rate of teen-age pregnancies in this country, particularly in the early teen-age years.

The hon. member for St. Philip South mentioned the fact that some garbage trucks too and fro between the land fills are seen to be improperly loaded and dropping garbage as they go. The Sanitation Service Authority owns two sorts of vehicles a modern compactor type and the compactor type makes it very impossible for

garbage to fall once it is on the way to the site because of the type of its construction. The old-fashioned standard collector which is slowly being replaced by the compactor vehicles is the kind of vehicle which can be covered if not overfull.

Sometimes, and I have noticed this myself, I agree with the hon. member, they are not properly covered and garbage does fly from it.

Mr. WEEKES: Having mentioned the open trucks, I would like the Minister to know that I was referring especially to the private firms.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes, Sir, the hon. member is anticipating me. I am saying that in the Sanitation Service Authority we issue nets so that if for some reason these old collectors cannot be properly covered, the men must put the nets over them to hold down the possibility of garbage flying out. We have circularised all of the private firms and I know that this is a problem with the private firms in particular. We have circularised them. I know to my certain knowledge that all of the firms have in fact taken us to our word and have secured nets. The problem is that the workers on the trucks would not use the nets.

I hope that this kind of point is a point which the trucks will take up and that we can make yet another appeal to the private collectors, not only to purchase the nets as we are advised but that they make sure that the workers do in fact use them and I am much obliged to the hon. member for St. Philip South for raising this point.

If I might, Mr. Chairman, Sir, address one last point made by the hon. member for St. James in respect to the suicidal attempts at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I am very mindful of this matter and you have to face the fact, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that Barbadians are follow pattern people. If they did not see somebody on television do it, the first man would not have done it and if he did not try it other people would not try to follow him to try and jump off the Queen Elizabeth Hospital roof but there is a security problem at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and it does not lie where one would think.

We have a complement of 18 security guards at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. These are people specifically assigned to work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is not a wall Hospital, that sort of complex has gone out of fashion. It is a garden setting that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has and with its properly trimmed fences and properly manned gates, security should not be a problem.

We have 18 security guards assigned to that Hospital and six are on duty at any given hour on a 24-hour basis. The problem lies in the fact that the security guards are under the direct management of the Ministry of Defence and Security and are not in fact subjected to the jurisdiction of the Hospital Management. I know that this problem exists elsewhere in other Government Departments and that it is equally troublesome elsewhere as at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

I have directed the Hospital Directors of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well as the Psychiatric Hospital where a similar problem exists, I have directed the two Hospital Directors to put a position paper and in fact try to secure a discussion with the Permanent Secretary of Defence and Security in an effort to resolve this problem.

It is very difficult if you have six security guards on any given day at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Director who may be on duty at the Hospital is not in a position to say to the guards, you must go here and you must go there and that in fact, the Permanent Secretary of Defence and Security who is in another building miles away has the control and the management of these personnel and that really is the source of the problem at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The solution of it is in hand and I hope that between the Hospital Directors and the Ministry of Defence and Security that some ready solution can be found to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope that I have done justice to most of the queries made by hon. members in respect of the Capital Head and I now beg to move that Head 81 stand part.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, before the Head is passed, I did mention something about dead dogs and cats on the roads for two and three days. I shall be grateful if the Minister could reply to this.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I did make a note here and quite overlooked it. The position with dead animals, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is that, as everyone now knows that we have a system in Barbados where most dogs must be licensed, where there is a Dog Pound and a staff there whose business it is to pick up strays and deal with dogs generally.

There are other animals like sheep who do not yet fall under the jurisdiction of the Animal Control Centre. The fact about dead dogs is, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that the Animal Control Centre is still in a position where it is seriously undermanned. We have four vehicles donated by the United Nations Development Programme. We do not have a full enough complement of workers to man those four vehicles on a 24-hour basis. Apparently, the secret of dog catching is that you have to do a lot of it at nights. That is when these packs of stray dogs move, and in the early morning, I am told. Right now, the

Animal Control Centre workers are only paid to operate on a 12-hour basis
8.25 p.m.

We are hoping that during the coming Financial Year, we will be able to upgrade this service and so there will be more of a pick up of these dead animals which is part of the function of the Animal Control Centre. The Sanitation Service Authority has traditionally tried to fill the gap in this respect and still does a certain amount of clean up of dead animals found on the highway, except that this is a service which they offer only on the five working days of the week. The business of the long standing dead animal on the highway tends to happen over the weekend and until we can get the Animal Control Centre upgraded up to the stage where it is giving a 24 hour service, we are going to continue to have this problem at the weekend.

What I might appeal to the general public to do is that when you pass in your motor car, your bicycle, motor cycle, or however you pass on the road and you see a dead animal, it is not sufficient to go to work and complain to the person sitting down next to you that you saw it, or to pass in the bus and to tell the person sitting next to you that you saw it and then, not report it to the Animal Control Centre, or to the Sanitation Service Authority and this is what people tend to do, to notice it, to quarrel about it, but never report it. We do not have a system of inspectors whose business is simply to walk about looking for dead dogs, so that is never going to be so. It is an area where we really do depend on the co-operation of the public and I would like perhaps to use this instance to get another opportunity to appeal to the public to co-operate with us a little more than they have been doing particularly at the weekends.

I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 81 as amended stands part.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 81, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT – $10 694 560

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, surely Sir, after 10 o'clock in the morning to some 8.30 p.m., I suspect that Honourable Members on the Other Side should be in full shape after having many hours of practice. I am quite sure that they are willing to take on the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, Sir.

The sum of $10 694 560 which the Ministry seeks to have its approval, I have no doubt in my mind, Sir, that Honourable Members on the Other Side, after many years of inactivity on the Opposition Benches, where the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment is concerned Sir, have shown no particular interest in any of their attacks or unleashing any attacks on it. I wonder, Sir, if they have failed to do this because of the performance in the Ministry, or if they have failed to do this because they have no particular interest in it.

I would think, Mr. Chairman, that construction in any country at all is the economic barometer to success. If you were to drive across from North to South, East, West you will find, Mr. Chairman, that from the big man to the little man is either building or renovating, or attempting to renovate simply because of the economic management of the country, Sir. From Monday at 10 o'clock, I was hearing statistics trotted about, figures trotted out as against those of the World Bank, the IMF and the Government itself, Sir. Now, I am no economist, I have a very practical approach to things in life.

I would like any Honourable Member on that Side of the Honourable House and on this Side of the Honourable House to refute that in the year 1980 that something like over $250 000 000 in construction went on in this country and it is estimated that some $300 000 000 in construction is going to take place in the year 1981–82 Sir. When I hear that people in Barbados are not living as well today, as they were living in 1974, 1975 and 1976, the statistics coming out of the Ministry of Housing are enough to convince any single man, or woman in this country that they are better off.

Now, I want to pose this question to the Other Side. I have heard on several occasions, how we have copied their Manifesto, we have only carried out their plans which they did not implement. Well, I do not know what I can do. You do not expect me to build a bridge. You do not expect me overnight to turn the Caribbean sea into a bird s nest, but what I can boast of is this that I have housed the country well, I have provided for the environment of the country in a manner of which we can be justly proud of. I have assured the country that no longer have we got the stigma of the National Housing Corporation breathing down the necks in the bars and the pubs about mismanagement.

I do not believe, Mr. Chairman that anyone can be dissatisfied with the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment. Let me say why I say that. I have some friends on both Sides and they have a way of talking to me. Now, I am not going to say that the Acting Leader of the Opposition is my friend, what I will say is that I am his representative and he has

a great respect for the fact, as he has repeated on more than one occasion on the floor of the Honourable House that the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment is doing a good job. Well, this has been demonstrated because you had no debate on it for over a period of four years. This is a clear cut demonstration, over four years, you have never debated it.

I would just like briefly Sir to highlight one or two things Sir in the Ministry. For a number of months in particular, I must say 'in particular' housing has always been the visible department of the Ministry. I would like to highlight this particularly, the policy of the Government towards rent collection which I saw in the papers a couple days ago.
8.35 p.m.

I am satisfied that we have made a dent in the collection of the arrears which the former administration was responsible for, where people lived in homes for some ten years and accumulated as much as $3,000 in rents and we set about to make it easy for them by collecting maybe an additional $1.50 a week, $2.00 a week or $3.00 a week according to the person's particular economic position. Therefore it cannot be reflected immediately how well we are doing, but I am satisfied that the people are attempting to reduce the rents which had accrued over a period of years when the former administration was in power. I am not placing any blame on that administration for this, because I firmly believe that if you rent a house from me it is your bounden duty to bring the rent to me. That is my belief, but the whole system of rent collection by rent collectors, I have a very strange feeling about it.

It is because of that purpose that I am preparing at this very time to decentralise the whole collection, maintenance and directions of the particular estates and put them under the jurisdiction of a Warden with responsibility to Headquarters. Now, if a man is paying $6, $10 or $15 a week, you have to pay a Warden, say, 10%, and if he collects $10, the person in truth and in fact is only paying $9 per week. I cannot really subscribe to that. I believe that if we decentralise it and have a Warden like, say, for example, the Farm Area, which will take care of Eden Lodge, Haynesville, Thorpes, Fernihurst, the Farm and these areas, that that person should be made to pay the rents there, the maintenance should be directed from there and there should be a person who is responsible – put it this way, a semi-landlord, or what they call in the States a Super – to make sure that those rents are collected. I cannot subscribe to the idea that a person who is renting a house at an under economic rent.... What I am concerned with is that the rents are collected or paid. That is what I am concerned with, and when the Nation, and I believe the Advocate, wrote that many parties came into power and they had more bark than bite, I agree with that, but I will not subscribe to the view that it should be the duty of the Corporation to walk around and collect rents. When the people need houses they come and search for houses, it is their duty therefore to pay the rents and that is why I am prepared to set up an estate management within the Corporation to make sure that this aspect of it is well taken care of. That, to my mind, is the major problem right now in the National Housing Corporation.

No country in the entire world can meet the demand for houses for its growing population. You have all sorts of problems. You have young men and women leaving home, they are working, they want a degree of privacy, they leave their parents, they are in search of a house, the houses are well built, they are attractive, and the first thing they do is to apply to the National Housing Corporation, so you have more and more people coming on stream, and because of a lack of artisans – and not only artisans – we find it difficult to meet the demand. I believe that we have succeeded and I think we can be very, very satisfied that over the past three years in particular, because between September 1976 and 1977 the Minister of Finance was trying to grapple with the financial problems of the country, 1977–78 we were still in search of money, we could not pay the contractors, we could not pay the suppliers, the Corporation had owed money all around Barbados, they could not even get their reports out but we are satisfied again that we are up to date. There were all sorts of problems, so I believe that between 1978 and 1980 was the real thrust towards the National Housing Corporation.

I have no doubt in my mind that the question which should be posed is how many houses have been built. I know that is the question, and I know you should pose the question within the contents of the Manifesto, so you had better read that too, because in 1980 alone the Government was responsible for some 1200 houses being built in the country, which has surpassed the 800 mark we had in the Manifesto. So if you are going to pose that question as to how many houses we built, the Government can be justly proud of its performance.

I also, Mr. Chairman, as I drift away from Housing, which I say is always the visible area of the National Housing Corporation, would like to pay some tribute also to the Parks and Beaches Commission, which is also under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communications and Works. There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that this particular Department is also playing a very important role in the country, and I am going to reiterate at this point, Sir, it is my ambition to see Barbados turn into a floral garden. I believe it can be done. It can be done with hard work, with dedication, and I have no doubt in my mind it is also the view and the feeling of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, therefore I am expect-

ing that he should make it possible for whatever funds there are available to be made available to the Ministry, Sir.

The Department of the Environment I hope should be a reality by the 15th of April, Sir. It is an area where there should be a bit of technical knowledge in that Department to deal with environmental problems which the country is at this time facing and which it will probably face in the not too distant future, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, another point which I would like to highlight, and that is the problem which we are having with soil and beach erosion in the country. The experts seem to think that we are going through a cycle at this time and that over another 50 years, or 50 years from now that cycle will find itself back to where it is now. I know the Crane and the West Coast are in great danger, and we are doing all in our power to have the advice of local and international experts as to how best we should handle this.
8.45 p.m.

I take it, Mr. Chairman, that at this point I should like to move that the Head stand part, and I think if there is going to be a debate on the Ministry of Housing and Lands it will come from whatever objections and whatever constructive debate there is from the other side.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $10 694 560 under Head 42 – Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I was giving the Opposition an opportunity to make its contribution on this particular Head. I think that it is time that we realise and recognise the contribution made by the present Minister of Housing in the area of housing in this country. Never before have we seen so dynamic an approach to the question of housing as we have seen during the last couple of years. Mr. Chairman, I say this in all fairness to the Minister and I am not in any way trying to undermine the contribution which was made by the former Minister of Housing of this administration during the last four and a half years. To do so, Mr. Chairman, would be to undermine my personal contribution when I was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing. But one must be honest and we must surrender to Caesar what is really Caesar's, and I feel that since the Opposition is not expected to pay tribute to the valuable contribution which the present Minister has made, it is only fit, proper and decent that someone from these benches does just that.

To be saddled with the responsibility of housing is no minor task and responsibility, and we must get that straight because when we look at the social problems and complexities that this country has been faced with over the past recent years, we must realise what a herculean task it is for a Minister to satisfy the housing needs of the country, and it is in this light, Mr. Chairman, that I wish to address a few remarks. First of all the Minister has mentioned the question of an article which appeared in the columns of one of the leading papers in this country which conveys the impression that there is still a very sizable sum due to National Housing Corporation in terms of arrears; but what that article did not go on to point out is that when we assumed office in 1976 we found a very sizable and outstanding amount of over $6 million owing to the National Housing Corporation, and I am sure that when one takes all the factors into consideration, to have been able to reduce that $6 million to $2 million in the space of four and a half years is quite remarkable indeed, and the Minister in very tactful language, with a very direct approach on this question of arrears collecting has managed to recoup much of those arrears.

In the first place, Mr. Chairman, if the former administration had addressed itself to the question of collecting its rents, we would not as a successor Government be faced with this situation. The whole question of rent arrears would not appear so embarrassing to the Government had the former administration addressed itself seriously to that question. But we have seen a situation where houses were given to persons who were supporters of the past administration and these persons refused to pay their rents, and that is why this Government inherited a very deplorable situation. But ugly as the situation may seem if one were to look at the paper, we must understand that it is part of proper management to pursue the question of arrears.

We as a Government have not encouraged or have not been encouraging people not to pay their rents. I am sure that all of us in this Government have been telling the people whenever the time occasioned to pay their rents, and not only have we been calling on them to pay their rents but we have been going a bit further by telling them the reasons or stating to them the reasons why they should pay rents, because there are lots of persons who are on the waiting list. They too would like to have houses; they too would like to have a home in which to house their families. There are lots of emergencies, lots of disasters, and one must understand that this calls for a proper housing programme which will be able to meet the demands as the occasion arises. So when we call on persons to pay their rents, it is not because this Government believes in hounding down people, and the Opposition need not attempt to castigate this Government or to convey that impression, but it is rather because we are conscious of the need for more and more houses.

The demand for housing is extremely great and we must see the Minister's role and the Ministry of Housing as well as the Housing Corporation and respect their role, because it is very trying for not only the Minister and the Ministry, but for the National Housing Corporation and its officers, and I want on this occasion to publicly congratulate one of the officers who has been under attack time and time again. Mr. Chairman, I know it is proper to give notice of calling a name, but I will say this, and I hope you will pardon me if I went on record as saying that Miss Babb, Senior Housing Officer has been doing a very wonderful job. I want to be on record as saying that, and I make no apology for saying it on this occasion because people have been put to abuse that officer and other officers of Housing, abusing the Minister and abusing the Chairman as well as the Board, because they are unable to get houses. But it must be told to them that the list is so great that not all persons' requests can be met readily. Some cases are more urgent than others and though persons may be approved for houses, yet there is a question of discretionary powers.
8.55 p.m.

One must understand when there is a genuine or emergency case and in such cases then you have got to use those powers or give priority to such cases and therefore we must examine National Housing and respect the work which the National Housing Corporation has been doing and the role which it has played in trying to provide people with houses.

Now very little has been said and very little praise has been given to this administration for the work which has been carried out in the older estates, the repairs to the houses that were left unrepaired by the past administration. I know that the Opposition may very well say in defence that this should be an on-going thing and that the Government has a duty to repair houses but what I am prepared to say is that had the past administration been doing its job properly and thoroughly so many houses would not have been left in so bad disrepair, that this Government would not have inherited so many houses in such bad condition.

The roads in the Housing Estates are in a terrible state and that is part of the responsibility of National Housing because the roads and the footpaths in the National Housing Estates and the Estates are under the jurisdiction of the National Housing Corporation and it is National Housing Corporation which must either have Tenders or put out the work to be done by private people or invite the Ministry of Housing to carry out such repairs and therefore we must understand the magnitude of the work of National Housing Corporation, not only in building houses but in repairing the roads as well as installing street lights.

We know that some estates are left and are presently in a very bad state and I want to say this that the Government is conscious and I know that the Minister is conscious of the need to have these things rectified and that he will address himself to them.

Now I have heard with my own two ears coming from the platforms of the Opposition Party, the Democratic Labour Party, words to the effect that this Government is building houses on open spots or open areas that were left open for people to get air. What nonsense is that. Those are the sort of comments which come from the Opposition Party when they go out and pollute the the atmosphere at nights and I cannot understand, Mr. Chairman, why they cannot get up in here and repeat it. They cannot get up and repeat it, but they go into the Housing Areas and they make these utterances. That is what they say, that we are building houses.

Now it eats me up when I can hear people who are supposed to be responsible citizens getting up at night and telling large crowds of persons that the Government is building houses on open spots that they left for people to get air when there is such a great demand for houses and this Government is making it possible to provide an answer to several requests by looking for every available space to erect houses and yet you are going to hear that nonsense from the platform of the Opposition Party.

Now I do not know if they realise that there are thousands of persons on the waiting list at National Housing Corporation who are in need of houses. I wonder if anybody calls them or cares to call them because I do not think anybody calls them to ask them to do anything otherwise they would know that there is a demand, that morning, noon and night the people are calling us, they are calling me and they are calling the Minister.

We go up the street and on a Saturday morning you will see hundreds of persons up there trying to see the Minister to ask him to help them with a house. Now that is the situation and therefore they are not aware of the needs, the dire need for more and more houses in this country otherwise they would not have allowed such nonsense to flow from their mouths when they go out to address people.

Now we must also look at what the Ministry of Housing has been doing in the area of Mortgages. Now when we came into power the limit on a Mortgage was $32,000. In other words, the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company was giving as the upper limit $32,000 to help finance the purchase of homes or the building of homes but what has this Government done? This Government, mindful of the many needs of the people and the inadequateness of this $32,000 has raised the ceiling on Mortgages not to $45,000 but to $75,000 and, Mr. Chairman, it is

my understanding that in the very near future the ceiling will be raised from $75,000 so you can see that not only is this Government aware of its responsibility of building houses but is also aware of its responsibility to make available funds so that people can build their houses and not only build houses, Mr. Chairman, but enable the people to build proper houses, not to confine them to one or two bedrooms or smaller houses but to enable those who want to have a better and a bigger house to the extent that we have extended the Mortgage.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other hon. member wish to speak on this Head?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I take it that the Opposition is so impressed with the substantial work as carried out by the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, that they do not see any need to speak on the Heads to do with that Ministry. The fact that they are quiet is indicative of the fact that they have nothing to say on it and therefore they have decided to pass it in silence.

I have just got up to lend my praise like the last hon. member to the Minister and his staff for the very significant job of work which they have done over the last four and a half years. I would say about the Minister that he seems to have taken hold of that Ministry like a duck to water. I could not have imagined that we would have had such order brought to the chaotic and confused state in the Ministry of Housing as we found it in 1976 and what we now have it to be. When the Government assumed office in 1976, there were hardly any records and if they were records there, they were terribly confused.
9.05 p.m.

I am happy that the Honourable Minister and his predecessor in office, Mr. Ronald Mapp, along with a group of dedicated officers have been able to bring about in a very short time a total transformation of the problems which existed in the past within the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Mr. Chairman, it is not beyond the knowledge of people in the society that when we came in we found such a huge backlog of applicants for loans, that it would certainly take the Government the total Budget for one year, in order to reasonably reduce the backlog of requests for housing loans at the National Housing Corporation.

The Honourable Minister and his staff in a very painstaking and dedicated manner set about to reduce this backlog and in doing so, brought about a reasonable amount of order to the system. We discovered that there were people who had made applications as far back as 1959 and were not able to get a single house. The Hanschell Report revealed that there were people who came many years after those who had applied between 1959 and 1960 and were able because of their political connection and influence to get houses in a quick period of time.

This Government, under the dynamic leadership of the Honourable Minister has embarked upon a programme of building up a land bank in the Ministry of Housing and Lands. As a result of that embarkation, we have now been able to collect and identify a number of areas all over St. Michael which is certainly greatly in need of housing development. As people progress in any society, they look forward to better housing and environmental conditions. The Ministry with its staff has seen the need to satisfy the legitimate desires of the inhabitants of this country and has been carrying out a massive programme of work.

The National Housing Corporation, its Members and its Chairman who is here with us tonight, we are happy that he is here with us and certainly able to speak on behalf of his section within the Ministry, they have themselves been doing a very good job of work. Indicative of the vigorous and dynamic manner in which that department is operating is the manner in which they executed the work on the houses which were destroyed by Hurricane Allen in this island last year. Never in the history of this island, have we seen such a programme of action as we saw on that occasion. I have said before and I want to repeat it in some instances that I applaud the personnel within the Ministry, the National Housing section and the workmen generally for the dedicated manner in which they carried out their functions. The thanks of the country is due to them for their performance and one can tell when people feel that they are well led because they are always willing to perform.

If the system which prevailed prior to 1976 was still existing, I am very doubtful that the performance which we saw last year, when the hurricane struck, we would not have seen. For myself I am happy that the stand which they took was that stand because St. Andrew which was very hard hit was quickly rehabilitated and I can tell you that I speak for every person in that constituency, when I say thanks to all the good people within the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment. This Ministry has worked hard and performed well and when I look at what has been done in this country within the last four and a half years and I compare that development with work which I see abroad, people within the Caribbean here, even in Trinidad and Tobago with all its oil wealth, I would say that we in Barbados are doing tremendously well with the limited resources at our disposal.

Even though in our midst and I do not believe in the saying that the poor should always be with us. I believe that all of us should be housed, fed and clothed and the idea of the poor being with us at all times, I do not at all subscribe to. By the same token, we are going

to say that the rich will always be with us, but I want to see a marrying of the two the haves and the have nots. But, in Barbados today, even though we cannot say that every person is properly and perfectly housed, I think that we can say with a degree of pride and satisfaction that we in Barbados are some of the best housed and the most reasonably housed people in the entire Caribbean.

In Trinidad and Tobago, unless you are a person working for a salary in excess of $3 000 a month you can hardly rent a place. The rents within the National Housing Corporation are very heavily subsidised by the other non occupied members of the society of housing within the National Housing estates. We consider this to be a social cost and we are not crying about it. When the Lord Moyle Commission came to Barbados shortly after the 1937 riot, it discovered that one of the greatest stigma which afflicted the society was the question of bad housing conditions and they reflected very adversely on that situation. From that time onwards every Labour Government concentrated its forces very firmly on improving the lot of unhoused people in our society. We in Barbados, we in the Labour Party particularly contrive of the day when all people in Barbados will be well housed and the Ministry mindful of that desire on the part of this Government has embarked upon a programme which will in a very short time and by a short time I do not mean months, or weeks because it takes a considerable amount of the national take to provide houses for people, but I feel that housing is a very important element in our society since people will be sheltered from the weather and exposure.
9.15 p.m.

The Government must continue to devote its thrust in the area of housing its people and to make provision wherever possible to ensure that people are well housed. I want to assure again the Hon. Minister and the whole of his staff that the country admires them, the country is watching them and the country feels that in them there is hope for a bright tomorrow and a bright future in the area of housing.

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, I want to make my contribution to this debate and I want to start off by drawing public attention to the fact that as we are here debating Housing, the country is witnessing the celebration of Housing Week. Now, I think this is a matter of some importance, because it is particularly gratifying to me as Chairman of the National Housing Corporation to see that in the celebration of its 25th year of existence the National Housing Corporation has risen to such a high standard that it is not possible, so far as I can see, for the Opposition to find anything meaningful to say in terms of criticism of the National Housing Corporation. That this is so is a creditable reflection on the Barbados Labour Party administration.

The National Housing Corporation and its predecessor bodies were established between the years 1955 and 1956. It is significant that until 1976 when we came to power the name of the National Housing Corporation and the Housing Authority had become associated with all sorts of scandals, and to use an expression used by Commissioner Hanschell, mal-practices. It is equally significant that since 1976, coincidental with the advent of the Barbados Labour Party to power, the National Housing Corporation has been able to pull itself out of the mud and has again assumed its rightful place as the provider of housing for the people of this country.

I do not wish to become involved in any self-congratulation, what I want to do is to try to cast my mind forward to the next five years and to try to give some indication as to what my own thoughts are so far as the National Housing Corporation is concerned. I think it is now absolutely clear that we have in fact done an extremely good job, but as Chairman I can say that the Board is particularly concerned about the large number of persons who are still not yet housed and whose applications are still alive on the waiting list at the National Housing Corporation, and I suspect that if we are to discharge our national responsibility as a Government that in spite of the very grand effort which we have made so far we must now somehow apply the considerable intellectual ability and knowhow, which this Government possesses, to tackling and solving the problem of housing.

We are suffering as a country from significant neglect in housing during the years 1961 to 1976. That may sound, Mr. Chairman, like a political statement, but it is in fact a statement of fact. This afternoon I was thumbing some of the old debates of this Chamber and I discovered that a Democratic Labour Party Minister was bragging in a debate that his side had been able to build 100 houses a year. Now, I would have considered that in the context of what I now know to be a serious indictment of the then Government, because we need to develop techniques and methods to enable the Government to build something like 1,000 houses per year, and I mean 1,000 houses for persons who wish to actually rent, I am not saying 1,000 houses and including in that housing in the private sector. We really need to import, if you like, sophisticated techniques for quick building, because unless we can do that we will continue to make a dent in the problem without actually solving it.

I also admit, Mr. Chairman, that somehow we will have to concentrate more heavily on what we like to call the subsidised housing, the housing estates, places like Haynesville, Fernihurst and Rosemont, that kind of housing. And we may have to shift our emphasis completely away from what is referred to at National Housing as the commercial programme, areas like Lodge Terrace and the West Terrace Development. We may have to shift our emphasis more from that development to what we call the subsidised type of housing development,

because we think that the greatest demand is at that end of the scale.

I feel too, Mr. Chairman, that somehow the Government is going to have to find far greater sums than $10 million to put into housing. We are getting $10 million this year, and I dare say that if we develop the correct techniques for building quickly, and the correct methods of delivering houses quickly, then we will be in a position to spend sums in excess of $10 million. In fact, if we are to lick the problem at all, we will need more than $10 million, but I think, Mr. Chairman, we are going to have to look very seriously at some methods and techniques for overcoming the backlog which has existed for the last 10 to 15 years. Great strides have been made by this Government and the National Housing Corporation, for example, now has a Technical Division. This has been said time and time again in this Chamber, but I think it has to be emphasised, because the public does not quite understand how important such a Technical Division is.

Such a Division, Mr. Chairman, provides us with in-house expertise, to the extent that we can now provide some of the services which we had to pay for in the past. We can now, for example, completely design the Lammings Project, we can now produce our own detail plans ready for tender on projects like Lammings, we can now, for example, provide all the architectural services, all the design services for places like Bonnetts and places of that sort, and that is a terribly important addition to the staff at National Housing, because if we are to lick the problem of housing we have not only to get more money and that sort of thing, but we have to experiment with different designs.

Those members of the public who have taken the opportunity to visit Rosemont, for example, and who have seen what we have done at Fernihurst, will recognise that we have combined the better features of the Haynesville Development with those features of the Fernihurst Development which we considered desirable, and we put those features together into the Rosemont Development. That, to my mind, is one of the major benefits of the very wise move taken by the present Minister of Housing in moving quickly to establish the Technical Division and to ensure that it was properly staffed so that we could in fact provide certain in-house services. We are also able now to provide certain other services at the West Terrace Development.

One of the problems which National Housing has faced in the past, Mr. Chairman, is the question of having outside contractors build its houses without adequate supervision by persons who had an interest in making sure that the National Housing Corporation got value for money. In the West Terrace Development, for example, we are hoping that we will be able to provide such control over the building so that effectively we will not have the kind of disasters which overtook Oxnards, and to some extent, Lodge Terrace where after the houses were up, put up by the last administration, certain problems were discovered and we had to go back and try to rectify those problems.

The other point to which I wish to draw attention, Mr. Chairman, is this. The Minister has quite rightly drawn attention to the problem of the arrears of rent.
9.25 p.m.

This problem is much larger than members of the public recognise. It is much larger, Mr. Chairman, because apart from anything else, if we do not collect the rents, we are handicapped when we come to provide new housing and I do not think it is quite understood that we are collecting about $1.9 million in rent per year, but we find that we are spending about $1.8 million in maintaining the said housing estates from which we are collecting the $1.9 million in rents. We are spending about $5,000 per day in maintenance alone, so that we are getting both ends of a very dirty stick. In the first place if the arrears are not paid, we do not have monies to develop new housing, and yet we have to turn around and keep the houses which are already up and for which no rents are being paid in some cases in a state of good repair.

The present administration has taken effective steps to reduce the question of arrears, but we have found that in some cases there are one or two cases which are genuinely unable to pay their rents. The Minister has already adverted to a system which we hope to introduce which will alleviate this problem, a system of placing wardens on the estates. We believe if this is done then the wardens would be able to monitor the goings on in the Estates and be able to report to us precisely when someone is in a position not to be able to pay his rent, and perhaps we can provide certain welfare services to the tenants of the estates and nip a problem like non payment of rent in the bud.

The other problem I want to grapple with is the problem to which the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has adverted, the question of the hurricane programme. We were moving full steam ahead with our building programme when the hurricane intervened and virtually put a stop to the programme. I think great credit is due to the staff of the National Housing Corporation for the very efficient way in which they tackled the problem of repairing those 700 odd houses. I myself went to the offices of National Housing when the rains and wind had subsided on the morning of the hurricane and I thought I was getting there early, but I was extremely pleased to discover that as early as I was able to get there, members of the staff had already reported for work

and had taken steps to put the machinery in order to get those persons who were not housed into temporary housing and to begin to look at the system of repairing those houses which were damaged, and I think that very great credit is due to the staff of the National Housing Corporation. In some cases members of the staff gave up their weekends, gave up going to church, were deprived of going home early on evenings, worked around the clock in some cases to make sure that those who were out of shelter could be put back into shelter.

We are moving too, Mr. Chairman, towards upgrading of the facilities at the National Housing Corporation. We are hoping in the not too distant future to be able to erect a new building at Country Road. I am amazed, Mr. Chairman, when I see what has passed for good office accommodation at the National Housing Corporation's headquarters. There are no less than about 30 to 40 persons cramped into a building which houses the accounts section to such an extent that the Financial Controller shares an office with two or three other persons and on occasions either has to leave his room or to scotch on the edge of someone's desk when the auditors are in to do their annual check of the books.

Now we do not believe, Mr. Chairman, that that is the sort of situation which should continue forever. We do not also believe that the system of recording of the accounts should continue in that haphazard fashion forever. We are currently investigating the idea of computerising the accounts so that the 4,000 or 5,000 odd accounts can be placed on computer, and hopefully we can have a more efficient system of collection and of checking those delinquent renters who for one reason or another now escape the collectors' net. We are faced with a number of problems, but I believe that we have been elected to solve those problems, Mr. Chairman, and I think that we have demonstrated to the country that we have the capacity for solving the problems. In spite of the many difficulties which we found when we assumed office, we have moved ahead to improve the country on all fronts, but I think, Mr. Chairman, that one of the stars which shines brightest in the firmament of the achievements of this Government is the performance of the Ministry of Housing in general and the performance of the National Housing Corporation in particular, and I would wish, Mr. Chairman, to hope that we can apply equal vigour and perhaps surpass ourselves in terms of our performance during the next five years.

That is my contribution, Mr. Chairman. I have perhaps one final point to make and this is perhaps a point which is directed more particularly at the Minister so that he can prod his fellow Ministers on this. I think we are going to have to get some sort of reorganisation put into the question of the General Workers' Fund. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that it is time that we had, I believe, it is in the Estimates on this occasion, a special fund for this purpose because this is another of the areas where we come into contact to a very large extent with those persons who are desirous of funds and loans to repair their houses. In recent weeks we have been inundated with requests and perhaps those persons who were waiting for loans might wish to exercise a little more patience so that when we get through these Heads, we can find ourselves possessed of sufficient funds to disburse loans to those persons who have in some cases got first instalments and in other cases have not yet got their loans.

The question that the sum of $10,694,560 under Head 42 – Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

HEAD 82 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Head 82 – Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,050,000 under Head 82 – Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

9.35 p.m.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this is an appropriation for the very small establishments that we have at the Ministry of Trade and for the grant with regard to the National Petroleum Corporation. We intend to activate this year the National Petroleum Corporation. We have been able now to have most of the preparatory work done and I think that hon. members are fully aware of the Government's policy in relation to the National Petroleum Corporation.

We have five of these areas in Barbados which comprise mostly to the South of Barbados and all the rest of Barbados is under the control of the Government and it is subjected to a very detailed survey which has been undertaken and the results of this survey are now being interpreted.

It is the intention of Government that the person who has the present option, not an exploration contract,

not a developmental contract, but a pure contract to carry out a seismic survey, to submit the information to the Ministry to have an option for a period of one year to negotiate with the Ministry for a licence and in the option itself it is clearly understood and set out that the only licence that is capable of being granted is the licence upon the basis of what is known as productive sharing. It will carry interest. That is, that the Oil Company must do the work, put up the money but the National Petroleum Corporation has the right to a percentage of all oil that is found after royalties and the shares are to be negotiated.

We have had the benefit of a Technical Assistant, TCBC, and hon. members on that side with their experience would know what that means. It is a non interest bearing grant technical cooperation development grant. We got that assistance through UNDP and the successful contractors were the Norwegian Consulting firm of Nord Construction. That was a firm also under the UNDP which gave assistance to the Government of Jamaica in their exploration.

We have had very good relations with the Government of Norway in the execution of this contract. The Norwegian Government, parallel to this has granted some scholarships to some Barbadians who are qualified in the field of geology and petroleum to go and work with the National Energy Board. We in Barbados for some time have been attempting to diversify our source of oil in this country.

In 1978, after the Venezuelan Government indicated very clearly that the type of reformate which was found in suitable quantities in crude in Venezuela was in short supply, not that Venezuela is short of oil but they were short of a particular light crude, but our Refinery here was tailored and designed to process. After we were notified that there was a shortage of that in Venezuela, we successfully negotiated with the National Oil Corporation of Trinidad, Trincot, for a supply of reformate so that today the Barbados Government and the people of Barbados receive their petroleum requirements of reformate from Trincot in Trinidad and no longer from Venezuela.

We also have to buy crude and we have been buying Taiwana crude from Venezuela and we have been notified by the Venezuelan Government that consequent upon the San Jose Agreement that Venezuela can only guarantee us 50% of the traditional source of supply of crude and the rest we would have to buy from Mexico. This has posed a tremendous amount of problems to all of the Caribbean countries who bought crude from Venezuela hitherto, not only Barbados but Jamaica and the aspirant Antigua who had hoped that they could resuscitate their refinery with an agreed source of crude from Venezuela.

The position is very clear that Venezuela is short, not of crude. Venezuela is not short of crude but they are short of the light crude. They have a heavier stuff which they are finding more and more quantities of.

Now, the Prime Minister of Barbados visited Venezuela and we have been assured that our traditional supply of crude that we buy from Venezuela is assured for at least another year but that we can only take advantage of the San Jose oil facility to the extent of 50% of our traditional requirements. The rest they expect us to buy from the Mexican Government.

Now, the Mexican crude poses a number of difficulties throughout the Caribbean. It is not so much as to whether it is heavy or light but it is a question of the sulphur content. That is the big problem. We are accustomed to refining crudes of a very low sulphur content. There is no doubt about it that the characteristic of the Mexican crude is that it has a much heavier type of content. Now, that poses great environmental problems. We do not wish to see our motorcars and our diesel engines moving along emitting a tremendous amount of sulphur in the atmosphere.

A desulphurising Plant, as the hon. member for St. Michael South West will tell hon. members on that side, is a very, very expensive thing. I believe that Texaco in Trinidad in the 1960's set up a desulphurising Plant and in those days, I think, if my memory is correct, it cost somewhere in the vicinity of over $200 million. Well, there is no way that any of the refineries in the Caribbean outside of Texaco in Trinidad will be able to refine this crude. It is capable of being refined but you must pay the sulphur penalty.

We have been trying to see if we can make an arrangement in respect of the refining of that aspect of the crude in another place but those negotiations are going along now. The oil production itself in Barbados is steady and I think hon. members would be aware of the fact that we have moved now to the successor organization of General Crude, namely Mobil, from the drilling in the range of 6,000 to 7,000 feet, into deep drilling.
9.45 p.m.

We have now drilled five deep wells and when I say deep that is 10 000 to 12 000 feet. I cannot give Honourable Members a complete evaluation of this drilling except to say that there is one well in particular which has to be tested. Of course, when you drill to 10 000 odd feet, you may have established production zones up to 8 000 feet, you have to test from the 10 000 feet coming up.

Now five of these wells have been drilled and another three will be drilled. One will be drilled as deep as 15 000 feet. The testing of one of these wells in particu-

lar should take place very soon. In the meantime, we are trying to negotiate an alternate source of supply in respect of that 50% of the Venezuelan oil facility which we have to pay the full price for. We have written the Trinidad Government to see if we can get crude from them because it is our intention to cushion the impact of the increased price of imported oil by taking advantage of the long term option which is being given in both the Trinidad and Tobago oil facility and the San Jose, Venezuela joint Mexican facility. That is, the Central Banks are able to convert the difference between the base price in 1979 January and the current OPEC price into a long term facility for capital projects in which you will get it at a lower rate of interest and you are able to repay the foreign exchange content over a 20 year period.

I am sorry, very sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is not here because I was endeavouring to explain to him that where one can get loans on these terms on a two, or three year grace facility at non commercial interest rate spread over a repayable period of as long as 20 years for Capital projects, that this question of bunching of the repayment of debt does not cause as much concern as if one went into Euro dollar market and borrowed on a maturity period of five or six years. This is the phenomenon which has developed in the last three or four years where the oil producing countries themselves have recognised that if they are to cushion the impact of the price rise in oil on the developing world, they themselves must become lenders not through multi national banks but through the development of special banking arrangements, where they can get the current market price for the oil, but they must lend it on longer terms to the developing world at a lower rate of interest. This is a new development, this is OPEC's contribution to ease the impact of the price rise in the developing world. So, that is a very special thing.

Now, there is one significant thing about all of this. It has been made abundantly clear to all Governments that the oil producing countries are not interested in dealing with multi national corporations and the traditional marketers. They are interested in dealing on a government to government basis and on a designated government institution. So that, the role of the National Petroleum Corporation can be immediately seen in that light.

The other area under grant for public institutions is the IDC. Honourable Members have known for a long period and have recognised the contributions that the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation is making in this area. I do not think that Honourable Members can begrudge Government's faith in the IDC by its increase of its grant to IDC on Current Account, increasing it by some 25% this year. The other institution which we have is the Export Promotion Corporation. I am pleased to say that at long last the Export Promotion Corporation is being able to attract its staff. We have had a great difficulty with that, but increasingly, we are able to attract the staff that is requisite.

A number of international institutions are very interested in the very successful effort that we have made in here in Barbados in our export of non traditional exports namely sugar and rum. Last year was a record year for non traditional exports in Barbados. We exported some $215 million in non traditional exports in accordance with provisional figures. The areas to which we export are growing, not only have we been able to increase our exports to CARICOM. The last check which we made of exports to CARICOM last year was somewhere in the region of $80 million to $85 million. But, we have successfully made entry into Guadeloupe, Martinique the US Virgin Islands and of course, our exports to the United Kingdom and to Western Europe are on the rise.

We hope that increasingly more and more Barbadian indigenous manufacturers will take advantage of the schemes that have been devised by the Central Bank and by the Government generally to aid them in the export trade. The Export guarantee of insurance scheme has certainly helped a large number of small manufacturers to get into the export market. The Government intends to increase the subvention to the Export Corporation as the need arises. As I said we have a World Bank loan with a component, we have some European Development Fund money. We are part and parcel of the Caribbean Development Bank export scheme and basically the money which we appropriate there is for the staff instruction which in turn attracts international money.

There are not many other areas in the Estimates which I would like to highlight, except to say that the Ministry on Natural Resources in the Ministry of Trade has expanded to such an extent that whatever Government comes into power, after the next Election, although I have no doubt as to which Government it is, although the Other Side may have some ambition and hope, serious attention will have to be paid in view of its importance to the question of the creation of a separate ministry to deal with this.

9.55 p.m.

Serious attention will have to be paid in view of its importance to the question of the creation of a separate Ministry to deal with this. The workload has greatly increased, a tremendous amount of work has been done on the evaluation of our clay resources in Barbados, or limestone resources, and its utilisation in addition to alternate energy programmes. Considerable progress is being made in this direction, there are a number of experimental units here with biogasse, there are projects for wind power, there are projects for wave power, there are conservation projects, a very interesting seminar which

is going on right now at the Hilton Hotel in relation to the tourism sector, a lot of work has been done in the solar energy sector, and with the National Petroleum Corporation with oil drilling and exploitation of natural gas, it seems very clear that the natural resources unit and the exploitation of such natural resources that we have is developing to such an extent that they ought to command the attention of a separate Ministry, or at least be combined in a Ministry with another single subject.

Subject to that, Sir, if there are any questions from the other side, I beg to move that this Head do now stand part. Head 35.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir. Head 35.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Just on a question of procedure, Sir. We are theoretically obliged, unless we work the extra hour tomorrow, to work tonight to even it out, because we started at 2.00 today. Now, I am told that it is not unusual to do the extra hour on the last day, but if we are going to work evenly over the period of time we will have to work until 11 o'clock. I know that most people like to do it on the last day so that they can have the whole weekend and then they are finished with it. If the Opposition agrees to that I am perfectly prepared to let them cone back fresh tomorrow. The hon. member has the floor, Sir, and he will be first on tomorrow. We will start at 10.00 tomorrow.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress, and a note be made that the hon. member for St. Michael South West will speak.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progess and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

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

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

10.00 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Suspension was taken last evening the House was in Committee. To that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. ODLE resumed the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. I think the Deputy Prime Minister wound up his speech under Head 35. I will put the question.

The question that Head 35 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 76 – MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY – $8,130,000

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 76 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 36 – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION – $14,270,153

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 36 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 77 – CAPITAL – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION – $9,840,476

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 77 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 28 –MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – $981,613

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 28 as amended stand part.

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

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I apologise for not being here earlier. I had a little difficulty with the traffic.

HEAD 29 – PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS – $50,800

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 29 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 30 – JUDICIARY – $487,580

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, just one small observation here. At an earlier debate when we discussed the strictures within the Attorney General's Chambers as it affected the Judiciary I had put forward and I do not recall if the Attorney General was here himself, the whole question of the structure of the system, especially as it applied to the Magistracy and physical accommodation, etc.

Now one does not wish to have the Judiciary actually involved in any political debate *per se* but I would like to suggest to the Attorney General that it is within the interest of the country to establish very clearly a structure once and for all which would find the Senior Posts in the Attorney General's Chambers and those areas from which presumably those who would sit on the Bench would go, if we can get a structure which sees the movement through the career of the individual up towards the Bench rather than on the Bench then into the office and then back on the Bench.

I know that some steps are being taken in this connection or so I was assured the last time I raised the question but I think that we ought to be in a position where when a citizen goes before the Courts whether it is the Magistrate's Court, it does not happen in the High Court, but especially when a citizen goes before the Magistrate's Court that the citizen can feel and the Practitioners can feel that the person who is dispensing justice, who is the decision maker in the justice system, is in fact a person who by experience and by calling is a person who can make a decision without fear or contradiction subsequently.

Mr. Chairman, it would be difficult to debate this in its fullest context without being invidious and I do not propose to do so, as I said, but I believe from what I have said that the Attorney General would take the point which I am putting forward and I also believe that the time is coming when we ought to move from the stage of talking about it and move to the stage of the total requirements of the administration of justice in the community.

I want to make the point that I am discussing the administration and not the dispensing of justice. I do not think that there is anybody in Barbados who has any quarrel with the dispensing of justice but as far as the citizens who have to go to the Courts are concerned, there is a lot of inconvenience which is, through no fault of the citizen, thrust upon that citizen.

We have a situation where, for example, Barbados is finding itself somewhat like one jurisdiction I know of New York State, where Police Officers would feel that they do not wish to bring a prosecution or they do not wish to go to the Courts because of the amount of time involved in trying to do their duty. The amount of inconvenience involved makes it impossible for the Police to do his duty but more importantly, and perhaps worse, there are many citizens who refuse to become involved in litigation of any kind particularly as witnesses presumably because of the amount of time involved.

Now we have been discussing for some time the reorganisation of the Courts in such a way that certain matters would be dealt with more expeditiously. I believe, for example, that when we have the Magistrate's jurisdiction changed from the system we now have where we have Districts "A", "B", "C" and "D" one is not sure what the recent repeal of the Parish Boundaries Act has done to this and it would be interesting to see if the question raised in Court, whether the Magistrate of District "A" who is supposed to be functioning in a parish as it relates back to the Parish Boundaries Act, it would be interesting to see if one raised a question on his jurisdiction what the Constitutional position would be.

I do not think it would help us to debate it here. We would all be speculating perhaps, but it is important that we take the manpower we have, the resources we have and organise them in such a way that justice can be sure, that it can be swift and at the same time it can continue as it has done in Barbados for fear to be fair. 10.15 a.m.

I believe that it is not outside the bounds of our capability to organise our judiciary in such a way that we can get the high quality which we now have and at the same time, an increase in the improvement of the efficiency of the system.

I know that it has been announced that there will be a new building some time in the next few years and I dare suppose that whichever Administration is running the affairs of the country that that will proceed, but I believe that it is not necessary for us in order to do a functional analysis of our system to await the construction of this new edifice. I think that if the functional part is dealt with now that we can begin to reap the benefits of any improvements which will come out of that. I am not sure Sir if this is the Head under which

we ought to discuss legal education in the Caribbean as seen from the Barbados point of view, or whether the Honourable Attorney General wishes to discuss under the Capital Head. Does it come under the Capital Head?

I am not sure where that particular amount of money is found in the Estimates, but what I wish to say Sir is for whatever reason, whether it is true or false there is a very strong statement being made in certain circles that an attempt is going to be made, by the Barbados Government to restrict the entry of Barbadian nationals into the Law Faculty at Cave Hill to those persons under the age of 40, or some such similar provision. Mr. Chairman, if that is in fact the case, I would caution the Government that in taking such a decision, or taking such a stand that they may in fact be short sighted insofar as their understanding of their own needs and their relationship with the rest of the community.

I do not believe that we can on one hand indicate, as the Honourable Minister of Education has done from time to time that continuing education forms a hallistic approach to the development of the total being and then, on the other hand using the argument of resources restrict the development of some individuals, persons over 40 who might feel that they have a predilection for legal studies. Mr. Chairman, the record of the adult students at Cave Hill is a distinguished one not only in terms of the results which they have got but more in terms of the contributions which persons of that age group have been able to make not only in the Law Faculty, but in the total community.

Again Sir, one does not wish to be invidious and single out individuals, but there is certainly one distinguished lady who has made a sterling contribution to the total development of Barbados in her relatively short time in public affairs. That lady came to the law at a relatively late stage. It would seem to me to be foolhardy to suggest that Barbados can afford to do without another of such ladies five years from now, or 10 years from now. I believe that one of the Honourable Ministers who occupies a position on the Other Side came to the law at a late stage in life and whilst he might not be held out as a paragon of virtue in other areas of activity, the fact still remains that he has made some contribution to the literature which now adorns the learning areas of the legal profession.

I recognise that there is some difficulty in the filling of places for persons who will practise at the Bar, but I do not believe that we ought to become so practical in our approach to life that we lose sight of the fact that learning for the sake of learning is itself a virtue. Sir, as we look across on that Side of the Honourable House and as we look across on this Side of the Honourable House and as we look in the Chair Sir, we are confronted with persons who have been trained in areas that might be said to be not practical. I do not believe that anyone could point with certainty to classical studies and demonstrate what a person who does practical studies will be able to do as a practical person in the real world. However, Sir, it is never questioned that those who have been exposed to the classical studies have been able to bring a greater insight into the thought processes which go to make up policy decisions in either the community, in the family, or other organisms.

Take for example, Sir, and I am sure that the Honourable Member would not mind take for example the Honourable Minister of Education. The Honourable Member is trained in the Law, the Honourable Member has been trained in Classics and yet, the Honourable Member's contribution as an Honourable Minister of Education is not one that is likely to be opened to serious question in the market place, as will be the contribution made by his predecessor in office. The point which I am making Sir is that no one should attempt to suggest that the fact that the Honourable Member was trained in the Law has not been useful to him in his role as the Honourable Minister of Education. Certainly, there are insights which he will be able to bring to bear on certain problems which a person not exposed to the Law might not be able to bring. I would therefore find it quite strange if a Government that fully understands, or ought to fully understand this kind of approach to development would seek to restrict the quality of life in the community, by what I consider a practitioner's approach to the question of legal development.

I think also that while I am on this question that it is not outside the realms of propriety to point out that when the first group of people got together in the Caribbean to determine that the Caribbean should train its own lawyers, it set a standard for Caribbean lawyers that was higher than that required in almost any other part of the world. It insisted that people who wanted to become Caribbean lawyers had to do five years of vigorous study after which they were still required to do apprenticeship because I am told that one does not become an accomplished lawyer until one has done some years of actual practice which means Sir that once again in a country that can ill afford it, or in countries that can ill afford it, we have seen the expenditure of great resources precisely because we have a psychological difficulty requiring that we always do twice as well as anybody else in order to be acceptable.

I do not believe that whether it is legal education, or whether it is CXC programming, or whatever, I do not believe that the necessity for a high standard requires us to go to the extreme and make our standards so high as not to allow our normal people to feel normal in the pursuits of those standards.

10.25 a.m.

I believe that the Committee after ten years can be satisfied that it did a good job and that the administration is now reviewing its attitude to legal education. I would like to say on the floor of this House that having passed through some aspects of this training, I might say that I do not see it necessary for all persons to spend five years doing that kind of exercise at that cost before becoming legal practitioners. I think that if we look at those distinguished sons whom we are able to say have been distinguished at the Bar, we will find that more than 90% of them did not have this rigorous necessity, or the necessity for this rigorous exercise, and therefore I do not think that it will fall on difficult ears if we are to hear that the total course has been reduced both in the interest of symmetry and in the interest of economy to a level that does not defeat the standard, but at the same time accepts the necessities of Caribbean life.

Mr. Chairman, as I said when I got up on this Head, I do not believe that these are controversial matters, but I am sure the Minister would wish to hear our views on some of these matters, and I on the other hand would like to hear his views on the same matters.

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to add a few comments to what has been said. The hon. member has drawn attention to what he considers might be areas in which the administration of justice might be improved. I think it is only fair to state that in relation to the Supreme Court I do not think there can be many allegations, if any, of any time wasting. The Supreme Court I think, speaking as a practitioner, is very well organised. When one goes to court to have one's case heard it is heard, unless of course for one reason or another the practitioner requires an adjournment, or if the court for some extraordinary reason cannot hear it. I do not think there is any real problem at all in the Supreme Court, and one can in fact get one's case started and heard to a result as quickly in Barbados as I think in any other part of the Commonwealth.

There might be a problem relating to the Magistrates' Courts. I suspect that we may need, and I have said this already in this Hon. Chamber, we may need to establish a second civil court at District "A". The jurisdiction of that particular court has been increased, there are many more people going to the courts these days, and a case in the civil court can sometimes take an entire day, and I think we will probably have to look to see if we can increase the civil court at District "A" to a second court.

There may be some problems in relation to the criminal court at District "A' because the number of cases which are lodged in that court has also dramatically increased, and if you have a criminal case before the Magistrate at District "A" in which a lawyer is involved, one can find that of 30 or 40 cases listed for a particular day, an entire morning can be taken up with one case, and so the problem continues, but I do not think that one can reasonably make any complaint at all about the speed with which matters are heard in the Supreme Court, and if there is any problem at all it may be that the courts themselves need better accommodation, which I understand is coming, and perhaps a higher level of training for those who assist the Judges, and this I also understand is coming, so that any criticism which is made is probably only true of the Magistrates' Courts.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, there is just one area of the contribution made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West that I would like to address myself to. The Attorney General no doubt will in due course reply to the major substance of the submission, but it comes within the area of my responsibility for legal education, both at the University of the West Indies and at the School of Law in Trinidad and Tobago.

It has never been the feeling of this Government that there should be any discrimination against the students of the law. What we found on assumption of Government was that there was in the policy of the previous Government distinct prejudice against legal students. One knows very well that it is traditional for lawyers when they get into Government to show a lot of disdain for their erstwhile colleagues and for the legal profession generally, and I recall only too vividly when the right hon. member for St. John, the Leader of the Opposition, in a now historic debate in this Chamber said that all the lawyers should be given garlands around their heads and they should be shipped out of Barbados and it would be a better society for it, and he very irresponsibly advised the citizens of Barbados to keep as far as possible from the lawyers.

I am glad to hear the hon. member for St. Michael South West, now that he has a little, a minute exposure to the law, does not share the feelings of his leader. Students of the law in the previous administration were not allowed to hold Government scholarships, bursaries and enabling grants, and indeed they did not have their tuition fees paid by the Government of Barbados. They were the only Barbadian students in the university system that did not have their tuition fees paid by Government, and we promised that we would have removed that anomaly, and we did, and we subsequently granted a number of bursaries and enabling grants to a number of students of the law in Barbados.

One other significant part of the contribution made by the hon. member was in respect of this Government's attitude to mature students of the law, and I think he is a little bit mistaken, he has been given wrong information up on the hill. We have always felt that there should not be a disproportionate number of mature students in

the School of Law and in the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill, because the Government was experiencing great difficulty in recruiting lawyers into the Public Service. We felt that bright young people leaving school who had decided to take the law as a career, and who were trained in the University of the West Indies Law Faculty and in the Law School, would be prepared and willing to come into the various legal offices in the Public Service, the Attorney General's Chambers and others, and start from the bottom and work themselves up to the top in the legal Public Service. We do not feel, however, that there should be any prejudice against mature students, but the record shows that the majority of the so called mature students who have done the law degree at Cave Hill have not themselves gone into the practice of law. I accept that they have a contribution to make and I would not want to deny them that, but on the other hand one must understand that the Government must take its priorities extremely straight and determine whether they want to give the additional élan to the scholarship of mature students, or whether they want to train young practitioners to carry out the increasingly important and complex work that is required in the legal Civil Service.

I have on a number of occasions raised this question in the Councils of the University. I remember on one occasion when I made an appeal for greater consideration to be given to the younger students, that the then Dean of the Law Faculty said that he was interested only in training researchers, and that if the Government felt otherwise that they should set up a polytechnic.
10.35 a.m.

Now there is something fundamentally wrong with that argument, and I was surprised to hear the argument coming from a man of the intelligence of the one who said it because there is a feeling abroad that if you have been to the University already and have a University degree that that makes you brighter than somebody who is leaving the Sixth Form at the age of 18 and 19, and that is arrant nonsense. All that happens is that you have been around a little longer, you have been to school a little longer, but it does not mean you are brighter.

Recently there was a Committee that was set up under the Chairmanship of Sir Roy Marshall to go through the region and to do a review of legal education in the Caribbean after ten years of a legal faculty at the University. They came to Barbados and they had discussions with people involved in the law and in legal education in Barbados, and, Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. member for St. Michael South West to know that the Chief Justice of Barbados supported my position in respect of the balance between the younger law student and the mature student. I think that perhaps that will help a little bit in clearing this misconception that there is hostility on this side for mature students to be taking law at this stage. As a matter of fact I have even put up another suggestion that as much as Barbados is having an over-production at Cave Hill of social science graduates who quite often have extreme difficulty in being placed in jobs within twelve months of graduation that they might perhaps cut back on their social sciences offerings in the evening classes and introduce law as a part time evening course so that civil servants, high level civil servants, mature people in business and commerce, banking and so on, and in the trade unions would be able to continue to do their daily work and still be able over a period of time to pick up legal qualifications.

Now I know how difficult it is to shake the entrenchment of certain practices at Cave Hill campus, University of the West Indies. You have to keep a job for the boys, and it is difficult to tell them to cut back on any programme because that would mean certain academic retrenchment, and obviously the club on the hill certainly has no intention of easily conceding that; but I do think that there is a place in Barbados for the training of mature students in law and that that can adequately be met by the institution of evening classes in the law much as they do in almost every discipline at Cave Hill. I hope the hon. member for St. Michael South West feels assured that this side of the House has absolutely nothing against a mature student who wants to pursue his legal training.

One final point before I give way. We have also been taking a look at the two year course at Trinidad, in fact the two year course in the law schools. One of the problems is that though we feel a certain sympathy to the cause that the course is somewhat long, we feel that there has to be some other alternative if we abolish the final year. A number of suggestions have been made, the chief of which has been to assign the people who have completed one course at the law school in Trinidad to law chambers in the respective territories. One of the problems as hon. members will appreciate is the fact that the quality of the chambers in Barbados vary considerably and therefore there can be no assurance that one student will have the same exposure and quality of pupilage as another.

There is also another consideration, that is the whole question of our historic social relationships. If you are a graduate with certain social connections you will be able to get into the premier chambers in Bridgetown. If you have no such connections you will have to be scrambling around Bridgetown hoping that somebody will take you on, and the suggestion has been made to the Barbados Bar Association that to avoid such a situation they should as an association try and work out a system that would ensure that all students who graduate from the law school will have a proper chance of having the best and maximum exposure to the practice of law in the chambers in Bridgetown. It might then even be possible for the students to operate on a rotating basis

where they move from a Chamber that is strong in the civil law to chambers that are strong in the common law and chambers that deal with company law as the case may be. If the Bar Association would seriously address themselves to the problem in hand and come up with a *modus operandi* to remove the difficulties that currently exist, perhaps we will be right on our way to removing the final year of the course at the Law School in Trinidad.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, let me say that I am very glad that I raised the question and gave the Minister an opportunity to set out what is Government policy or attitude has been, because if in fact their attitude is that there ought to be a mix of the younger student and the mature student then that would find no argument from any side. I must say that the statement and the position which had gone forth were not from the club on the hill so much as from within the community of Barbadians who have shown an interest in continuing education and who have shown an interest in becoming lawyers as mature students. That information came from that end of the spectrum and they were expressing serious concern as citizens who pay taxes that they were about to be discriminated against, so I think it would be good for the community that the Government has stated categorically and it may very well be good for the people on the hill to hear that they will be given a flexibility which is not exercised now, as I understand it in the choosing of people.

Let me say that I think that the University's insistence on a certain quality of scholarship along with the production of the practising lawyer is only in keeping with what ought to be if we are building not for the next five years, but for the next 50 or 100 years, because as the Hon. Minister of Education must know, no University system or no system of passing on information from generation to generation will realise any level that is worthwhile unless it is able to reproduce its own scholars.

I take note in passing of the reference to the minute exposure but I am sure that he will agree that if a man has been doing something wrong for 20 years, that does not mean he has 20 years' experience; it only means he has been doing it wrong for 20 years. On the other hand, a man might pick up the line in two years and at the end of two years have more experience than a person who has been doing it wrong for 20 years. I am very glad to accept too the recommendation and endorse it and suggest it would meet the approval of this side of having the Law Faculty available for night courses. I think however to make a bald statement and not attach to it the attendant difficulties would not be quite accurate. I think the Minister is aware that the cost of putting on the courses at night will be much higher than the cost of putting on similar courses. I think that even the practising Attorneys would welcome this. Persons like the Hon. Minister of Education would certainly need a refresher course if he is going to go back in the law courts and earn a living later on this year, but I think it is very important that we begin to see our education in terms of the total development of the community, and I think it is important that the older people in the community be assured that they have not got to worry about that particular problem.

10.45 a.m.

I do not believe that we will see a one year Course at Trinidad. I believe, however, that the point has been made so often that this point should be taken in some form and I myself believe that we will see something nearer to 15 months or 16 months but the real problem in the Caribbean is that the pioneers tend to be so conservative. They tend to be so afraid.

If you go into North America they produce people with degrees in all sorts of things from the picking up of rocks to the highest possible scholarships. Sometimes that is ridiculed and pooh-poohed in the Caribbean and it is indicative of a different approach to the concept of the Government from that which we see in the Caribbean.

We have been told, and you will pardon me, Mr. Chairman, if I put it as bluntly as this, but for all of our existence black people have been told that they are inferior and they have been told that so often that long after they have demonstrated their superiority in certain areas they still have the attitude of inferiority and that is why very often when we are setting up a system we try to see if we can make the system twice as hard and three times as hard as the system in any other place.

I make bold to say that many of the students in our secondary system, in our primary system and in our tertiary system who are snuffed off as rejects or not being able to make the grade have demonstrated in other systems, whether in Britain, in the United States or Canada that in fact they were equalled to the task and some of them have gone on to demonstrate that they were superior to the task.

The history of Barbados and the other Caribbean Islands is replete with persons who dropped out of our system or were forced out of our system or were repatriated out of our system who have gone into North America, or Britain, or Europe, or wherever and who have done extremely well and have in the end returned to the Caribbean to make a substantial contribution. Mr. Chairman, one does not wish to be invidious to name names but I am sure you are aware yourself of a number of brilliant West Indians who found it difficult to make the grade in the West Indies and had to go to a different environment there to flower.

The point is that it must be our duty to pull the fabric in every direction so that in the end whatever we present to our people, we present a fabric that has been tried, that has been tested but one that is acceptable and accommodating to all sectors or at least the vast majority of the sectors of the community. We need not to allow ourselves to be intimidated by Trinidad but at the same time we need not feel so self-congratulatory that we do not recognise some of the enhancing benefits of the mixture.

May I just make one last point on this, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the Government is going towards a situation where it is going to be insisting that most of our educational facilities be located in the Caribbean and that most of our learning be done through the facilities located in the Caribbean.

I have heard the Minister on this as regards Scholarship winners etc., and I know that so far as legal training is concerned, this is tending to be the case but I would like to suggest that while that broad policy is acceptable to all and sundry that we, nevertheless, always bear in mind the need to have some diversification and some input from outside of the Caribbean.

It is very important that our people be exposed to other methods, other systems and other ways, their cultures. I think all of us who have lived outside of the Caribbean have become better Caribbean people for having lived outside of the Caribbean and I think we should not deny our younger people the opportunity to go out and find out for themselves.

I believe that 60% or more of all those persons who fall victim to what has been euphemistically described as the braindrain, I believe that 60% or more of those persons return to their respective countries in the Caribbean and if they do not return specifically they spend a substantial part of their lives making contributions to the Caribbean and for those reasons I hope that we will not reach the stage where we become so parochial that we do not understand the necessity for cross-fertilisation between our cultures and other cultures.

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing as dangerous as an incestuous relationship and I believe that after a period of time if the West Indian Universities simply turn out who have studied at the feet of West Indian University teachers who themselves become West Indian University Teachers that by the Seventh Generation we will have a convoluted individual who is incapable of seeing beyond the tip of his nose. We have begun to see some evidence of that already.

I would not wish to take the time of this Honourable House on this occasion to go further into detail on that but I believe it is a matter which requires careful thought on both sides of this Honourable House and indeed on the wider arena of Barbados that in our quest to ensure that we have our resources best used for our own purposes, we do not lose sight of the fact of the necessity to find out what is happening elsewhere, to borrow from other cultures, to share with other cultures and to benefit from other cultures.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I intend to concentrate this morning, on the Police Service and in particular I wish to speak about the Regional Training Centre.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are coming to that.

Hon. H. deB FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am much indebted to the hon. members who have spoken, for the comments which they have made on the Administration of Justice in Barbados and I wish, of course, to reply to some of the queries raised, particularly in the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

I shall begin from where the Hon. Minister of Education left off and first to announce to the House that responsibility for the full training of Lawyers has been transferred, such responsibility as resided with my Ministry, has been transferred from the Ministry of the Attorney General to the Ministry of Education and is effective as from the coming Financial Year.

The position was, Sir, that the Ministry of Education had responsibility for the Law Faculty and the relationship between that Faculty and the Ministry of Education whereas the responsibility for the Council of Legal Education resided in the Ministry of the Attorney General. What we intend to do is for both Ministries to work closely together and although the Solicitor General and myself will continue to serve as alternates on the Council of Legal Education, it seems proper that the Ministry of Education should have a thorough input to co-ordinate the total training of Lawyers.

Of course, the professional aspect of it would still be looked after by the Ministry of the Attorney General and during my tenure of Office I have certainly been in constant contact with the Minister of Education on the day-to-day problems which have arisen affecting the Professional Law Schools so the position, Sir, is that we are trying to get all the training under one Ministry as much as possible as we can without the necessity of undermining the input which must come from Specialist Ministries under Specialist Subjects.
10.55 a.m.

Insofar as the Law Schools are concerned, Sir the number of Barbadian students going to the Law School is primarily dependent on the number who graduate from the Faculty of Law because you have to do three years at the Faculty of Law before you qualify for the Law

School, or you must at least have a degree from a recognised university in Law before you do the two years of professional law training.

Now, our problem with the Faculty of Law has been that Barbados has a quota and we have every year consistently had more students to fill that quota than there were places available to Barbados. Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago perhaps they not only have the biggest quotas but they practically supply more people than Barbados can at any time for entry to the Law School. But in the last two years, the Faculty has made available to Barbados some of the places not taken up by Jamaica and we have been able therefore to get something like ten to twelve lawyers coming through the Law Schools as distinct from the seven or eight places which had been made available to us under our quota.

But, I think that it is true to say that quite a number of qualified young people have not been able to get into the Faculty of Law and the Honourable Minister of Education and myself have received representations from them from time to time about this situation and we have said to the University of the West Indies that all things being equal that some priority should be given to the younger person coming into the profession, since the investment is likely to have a longer life and a higher rate of return. But, we have made it quite clear as the Honourable Minister has said that the Faculty should continue at the same time to recruit the mature students in circumstances where there are vacancies available. So that I can confirm that it is not intended to discriminate against mature students, but we would wish to see some accent placed on giving the younger people just out of school an opportunity to follow their profession. You would appreciate that they are sometimes for the first time going to get their first degree and it must be very frustrating to some of them who have complained to us to recognise that they are not being accepted into the Faculty.

Now, insofar as restructuring the course is concerned Sir, I think that the Honourable Minister of Education has pointed out that a Committee under Sir Roy Marshall, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University, a very distinguished Barbadian jurist has been looking into the restructuring of legal education in the Caribbean. The Faculty has been going for ten years now and I believe that each one of us will recognise that both the Faculty and the Council of Legal Education, the Law Schools have made an outstanding contribution to the teaching of Law in the West Indies. But, I believe that despite this contribution there is room for reorganisation of the syllabus both at the Faculty and of the Schools of Law and there is also room for some experiment particularly along the lines suggested by the Honourable Minister of Education making the teaching of Law available in the evenings, so that at least mature students could make beneficial use of evening classes.

There is also a very strong case Sir for the Faculty and the Schools of Law to look at continuing legal education. Lawyers like anyone else cannot consider that because they have obtained their degrees and gone into practice that that is the end of their training. In fact the Law is constantly changing, some of the basic concepts are being often challenged and it is necessary for lawyers if they are to be efficient, effective and give good service to the community to be retrained and both the Honourable Minister and myself who appeared before the Committee emphasised very strongly the need for continuing education to be introduced into the Caribbean with the professional Bar Associations making a contribution to the cost of any such legal education. I am hopeful that the Committee will report positively on this suggestion and I can give the undertaking of the Government that we will try to contribute financially to this sort of programme.

In addition, Sir, we have emphasised the need for the restructuring of clinical education among lawyers. Let me explain this Sir, although I think that it is understood by Honourable Members. There is a difference between the academic degree, academic training and going out there actually doing the job and we feel that there must be a period of time during which the trainee lawyer is exposed as the trainee doctor is exposed to dealing with clients. Now, clinical education has begun only in a small measure in the Caribbean at the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica, there is a clinical section where the lawyers are exposed to taking statements writing opinions, giving advice and going into court alongside other lawyers to see how the cases are conducted. There is a similar clinical unit at the School of Law in Trinidad, although it has not functioned to the same standard, or the same efficiency as the one at the Norman Manley Law School. There are many reasons for this, Mr. Chairman. Part of the reason was not being able to obtain the services of people to do the job and also a lack of physical space, but we have been told that these difficulties are being rectified.

The Honourable Minister of Education and myself have emphasised very strongly to the Committee that there is a strong case for a clinical unit in Barbados as well. We have been doing our small part in the Government Service by taking in some of the Law students in Barbados usually in the vacation period for about three months during which they sit alongside us in Chambers, they are taught drafting, they are asked to write opinions for us, they see pleadings and they help to take statements and they watch cross-examination, re-examination and examination being done in court and they see the presentation of a case. But, we think that much more can be done in this respect and we believe that the matter can be formalised.

Let me say that there are different opinions concerning the length of the course which a lawyer should undergo before he is qualified to practise his profession. There is a feeling that it should be reduced to four years, three at the University and one at the professional Law School. There is another body of opinion that five years is reasonable, but the structure of the last two years of that course should be changed considerably in which at least one year should be spent in clinical. legal education. I do not want here to prejudge the Report of the Committee, I understand that that Report will be available by May and I hope thereafter that consultations in the Council of Legal Education will be swift and that we will all put our heads together to improve the system and to remove any bottle necks which may have occurred in the system.
11.05 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, that is only part of the training which is being done in the legal field. Here in Barbados the Ministry of the Attorney General, and therefore the Government, has been a pioneer in another field of training, and I think that we ought to take the praise for this. We have implemented at the Community College a course for para-legal professionals, and we have set about training people who are Assistants in legal offices, people from the Ministry of the Attorney General, people from the law courts, people who serve the lawyers themselves, because with the abolition of the apprenticeship system among solicitors it was necessary that that void should be filled, and we have done so. With the full co-operation of the Ministry of Education we have managed to implement as from the October term at the Community College a full system of para-legal education, and there are several men and women in the Civil Service and also working in the offices of lawyers who go three or four evenings a week to the Community College and receive lectures in various legal subjects like drafting of wills, understanding contracts, dealing with pleadings, taking instructions from clients. Those are among some of the subjects taught. In my own Ministry I think there are something like five or six people who are doing the course, and the Government has agreed to give them time to do the course, and the Government is also paying for their training by providing all that is necessary, including law books. That has been a positive step forward indeed, Sir, and I am happy that this has occurred.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West made the point that there is need for restructuring of the careers in the Civil Service in so far as the Magistracy and the Judiciary are concerned, and I am happy he said so, Sir, because once again I think his thinking is in tune with the very progressive measures which we have set about to bring into effect in my Ministry. I am very happy that he has adverted to it, because on the 16th of March, on Monday, there was laid in this House the new Supreme Court of Judicature Bill, and it is to be debated by the House in due course, but there are some significant policy decisions that were taken before this Bill could even come down to the House. One has been the establishment of a Court Administrator, and this Court Administrator will under the direction of the Registrar have responsibility for the total administration of the courts, the Magistrates Courts as well as the Supreme Court. In addition, Sir, we have introduced the concept of a Judicial Council which.....

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, I think to say that you are appointing a Court Administrator who will administer both courts might confuse persons who are not familiar with the technical part of it, so you had better explain what his actual role will be.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: His actual role, Sir, will be not to run the courts or to give judgment as such, but to look after the day to day needs of the courts, and these are many. They may vary from the physical needs of the court, like providing proper accommodation for the Magistrates, the Judges, the witnesses and Counsel, to keeping the court plant up to date, as well as assisting and arranging the court lists to make sure that cases come on promptly, and to follow through action that is called for in relation to those lists, and to bring to the attention of the Registrar for the attention of the Chief Justice any defects and delays that are occurring in the system, and he would be an administrative person essentially of a high grade, and even before this Bill has come into being we have put into it provision for a unified court service so that there will be a career structure in the court system, and we will avoid what normally happens, where clerical officers will be in the court today, in Income Tax tomorrow, in the Customs the next and another day some other Department, and you lose that knowledge and expertise that they have been building up.

We have regraded therefore various clerical and administrative offices in this Service and a Civil Establishment Order has already been made, for instance, creating two posts of Assistant Registrar and various other para-legal courses, and we are, as I said, training people for this career service, and we hope that some of them who are trained as para-legals can themselves eventually graduate as lawyers and be available as well to the Public Service, but even ahead of the implementation of the Bill we are taking steps to improve the day to day administration of matters at the courts. There are problems, a lot of the problems have to do with physical conditions.

Sir, there have been a lot of problems with the Registry. It is difficult to do much more than we have done over there, given the limited space available in the Registration Office and from time to time you have heard complaints that people cannot get things done as quickly as they would like at the Registry. I have had complaints from the Registry itself. There is no space for court documents, for additional filing cabinets etc. and that is one of the reasons why we have set about constructing a new Supreme Court. The drawings are almost complete and the compulsory acquisition of land is also almost completed, and we hope during the coming financial year to start clearing the site and appointing the other people concerned – we have appointed structural engineers, I think – with the project so that actual physical construction can begin some time, I hope, in 1982.

But in addition to re-organising the physical plant of the Supreme Court – and I have projections from the architects involved that the cost is $24 million – we are examining that because we wish to keep it within a reasonable figure. I had hoped that it would not have exceeded $15 million, but it seems as though it will go over that figure. We are not only then looking at the Supreme Court, but we are looking at the other Magistrates Courts as well, and I think the hon. member is aware that we have commenced construction at Oistins of a new Magistrates Court for that area, and construction of that should be completed by the end of this year or January 1982 at the latest. This would certainly bring a measure of relief to those people in the Silver Sands area and in the southern part of Christ Church who now have to catch a bus down to Bridgetown, and catch a bus up to Boarded Hall in order to have justice dispensed even if they are merely going to collect arrears of affiliation maintenance due to them for the maintenance of their children. That is one of tne things we are doing.

We have also begun the plans, we are pretty advanced, drawings are about halfway completed, for a new Magistrates Court at Welchman Hall. This would replace the court that is now called District "D" and will replace the Police Station as well.

11.15 a.m.

That place is a shocking shame. It really is almost like an old stable and it is very embarrassing to have the toilet and the eating place for the staff next to each other and the public altogether so it really is an embarrassing institution and we should have done something about this long ago, but I am giving that pretty high priority, and the other plan which the Government has for physical plant in the Magistrates Court is eventually to construct a new court at Charles Rowe Bridge thereby releasing the District "B" Court for the Fire Service as we need some fire presence in the St. George Valley in particular, and we will also be expanding the Holetown Court. Again physical planning has commenced on that and in the long run I believe the court at Speightstown will also be designed and established. I do not expect that we will get to that before about 1984 or 1985. I hope that whoever is the Attorney General – there are lots of aspirants both on this side and on the next – that by then we would see that the physical plant in the Courts has been upgraded.

A new feature at the Court at Oistin is that we are making adequate provision for the public so that the public will no longer have to stand in the sun and rain whilst they are waiting for their cases to be called or to give evidence in a case. Adequate provision is also being made for this. So therefore if I may sum up what we are trying to do, we are trying in the first place to improve and upgrade the physical plant in which the law is administered. More fundamentally we are trying to reform and change the laws which provide the legal frame work and structure for the administration of justice. I have brought to this House and it is still to be debated a Criminal Appeal Bill – I think that passed this House already – as well as the administrative Review Tribunal Bill and I have now got before the House the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill and we are working on a Summary Jurisdiction Bill and a complete reform of the Magistrates Court Bill. In addition we have been working on the Rules. It would surprise this Committee to know, Sir, that there are still in Barbados Acts passed in the 18th and 19th Century calling for Rules and regulations and over 100 years have passed and these rules and regulations have not been made to date. I have set about changing this and we have now got a lot of work completed, and I hope shortly, certainly before June, to get most of the new Rules implemented.

We have also changed the system whereby Bills were brought into effect and it was left for the Rules to be brought into effect some time in the future, and you will notice that in the Evidence in Other Jurisdictions Act which passed this House recently I will shortly be promulgating both the Bill and the Rules together and I intend to do the same for the Supreme Court Bill as well as the Criminal Appeals Bill. The Rules have already been drafted and sent to the Judicial Advisory Council, and in the Supreme Court Bill we drafted those Rules.

I have a new Bill dealing with Family Law, with the divorce, etc. We are drafting the Rules for that so that that too can be implemented together. The third significant thing we are doing is that we are improving the careers structure in the legal service so that it will become a unified service on the administrative side, and to deal with the particular problem, of acting appointments. I am sure the hon. member for St. Michael South West would like to know that we have already created the post of Chief Magistrate, and His Honour, Mr. Frank King has been appointed by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission as Chief Magistrate. That is a recommendation of the Bar Association that goes back almost as long as I was practising, 22 years, and I was one

of the people who agitated for this and I am happy that I have been able to implement it whilst I hold the office of Attorney General. We are also going to create a separate Court of Appeal with its own judges and its own staff so that it would not simply be a case of one judge sitting on the decision of his fellow judge at the High Court level. That too is contained in the Supreme Court Bill; so on the judicial side and the administrative side in the future there should be enough people to prevent the acting appointments of which the hon. member spoke.

I think these are the main points that have been raised in this debate, but I wish perhaps to speak on one other matter although it was not raised in the debate, but I think the members would like to hear and it is that we have at long last started to produce our own law reports. I know the hon. member who is a lecturer in law would be happy to hear this. It is a tragedy that a lot of the legal history of this country contained in our Law Reports is lost forever because from the inception of the settlement nobody took the opportunity to establish a system of law reports whereby when judgements in places are given they are properly recorded and form a body or a source of law by which future people in the practice of law could be guided and I have, with the help of a few people, Mr. Justice Williams is the Chief Editor, Mrs. Newton one of the very brilliant Barbadian women of the Cave Hill Faculty, Mr. Andrew Burgess another lecturer at the Cave Hill Faculty and some law students, Mr. Marson Gibson for instance who is still doing his professional law training, and with their assistance, started getting published the law reports. The 1976 volume will be available within a couple of weeks. It is actually now being printed at the Government Printery. We think we can produce these law reports cheaper here in Barbados than if we had sent them to Butterworth or to Sweet and Maxwell in London to be done, and I am sure that the quality both of the printing and of the binding as well as of the law reporting itself will be of the highest standard and equal to any work done in England. Soon, Sir, we will have the Barbados Law Reports. It is another innovation, something for which we should take credit as a Government, something of which my Ministry and Staff ought to be proud. We have come a long way, we have a long way to go, but with the help of God and with the indulgence of the people we will succeed.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could you say whether this is something to do with a point you have already raised?

Mr. TAITT: This is to do with a new point which the Minister introduced in the course of his exposition. I have not been privy to the new Act that is coming, but I wonder if the Minister is able to indicate whether he has included in the administrative arrangement the provision of Law Clerks for Justices. The last time I raised this question there were some people who believed that I meant clerical officers. I do not mean clerical officers. They would not be able to afford certain quality people, but what we are talking about is that there are some decisions that are delayed in the Courts. That is unfortunate because it means that justice is not being dispensed as swiftly as it was intended to be dispensed. The reason why this happens most times it seems to me is that the judges themselves have to go and do a lot of the light work that is involved in the preparing of a judgment.

11.25 a.m.

What it seems to me that we require in Barbados and we can afford is to have one or two or three depending on the volume of law clerks whose quality of training would be the same as the Attorneys who are appearing before the Judge but who would be assisting the Judges in reaching their decisions swiftly and while they would not be making decisions for the Judges they would in fact make it easier for a Judge to arrive at a decision.

I do not believe that it is well known, Sir, that most of the legal luminaries in both the United States and the United Kingdom have the benefit of sometimes superior brains putting before them all the facts and factors relating to particular issues which had come before them and hence although the U.S Supreme Court's decision on Civil Rights, for example, would bear the name of the 9 Judges that participated, five for and four against the majority of the work done in arriving at a decision would have been done by a number of legally trained persons who are functioning within the U.S Supreme Court and who allowed the Judges the benefit of seeing all that had been written and all that had been said about particular arguments that were put forward for and against. Therefore, when they do make a decision, it is bound to be a decision that is highly informed and that is based on the best information available at the time.

I am suggesting, if that has not been done, and since the Attorney General is in the process of bringing a Bill, that if he has not given consideration to this approach, that he should consider it so that when we pass the new Act, and I have no doubt that it will be passed, we can be certain that we have done all that is reasonably possible to enhance the quality of the dispensation of justice in Barbados. That is the only point I wish to raise at this stage.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the point made by the hon. member for St. Michael South West. I think about two years ago I had made a similar plea in the House. I cannot remember whether it was during the Estimates or in a piece of

legislation but the intellectual quality of Judgments can only improve if the Judges get assistance with the research which is necessary to write well-reasoned and informed Judgments.

The para-legal training that is being offered to the members of the Registry Staff is in itself a good thing and will go some considerable way in improving the standards in the Registry and in the services generally but Assistants for Judges are crucial. I know that the Hon. Attorney General would probably wish to see all of these things implemented at once when there is a new Supreme Court Building but I have always urged in this House that while we wait for the grand day when we can get a Supreme Court Building or whatever, in the meantime there are certain short-term things that can be done to improve the facility in Bridgetown.

Now, the physical amenities offered to Judges and Magistrates are, with the exception of airconditioning units they installed in some of the Judges Chambers, the physical amenities are as they were 30 years ago. You can still find pieces of furniture in the Courts with my friend's name, the hon. member for St. Michael North West written on them. Sometimes you see E. W. B. I do not know who E.W.B. is but I believe I know who it is. Ancient people, Sir like E.W.B., you will find all those kinds of things inside of the Court Room and despite the pleas of the Bar Association over the years, and indeed the now Chief Magistrate four or five years ago himself prepared a paper with the assistance of Mr. Brancker, the Clerk at the Table, for submission to Government during the regime of the former Government and no action was taken, calling for the same things that the hon. member and myself are speaking about and I get the feeling, Sir, that those of us in the Law are being treated less than proper when it comes to facilities.

We have asked for facilities for witnesses. People have to stand in the yard in the hot sun all day long waiting for cases to be called and we make the same complaints in here every year. We write papers to the various Ministries and nothing seems to be done. I want to hear about some immediate plan while we wait for the Court at Oistins and Speightstown and wherever. Let us improve gradually.

I would have thought that the thing to do would have been to tackle a jurisdiction each year and try and upgrade the facilities and improve the maintenance, let us say at District "A" this year, and District "B" next year and so on. You do not need a new thing but improve the facilities.

There is a lot of wastage of Government funds in an effort to maintain the Courts. I believe that on no less than three occasions we have been told and we have seen that some attempt has been made to remedy the situation of the roof in the Supreme Court, in particular, No. 2 Court. I was in No. 2 Court one day many years ago when Mr. Justice Hanschell was on the bench and while a witness was giving evidence the roof caved in and pure pigeon dung was strewn around the whole Court, Sir. You could not go in there for weeks, that you had to take something like that – I am not using any bad language.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just thought of the chicken dung on your gown. Go ahead.

Mr. SIMMONS: On my gown? I bail out early, Sir? When I saw it coming I left. We had to have something like that before the roof was fixed. Then they put in a new tenter, I think they called it, in the roof and now the roof is about to cave in again because I do not believe they got rid of all the pigeons. I believe some pigeons, were left in there, but it is leaking. It is unsightly and that was a waste of money. If you are going to do it, do a proper job.

I think it was done during the regime of the Other Party. It is nothing that a Party can be responsible for. It is just that the supervisor, or the workmen or the carpenters did not do a proper job. I am not going to blame a Government for a thing like that but what I would blame a Government for is attempting to patch rather than repair properly and then having to patch every year or two. That is a waste of money. Do a complete job and call it a day.

Now, the airconditioning unit in the Judges Chambers break down from time to time and too frequently, Sir, and I do not know what janitorial staff they have in the courts but I know that the Courts are less than healthy. There is dust all over the place. Two weeks ago I was in the middle of a case in the Supreme Court and the Judge had to adjourn at 10.50 a.m. because mosquitoes were biting him and he had to send out and get Baygon to spray the Court. I am not making sport Sir, this happened.

There is a little room, I believe it is a robing room. It has never been explained. It has no notice, no sign at its entrance but it is just by the side of the No. 1 Supreme Court before you get to the Chief Justice's Chambers.
11.35 a.m.

I have been back here now for eleven years and there is a bookcase that is sprawling open with a lot of old books. I have not even touched them, I do not know what they are about, I presume that they have some relationship with law, but they are dusty and musty and I am not going anywhere around them and that has been so for eleven years. There are no chairs around the table in the robing room, the chairs are

heaped one on top of the other and pushed in a corner about nine chairs. Lawyers cannot sit around the Bar table Sir, they have to sit on the Bar table in the robing room and the chairs are there in the corner Sir to be repaired and that has been so for about ten, or eleven years. There were one, or two when I first came back, but all are now in a corner heaped up.

From time to time dignatories come from overseas, other judges or whatever to go and visit the Chief Justice. Well, there are two entrances to his Chambers he should bring them around the verandah and come through that door. He should not bring them through the robing room because that is an awful sight to behold and a disgrace Sir. It is something of which I, as a member of the profession am not proud of. (ASIDE) The Deputy Prime Minister is asking if they do not have any pride in themselves over there. I do not know. They do not pay themselves down there. Whoever pays out the money to do these repairs had better start paying out some money now. Let us have a robing room that looks like a robing room to which lawyers can resort. We have to use it on Tuesday morning when the Chief Justice is doing Chambers and there is nowhere to sit.

I do not know if there is any money this year for repairs. The chairs that are there are the old time chairs with cane in the bottom. Find a man and give him the job to repair the chairs in two, or three weeks. There must be twelve or fourteen of them. Do them. Pull down that bookcase and get it out and the old dirty books and paint the wall. (ASIDE) Sir, I really wish to emphasise that this is a serious situation. It is a good thing that we have judges of quality and integrity because the conditions under which they have to work are awful, terrible. We must try and do something about it. Everywhere else some work is going on to improve the amenities of this country but it seems as though Coleridge Street, the Supreme Court is forgotten perhaps because they are going to build a new court, but while we wait for that, I implore the Ministry to do something now, Sir about remedying the situation if only for the short term. I do not believe that it would cost more than $500 to do those chairs and to move the old bookcase with the dirty books Sir.

Mr. Chairman, there is another matter which I draw to the Honourable Attorney General's attention and that is the system of court process officers who were former Writ Servers who are now called Court Process Officers. Now, we have introduced legislation giving them this grand title, but the system is chaotic. I went into court this morning Sir with two cases set for today in the Civil Court lodged since – this is March 20th – they were lodged since the 8th February and the cases were not served. The clients came to court and the claims had not been served on the defendant.

One excuse given was that there is no Marshal for Eden Lodge. Now, this is the first time that I am hearing that Eden Lodge had a Marshal for itself, but that is what was said in court. Eden Lodge cannot have its own Marshal even out of deference to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West who would like to think that Eden Lodge is Barbados. (ASIDE). I am told Sir that all the writs for that area have not gone out in the last few weeks. I am told Sir that there is a shortage of 12 Court Process Officers and I wish to hear from the Honourable Attorney General what is happening about filling the breach insofar as it is not only at District A, but all the other stations and courts are affected by the shortage of Marshals and I hope that this can be given some urgent attention because the Honourable Attorney General knows himself the difficulties that Counsel experience if documents are not served. It may not only be a writ, it may be a matter of execution, so I would like to hear from the Honourable Attorney General to what extent Government is going to move to fill the vacancies. I believe that they have been provided for originally in the establishment, but the disappearance of twelve, by resignation, or otherwise which covers this gap of twelve vacancies needs to be filled in a hurry, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I intend to reply very briefly to the points raised by the Honourable Member and I begin with the last.

There are some vacancies, I believe that there are seven, the Honourable Member said possibly twelve in the Court Process Office. As far as, my Ministry is concerned the recommendations were sent on to the Public Service Commission who make the appointments and I believe that they have the list of appointments. Politicians cannot interfere, should not interfere in the appointments of officers and therefore, I believe that my Permanent Secretary is waiting on the Public Service Commission to make the necessary appointments to those vacancies. Applications are there.

We are arranging continuing training courses starting from April for all the Marshals both those in service and the new recruits to seven, or twelve who should shortly be appointed by the Public Service Commission and I hope therefore that this would improve the standard of the Marshals. But I think that whilst there are vacancies that there is a lot more that the others can do to double up and assist because the number of processes being served in Barbados are not that many now as compared with what it was three years ago. That is the position on the Marshals.

Insofar as there are problems about cleaning at the courts. All courts have been provided with adequate janitorial services. I believe that there are either two, or three people at the Supreme Court and the Magistrates' Courts formerly used to share such services with the

Police. We have moved away from that system and we have made available janitors to them themselves. Now, Sir, the Government can provide the service, the Government itself cannot actually do it. So that, I will join with the Honourable Member in asking the people who are working in the service to try to attend to some of the matters of which the Honourable Member speaks.

Now, there is a Court Administrator already, I should correct myself here and this is one of the responsibilities which come under him. Last year, I did a tour of the Courts and the year before I did a tour of the courts and I saw some of these problems, like books lying around with dust on them Sir.
11.45 a.m.

Now those are the details of administration that I think once you have provided the money and you have provided the staff it is for both the administrative staff and the working staff to get on with the job, and therefore I do not really know how much more we can do other than to draw to the attention of the Public Service Commission that the job we are paying for is not being done.

Now there is no robing room at all, and the reason why there is no robing room is that the Bar itself made recommendations saying they did not want a robing room, and the robing room which used to be upstairs is now occupied by an expansion of the library services. The new Supreme Court will carry a robing room. I regret that the ante-chamber to the Chief Justice's Court cannot be used as a robing room, he is not in favour of that, and therefore the Bar will have to continue for a while as they are. In my view that ante-chamber ought to be clean and that court has janitorial services. There is not much more that my Permanent Secretary or myself can do other than going down and doing the job day by day, and I have no intention of doing any such thing.

I used to complain myself when I was there on these matters. The point is that we have provided staff, we provide the money for it and I expect people to get on with doing the job, otherwise I expect that the normal Civil Service procedures of reporting this to the Public Service Commission who has authority, that this will be dealt with in that way. The Ministry of Communications and Works repairs the building, Sir, and we have drawn to their attention from time to time to spend as much money as they possibly can on keeping the buildings up to date, and they have done a reasonable job, but we do get in an old roof difficulties, and the hon. member should know that that old building is actually moving apart and that is one of the reasons why we could not put in an extra floor, so it is only a question of time in this case before we can get a new building which I hope they will clean. If it might help the hon. member, Sir, the Attorney General's office is no better because I have gone up there and sat down in conditions that are sometimes not even a fifth as good as what I used to have in my own private practice.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

HEAD 31 – POLICE

Head 31 – Police – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, in moving Head 31 I wish to make at this stage only one comment because time is against us in these Estimates and if there are however queries or matters raised then I would reply to them.

Hon. members will see that this year the Government is spending about $18.5 million on the Police Services. This is a significant amount of money to spend on the Current Estimates, and I wish to draw to the attention of hon. members that in the year 1975–76 we were spending $6.6 million on Police Services, by 1979–80 this had moved to $12.6 million, and this year it is roughly $18.6 million, 300% increase.

One of the reasons for this is that we have increased significantly the number of policemen available for police duties. I have increased the actual numerical strength of the Force, and in addition to that I have removed certain duties, like court process and immigration from the police, therefore releasing policemen for direct police duties. This is one of the efforts that are being made to ensure that an adequate Police Force is available.

On the question of training, at this stage I will not anticipate the debate, I will be prepared to give any answers that hon. members may want.

I beg to move that the sum of $4,683,644 under Head 31 – Police – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, we will also be very brief on this particular Item. I wish to look at the Regional Police Training Centre. I believe my colleague will speak generally on police services, but of course we are waiting particularly for Agriculture, Communications and Works and Information. We are waiting for those Heads but the Government seems to be hiding them and pushing them further.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I assure the hon. member that Agriculture is ready.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I believe the question of the Police Training Centre is a most important one, because it is at the centre of the whole question of the role of the Police Force in this country. We believe that training is a very important subject as far as the upgrading, reorganising and restructuring of the total Police Force may be concerned. Our objective of course is to ensure that we develop and maintain our police service as the finest disciplined service that we could have, and therefore training is most important in this regard.

I would like to call, Mr. Chairman, for the course offered at that particular institution, that it should cover a much wider range than it covers now and also a much wider range of subjects, that the training should be available for most ranks of the Force through an upgrading in terms of the staff available to the Centre as well as to the courses available. For instance, we cannot in this day and age have the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force able to do an affective job unless they are adequately trained for the problems and to meet the type of circumstances that they encounter from day to day. Subjects such as sociology, economics and other related disciplines which impinge directly upon policing duties should be given a much more important place in the curriculum. I understand that some subjects have been taken already, but I would ask the Minister specifically to tell us, apart from the policing duties as such, what courses are available for the general broadening and for the general understanding of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force in terms of the social circumstances in which they have to operate. I would be glad if he could give us that particular information and I would also be glad if he could tell us what is the size of the staff at that institution and what assistance is used from the general public in terms of supporting that staff that operates on a full time basis from the Regional Police Training Centre.

11.55 a.m.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, in recent years the society in Barbados has been concerned about the upsurge of crime in the Island and especially so against visitors to Barbados. It naturally causes ripples through the society and I think that it is only proper that the people of Barbados should realise that Barbados is not the first or the last tourism destination where these upsurges of crime will take place against visitors. Whether it is Rio, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, London or Paris, there is always an element in the society that realises that visitors or tourists are good prey to make a livelihood on or rather to make a living out of. The reason for this, Mr. Chairman, simply is that it is very nigh impossible to get across to visitors to Barbados or anywhere else that they should not carry all their possessions or their money or jewellery on them at all times. They seem to think that when they are going into Bridgetown or going to the beach that they must carry all of their money. I say this because in the small hotel that I have my wife has difficulty in convincing them to have their money deposited, so that would-be criminals get to know this. He holds that a Barbadian will have enough money in his pocket when he goes to the beach to buy a drink or something of this sort, but the tourist sometimes carry several hundred dollars going into thousands of dollars, so obviously the man operates on the basis that when he goes to the beach on a morning there are a couple of persons there with money and as soon as one draws out his wallet to pay a bill, he exposes the rest of currency which someone would desire.

Mr. Chairman, if this can be got across to the society, the unfair criticism of the Attorney General during the past few years in regard to crime could be corrected, and I know that it would not be long before the Attorney General would meet the challenge head-on. Indeed I remember speaking in this House and asking for more funds to be made available for him for expansion of the police force and he spoke on more than one occasion in this regard. I am very happy to see if at least the Attorney General has not been given all that he requested, at least the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has released enough funds that today we can see both on the west coast and the south coast policemen patrolling the streets deterring would-be criminals.

I have also seen in St. Lawrence Gap now in the period of three or four hours an Inspector of Police in a vehicle with the police moving at a slow pace through St. Lawrence, and this had a double effect. Firstly it reassures the policemen on patrol that his superiors are with him in their effort to deter crime, and also it reassures the visitor that Barbados is a place where they can walk the street in safety. I have witnessed tourists come out from Southern Palms Hotel and were timid to walk from there to Half Moon Hotel which is less than a quarter of a mile and therefore got in a taxi from one point to the other. This impression of Barbados can be destroyed by seeing the policemen just walking up and down the streets.

Now this costs money. The Attorney General cannot be blamed for not putting policemen in certain areas if he has not got the funds to do it, and I am glad to see what has been done and I can assure the Attorney General that it has had an effect. Some lawless persons who constantly frequented these places have been on the decrease because they know the law is there and this because of the fact that the Government of Barbados is not going to tolerate any such element in this country.

There is a side to this whole matter which is not for the Attorney General, but the authorities that be will have to set about having a public relations campaign in the cities of Montreal, Toronto and from New York to Chicago and wherever since some journalist has seen

fit not only to state the crimes that exist, but to exaggerate them. One journalist came to Barbados and stayed three weeks and wrote a report on crime in Barbados that covered about three years, but in reading it, you would think it all occurred when he was in Barbados. There is definitely a public relations campaign needed to back up the actions of the Government and their determination to stamp out crime and to get it across to the people out there. Our Public Relations people in London need to be able to get this message to the people.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see the Minister of Communications and Works in his seat. The Barbados Light and Power Company on its own initiative went into St. Lawrence Gap and discovered that the street lights were not adequate. After putting the lights up and applying to the Ministry of Communications and Works to be able to turn on the lights that the Light and Power Company thought adequate as a deterrent against crime, the Ministry of Communications and Works turned down their application to turn on the lights. I spoke to the Minister personally and he said he was not going to turn them on. He must face the heat now. He said he was not going to give permission to turn them on. If the Attorney General is doing his part to deter crime in Barbados, I want all the Ministries to cooperate; and he was not even pleasant about it either.

Mr. Chairman, a great number of people in Barbados are dependent upon the revenue that comes to this country as a result of tourism, and we must not leave a stone unturned except our honour and dignity. Tourists cannot come to Barbados and misbehave themselves, not for any dollar bill. We must stick to our dignity. Any visitor coming to Barbados must treat the people in this country as they should, but at the same time the Government is spending millions of dollars to invite them to Barbados so that when they leave they leave their money. We do not want them here because we want to see a lot of people walking up and down; we need the foreign currency and I appeal to all concerned to do all they can to make sure that the visitor while in Barbados is protected. The President of the Hotel Association made a suggestion about having a Police Force created particularly for the tourist areas. I appreciate his interest in this respect, but I do not believe it is required.
12.05 p.m.

I believe that Holetown Police Station can perform well enough for visitors and Barbadians alike. St. Lawrence can also do so for that area. I think it is Oistins and also on top of the Garrison Hill, Hastings, can perform well enough for tourists and Barbadians alike.

I see no need for a separate Police Force for the Tourist Industry but I do not write him off because I think he has the same interest as I think we in this Honourable House have but we must protect the citizens of this country and the visitors that we invite here alike.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, some of us come into politics with a lot of things in mind. Some of us have views about how we must operate our political lives in this country and some of us have interests which differ from the interests of others.

The hon. member who has just sat down has drawn me into a debate dealing with security, etc. My Head is Communications and Works, Sir. For too long now in this country people believe that the one all and be all are those who come from abroad. It is time some of us understand that this country existed before tourism and will exist after tourism. It is time some of us understand that our fore-parents who built this country are still walking through the cart roads with mud squashing through their toes and canes hanging over the cart roads and darkness is the only thing ahead of them.

There are too many of our citizens who have to use back roads without light and are being raped, those who have to go and look for education to better their situation. Let me put it simply now. For too long Light and Power has been doing their thing at the people's expense and I said when I went to MCW they fall under me and they will do what I say when I say it and nobody else.

Every member in Parliament, the 250,000 people in this country have been writing the Ministry of Communications and Works asking for street lights. I have written to Light and Power. I got answers, we have 866 street lights. I had at that time requests for 764 and I said install 764. The next I heard, "No, we have only got 360." The next I heard, "only have 120." Now, whenever you check with Light and Power you hear something different and I will call a name now. I finally wrote Light and Power and said, "Come to my office. Let us come to a decision. Government will buy street lamps and you tell us how much you will charge for installation and maintenance." I then heard, Mr. Chairman, that they had a few street lights, no starters or no protective covers.

They told me there was a man called Mr. Goddard and when they went into his office nobody could find out what was going on. I gave them a programme. I had somebody up above MCW who suffered a robbery who wanted a street light. Somebody somewhere else wanted a street light but lo and behold, Light and Power took it upon themselves to go and supplement street lights already in a part that is adequately lighted.

Now, you must understand this, Mr. Chairman Some lights are out there that have been turned off. We have asked them to move them and put them in areas where people want lights but because somebody has a friend at Light and Power, they go and put up lights

that were never cleared by MCW and think that they can put the pressure on me to turn them on.

Now I have every Minister in here and on that side too; I have people outside who do not even come through a Minister or Permanent Representative but who write to the Ministry and ask for street lights and I am being told up to this day, we have now finished the 1979 street lighting programme. We have not yet got into the 1980 street lighting programme. I ask them to fly them in by air to finish the 1980 street lighting programme. Would I be in my right sense because somebody at Light and Power believes he can do contrary to Government wishes, put up lights somewhere, that I must have them turned on because he puts them up? I would be creating a dangerous precedent. No longer would any Minister or anybody in Government be able to dictate where the lights must go to satisfy a need but Government must pay the cost. If I pay, give me a say in the doing too.

If I have to pay, let me call the tune. You do not call the tune to me. I asked Light and Power, how many lights do you have out there that Government has to pay you for? They cannot tell me that up to now. They cannot tell me. We get complaints that lights are not burning at nights. Do you know what they told me? We have two officers who drive around at nights and see what lights are not burning and report back to us and then he turned and told me that if I want to know, get my officers to drive around at nights and tell them and we are paying a fixed bill every year, every month. Now, if that is the way the hon. member wants to run his business and Light and Power, let them run it but not when I have to Okay the cheques. No way.

I have people in St. George who are running me down for street lights now. Ask the hon. member for St. George. Up in Henley, he is killing me for street lights now. People have to walk half a mile in darkness and cannot get one light and I beg them to put some up there and I cannot get one put in. I get from Light and Power that X and Y development has just opened up and they intend to put 36 lights up there with nobody living in the development but ask who owns X and Y development. That is what has been happening over the years but if I am there it is not going to happen so any longer.

As long as I am put to run the Ministry, as long as we sit down, go through the applications and we judge how many we want to put there, we sent a note to Light and Power, put them up. They have ignored our notes and they have gone and did what they want to do. If they can get them turned on without my blessing, do it. but I am not doing it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, before I get into the meat of what I have to say, I would like the Minister to take note of Pole No. 14829, Sir. Pole No. 14829, Second Avenue, Richmond Gap. It needs a street light in the worst way, Sir, and I was hoping that I would get a chance to put it in, Sir, 14829. I do not have a friend at Light and Power so I am appealing to the Minister on the Floor of the House or I would talk to my friend over there, but you see, if we get it put in they might not turn on the light.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a very short intervention on the question of the Police. You know, Sir, there is a Prayer in the Prayer Book, the Ancient and Modern Evening Prayer which says: "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves," etc., Sir.
12.15 p.m.

The fact is that Barbados, like any country that has been developing rapidly has reached a stage where some of the developments are going faster than some of the other developments. I would like to suggest to the Honourable Attorney General that to indicate that he is spending $18 million on the Police is not to indicate any necessarily great improvement merely by the fact of his spending $18 million now and they only spent $6 million in 1975. I would like to make the point that $18 million to the Police and $17 million for the Defence Force puts us in a better perspective how Barbados in its better situation can afford $17 million for the Defence Force and only $18 million for the Police raises the question as to what precisely are the priorities in our system. That may not be the fault of the Honourable Attorney General and therefore, I do not intend to lay the blame at his feet, but I think that we ought to get it in perspective.

Today, what is required in the Police Force is the same quality of intelligence, the same commitment and the same attitude as would be required in almost any other department of Government and indeed Sir, I go further, what is required today of...

(Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West and the Honourable Member for St. James were ordered to be struck from the Record by Mr. Chairman)

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

Mr. TAITT: With the greatest respect Sir, why are we reporting progress?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move Sir, that this Sitting be now suspended until 12.30 p.m. today.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly at 12.22 p.m.
12.22 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply to that it now reverts.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir, I was making the point that the quality of policemen which we need in Barbados today, Sir required that those young persons who offer themselves as career policemen must have the same kind of quality and have been demonstrating that they have the same kind of quality that is required for almost any other sector of our rapid developments in Barbados over the last fifteen, twenty years and so any criticisms which are made of the Police Force for the prevention of crime in the community ought to be made openly and ought to be made in open forum so that the entire national body of Barbadians can participate in solutions to the problems which will confront it.

It is therefore incumbent on the Government to ensure that they require of the police not only that they perform their duty in the prevention of crime, but that they provide them with the material, they provide them with the facilities which will make their task easier, which will give them the ability to perform their task creditably. Although in the last four years, we have seen through the holding of a Commission of Enquiry the exposure of the odd weakness here and there in the Police Force, I do not believe that anyone in his sober mind can doubt that Barbados possesses one of the finest Police Forces anywhere in the Eastern Caribbean.

We have a number of young officers in the Force now and we have a number of young middle management personnel who take their work seriously and who appear to me to be eager to learn the new techniques that are required for a new Barbados going into the twenty-first century. One of the difficulties which they have had is that the facilities for training beyond a basic police training have not matched the rapidity of the increase in crimes which we have been seeing over the last few years. There has been a substantial increase in the amount of white collar crimes going on. There has been a substantial increase in the amount of non fatal offences against the person. While those increases might not be reflected in the statistics of reported crime, there can be no doubt that there is an anxiety in the minds of a number of people regarding the frequency with which certain types of crimes are being committed against the individual. I am not one of those persons who feel that because there has been an increase in the incidents so-called crime against the tourists that we ought to panic and start finding solutions for the tourists. I am satisfied that if we have a high quality Police Force to deal with Barbadians that by definition, we would have a high quality Police Force to deal with our visitors.

A substantial amount of crime against the visitors may have shown up in the statistics, but what also has to be admitted is that a substantial amount of the crime committed in Barbados has been committed by visitors to Barbados. There is no doubt that some of the crime which we have heard reported and some which has not been reported publicly is of the kind and quality which was not germane to Barbados, not the kind that we were accustomed hearing of and seeing in Barbados. It is therefore necessary for the Government to take steps to block, prepare and plan for that kind of offence.
12.35 p.m.

It is not necessary for me to deal with some of the statements being made about Barbados in some of the international Press, but we are becoming a matured society and we must not become alarmed merely because a journalist writes something in the New York Times. I do not understand why it is that Barbadians continue to misunderstand their role – I am not dealing with what the hon. member said. I hope he does not take it that I am dealing with what he said, I am talking generally.

Mr. WARD: Do you mind giving way for a minute? While Mr. Chairman, I appreciate.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you on a point of order?

Mr. WARD: The hon. member gave way, Sir. I will wait to hear what the hon. member had in mind, but an article in the New York Times about crime in Barbados, or in Canada in any of those major Papers is read, it lasts for many years against Barbados if they see it about crime in Barbados. We read it and we know it is nothing, but they read it and they take it very seriously and cancel their bookings to Barbados.

Mr. TAITT: You must forgive me if I say this, but those who wish to cancel their bookings will cancel their bookings for one reason or another. That is not the

point I am on, Sir, I am not suggesting that we ought to become lackadaisical, I am saying that we must take the preventative measures. I am also saying that a journalist who writes about crime in Barbados in the New York Times will be only one of many journalists writing about crime in the New York Times. There will be other journalists writing about crime in New York, crime in Milwaukee, crime in Honolulu, and there are crimes which are performed outside of Barbados the likes of which we have never seen. What I am trying to say is that Barbadians must join together in projecting a national spirit in dealing with certain problems. Certain problems go beyond the political solution, so that when we criticise on this side the political masters for the time being on that side, we expect them to take the criticism in the spirit in which it is given.

Now, I recall that a journalist wrote about six years ago an article which was headed "Barbados No Blasted Paradise Any More" and I remember with regret the attitude taken by the then Opposition, to suggest that somehow because this journalist had written something about Barbados that Barbados had gone down the drain. Now the shoe is on the other foot and we are not going to take that attitude that because, for example, Paul Grimes writes an article in the New York Times we are to say, put all the wagons in a circle, let us go into panic stations. What we are saying is this. The new sophistication in crime methods will affect the Barbadian more than it will affect anybody else, because most of the crime will be committed against Barbadians, and what we are saying is this. The Police Commissioner and the men who are working with him to direct the prevention of crime must be given the assurance that the Government does not feel that the Police Force is somehow secondary and some other Department is primary. The police must not be taken away from their prime responsibility, they must not come to feel psychologically that their responsibilities are being slowly eased into some other Department. If they come to feel that, then they are not going to be able to perform at the level we would expect of them, because the Police Department must have the same *espirt de corps,* indeed a higher *esprit de corps* than any other military or para-military organisation.

When we find something wrong with the Police Force we must say so, when there is something to be done about something in the Police Force we must do it and we must not pretend that it does not exist. We must not use statistics to demonstrate that crime under one Government is lower than crime under another Government, because that is self-defeating. That does not help us to solve the problem. What we have to do is find out how we can help the Police Commissioner and his officers to improve the quality of crime detection, to improve the quality of crime prevention and to bring criminals to justice as quickly as possible. That is what we have to deal with.

Now, Sir, having made that statement, there is one area in the police performance which I would like to touch on. For whatever reason, it seems to me that not enough attention is being paid to the question of traffic control. I have no doubt that the police are hard-pressed, but traffic control seems to me to have gone abegging in recent times. It seems to be getting out of hand, and I know that I am one of those people who believe that the police ought not to be taking any political direction in any matter, and therefore I do not expect the Minister to be directing the police how to control traffic, but I think that what the Minister can do is find out from the Commissioner if he needs more resources or a different kind of resource to assist him in this regard, and he needs to get some assistance from the Chief Technical Director.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if you happen to have to pass by the junction that has just been created at President Kennedy Drive near Esso, you would have to ask if an utter clown has organised that traffic arrangement. It is now only a matter of time before somebody is killed at that corner unless they change the arrangement. What we are getting is a New York street with a Barbadian mentality apparently applied to the traffic arrangement. I would invite all hon. members of the House to go to the junction and see for themselves.

From the time you come on the new highway, when you get to the corner you are in no man's land for about 12 seconds as you make a determination to cross the street or to turn right to go into Bridgetown. You are in a situation where traffic coming from either direction will be travelling at a rapid rate, so that when you get half way out into the street to turn right or go straight, you cannot be looking left and right at the same time and it is virtually impossible other than to pray to know what to do. It seems to me that if ever there was a place for traffic lights operating on a particular system, that that is the place. Indeed, somebody, some genius has decided to put a stop sign on the highway, what I think the hon. member called the new nylon highway. They have put this stop sign over to the extreme left, which would normally be a stop sign for a side road. Anybody who is coming on that main road going into Bridgetown cannot see that stop sign until after it has been passed. If you make it a highway you do not put a stop sign there, the stop sign should be on the secondary road.

I do not know if this is a Ministry of Communications and Works problem, I do not know if it is a Chief Technical Director's problem, I do not know whose problem it is, what I know is this, that a quick solution to it is very necessary if we are to avoid a tragedy. Now, it is no point asking the police to direct traffic or to deal with

traffic in those circumstances when the very essence of the traffic control is so picayune or almost childish in its concept. If you take that entire Harbour Road you have five hazards from the time you go around the roundabout. That is one at Esso, there is one at Westbury Road while the school children are at school, there is one by Richmond Gap when the St. Leonard's Secondary children are at school, and there is one by the Post Office because although there is a stop sign there the two roads are both major roads and there is extreme traffic on either side.

So that if one criticises the police for some diminution in traffic control in Barbados, one also has to call on the other authorities to make sure that the systems designed are designed to give the police some assistance and not to frustrate them.
12.45 p.m.

I think also that people ought to be aware that if a policeman asked someone to move on that the policeman is only doing his duty, but the policeman cannot be seen to ask "A" to move on and allowing "B" to stay. That is going to create frustration in the society and he who is in "A" and has been asked to move on is going to develop an attitude to the police which would be different from the attitude which "B" has. I do not believe that I need to spend much time on that. I will wind up on this section and I do not think I will come back to that.

There is not a lot I have said and I will wind up by saying I believe the Royal Barbados Police Force is one of the finest of its kind anywhere in the Caribbean. I want to say that the officers and members of that Police Force have shown a kind of commitment and courtesy which we would expect and that when all of us criticised, we criticised the administration of the police from a political point of view when we saw certain things happening which we considered not to be desirable. If we see them again we will criticise. We hope that by saying it is the finest will not lead the Force to believe that they do not have to measure up to high standards which we expect of them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Hon. Attorney General to wind up debate on this Head.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to say that I am more than pleased by the comment of the hon. member who has just sat down on the standard of policing which we have in this country. I have had occasions for several years to comment on this fact, even before I was the Minister with responsibility for the police because of my long association with the Police, recognising what a difficult and at many times thankless job it is to be a policeman, recognising the dangers to which our policemen are constantly being exposed and recognising too the fear that people sometimes have in their minds if a particular type of crime may occur in their community and the ease with which they translate that fear into the real belief that things are worse than they actually happen to be. I wish therefore to use this opportunity in replying to the points made by the hon. member to give a few facts to this Committee and also join perhaps with the now hon. member for Christ Church West Central in asking people to understand the position in relation to the Police Force.

Let me start with training. I could not agree more with hon. members that training is a necessary daily requirement for effective service in any aspect of our affairs, public or private, but particularly in police affairs. Now since the inception of the Regional Police Training College, some 5,554 people have been trained at that institution between 1956 and today. Of these 4,454 were recruits, not all were from Barbados since the Regional Police Training Centre caters to some of the other Caribbean countries. It is significant, Sir, that during that period of time we have not been paying as much attention as we ought to have paid to repeat and refresher courses and advanced courses. At the early years of the history of the Regional Police Training College, we instituted at that College, Corporals courses, Sergeants courses, Prosecutors courses, CID courses and special branch courses but for some inexplicable reason, towards the latter part of the sixties and the whole of the seventies these courses were decreased and virtually disappeared from the curricula of the Regional Police Training Centre. Now, Sir, this been coupled with the fact that from 1969 succeeding Commissioners of Police have drawn it to the attention of the administration that there was a need for an increase in the police force and for increased training if Barbados was to keep up with the developing trends in the world community, and that this problem was an urgent problem having regard to the fact that Barbados was planning to become a major tourist destination, so that although our population had remained basically stable at between 245,000 and 255,000 people, we had introduced into Barbados annually about another 370,000 people each of whom stays on an average of 8.5 days in addition to the people who are intransit through our island on cruise ships or merely intransit getting from one plane to another, and that this meant that the police force would be called upon to render service not only to the permanent residents of Barbados, but to the transient and increasing community as well.

I regret to say that there was no positive response given to the case which the police put up. It is not that the Commissioners of Police, Captain Farmer followed by Mr. Girwood Springer followed by Mr. George Reid and now Mr. Aviston Prescod had not seen that it was necessary to plan, it is that the then administration did

not consider this aspect of public affairs as a matter of priority, and that is why when I hear people trying to say that they are bothered about the increase in crime and this Attorney General what is he doing about it, I would ask them to begin and look to see where the problem began. It is true that I am clearing up the mess, but we have on file in my Ministry successive representations being made to the Minister of Home Affairs as it then was and then being made to my predecessor in office, and there was no positive response to the case put up by the police in Barbados.

Like the hon. member, I commend the police that despite this problem they have stood the test of time, and I believe they have done a reasonably good job. Now I am being criticised for defending them. When they are wrong and I am so satisfied, I will say they are wrong, but I know the limitations under which they have acted, and Sir, if you look at the Estimates, because one must be intelligent in approaching these matters, if you look at the Estimates for the police between 1970 and 1977, you will notice that there was not much given particularly in those years, and what is more that the greater percentage of the money went on emoluments and very little was spent on equipping the Force for duties which the Force had to do. Now you cannot train a policeman overnight and you certainly cannot train him in the management of the Police Force in a short time.

In 1977 as I said, when we were going through economic difficulties, the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance increased the money to the police by approximately $1 million, and I well recall two hon. members, one on this side and one on the other side saying that instead of that $1 million going to the Ministry of the Attorney General, it should be spent on promoting tourism or getting the IDC going to create jobs, well forgetting that no country can be economically viable if law and order breaks down, and that areas such as law and order, the police as well as the judiciary are vital factors of the very economic process. That is the position. 12.55 p.m.

Now, we have gone about the proper plan for improving Police Services in Barbados and for the first time in this country for several years if you talk to anybody who is knowledgeable on policing, they will tell you that positive steps have been taken and are projected to be taken in order to correct the downward trend which has set in because of years of neglect of the Police Force.

The Police always had a case since 1969 for an increase in the strength of the Force for the reasons I have already outlined. Now, Sir, that was not granted. It has now been granted and we are having an additional 141 people coming into the Force and I am glad to say that 60 additional persons were added to the Force during 1980/81 and we are adding another 72 during 1981/82 as well as keeping up with the shortfalls that normally come about and, indeed, only in February this year, 87 policemen, the highest number who has ever graduated, graduated from the Regional Police Training College so the manpower is coming and not only quantitatively in terms of quantity but in terms of quality as well.

What I have done, Sir, is I have persuaded the Minister of Finance to set up a separate Court Processing Office, 1978, a separate Immigration Office without decreasing the number of the Police who will do that work and only two weeks ago Cabinet agreed still further to increasing the Police Force by another 15 persons specifically to increase the number of Policemen who are stationed at our Seaport, specifically for that reason so that is 156 additional men and women which we will be putting into the Force.

Now, in terms of Training. Sir, again I regret to say that for some inexplicable reason in the 1970's and in the late 1960's, Police training was limited to a few persons who went on Immigration and Drug courses, mostly that, but one or two got to the odd Senior Command Course but no consistent training was done for making sure that there were refresher courses, that there were specialists courses, that there was middle management training in the Force so that we found our position where we are lucky that our men had some native commonsense and they were able to help each other otherwise the Force would have been worst than it has been in the last few years.

I have again reversed that trend, Sir. Last year for the first time the highest number of Policemen who have ever been trained on specialists and middle management courses were trained overseas. There were some 16 officers who were sent overseas on training in the Command Course at Bransel Police College to general duties at Hendon, seven on a C.I.D. Course in Britain, two on a course with the FBI in the United States and two on a Dog Handlers' Course and we project that this year again many more than those 1,600 will go, Sir.

I am indeed grateful to the British Government for specially making £20,000 additional available specifically for the Police Training over and in addition to the other money provided by this Government. This year, in fact, less than two weeks ago the British Government informed me that once again they were giving us an additional grant of £30,000 specifically for the training of the Police Force.

The Canadian Government has also told me when I visited them earlier this year that courses will be available at the Royal Canadian Training College and the Regina

College as well as at the provincial level for the training in our Police Forces.

Now, Sir, that is not all. That is overseas. Locally, we have a series of courses planned for this year. We have started them. The Commissioner of Police a couple of weeks ago opened one and my Permanent Secretary, Mr. Corbin, earlier this year in January closed one. We have two Sergeants Courses planned. We have a Court Prosecutor's Course which is going on now. We have a basic C.I.D. Course, Advanced C.I.D. Courses, Senior Constable Courses, Special Branch Courses from the traffic point of view, Driving Courses as well as three Recruit Courses planned at the Institution during the year. That is what we are doing in concrete terms.

For ourselves now, in order to stop any drift they might have, as the hon. member quite rightly said and his contribution has been very valuable, to have a cadre of people with the necessary training and specialization of the highest standard that we can improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Force.

Mr. Chairman, but that is not all, Sir. We have begun to plan a new Regional Police Training College. We have started that, Sir. We have identified in Wildey Road going to St. Barnabas 20 acres of land. The British Government had made available to me an expert in the field of buildings who is preparing a brief. In addition to that the Head of the Physical Plant of the British Government has made available to me three Senior Police Officers to assist in up-grading the level of training at the Regional Police Training College, changing the Curriculum. Indeed, we have reduced the Basic Training Course from 26 weeks to 20 weeks and we have changed the content of the course with more accent on Police duties including the areas like Sociology, Communications, Public Relations, etc.

Indeed, even now, Sir, at the Mass Communications Course going on at Codrington we have Sergeant Long, I think he has just been promoted above Sergeant, who is on that course to look at the Public Relations aspect of that course and we have set up within the Force, since I was there, Sir, a special Public Relations Section and we are training people in this Section so there is positive input and thinking.

What the Force has today is not only a Force bringing forward ideas but they have a Minister who understands the ideas, who is prepared to fight for them and who is prepared to make the manpower and the money available for them. Ask any Policeman and he will tell you that they never had it so good. For the first time many of them will tell you if you stop them on the street and ask them that they have a Government and a Minister who is planning, who has some idea about what he is planning and how he is going to plan it, be it in the manpower aspect or the physical plant aspect. That is a fact, Sir. There is no use shouting all right because I am not out there when they are shouting all wrong, Sir.

I feel proud of the Ministry. When the Police and myself are getting cursed, I almost used another word, berated on the platforms, I am not there to give the facts and the public must live with facts and these are the facts. I make bold to say that in the last 25 years that there is no Government who had done as much for the Police Force as this Government has done in the four years that I have had responsibility for the Force. That is a fact. We know that, Sir, so that they can be assured and the public can be assured that I am not doing this only because the Police and I have a natural understanding and rapport but I am doing it as well because the country needs it and we are doing it for the country at large.

Now, Sir, I want to deal with crime. There is a fallacy that Barbados is a high crime area and you hear people lightly saying – I have heard my friend the hon. member for St. Michael South Central saying that crime is increasing in Barbados and everybody jumps up saying that crime is increasing in Barbados. I want, Sir, to read a few facts to people, Sir. *Time Magazine*, Sir, and I am reading from Page 16 for a start, Sir, and I will make it a document of the House and it talks about the curse of violent crime. It says this-

> "Day by day, America's all too familiar crime clock ticks faster and faster. Every 24 minutes, a murder is committed somewhere in the U.S. Every ten seconds a house is burgled, every seven minutes a woman is raped. There is some truth in the aphorism of Charles Siberman, author of *Criminal Violence, Criminal Justice,* that crime is as American as Jesse James."

Now, Sir, what do the Statistics reveal? I go to Page 18, Sir.

"Many local statistics support the widespread belief that violent crime is soaring...."
1.05 p.m.

> "Figures for the first six months of 1980 showed that..."

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I take that the Honourable Member, as I have been called upon to do will be making that a document of the Honourable House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE:

> "New York City probably had its worst year in history. Serious crimes ran some 60% above the national average, pushing it from fourth to second,

behind St. Louis, in crimes per 100,000 people. New York topped the nation in its robbery rate and in 1980 had a record number of murders: 1 814".

"Los Angeles recorded an increase in every violent category in 1980: murder up by 27% armed robberies 20%, burglaries 16%, rape 10%".

Los Angeles Police Chief moaned:

"It was the worst year ever in my 32 years as a police officer."

Violent crimes increased in other areas as well even in the tranquil rural areas by 13% all throughout the United States. We have the other statistics of Miami. Miami Sir, rape was up by 740.8% over the figure for 1972, robbery was up by more than that 1 995%. One hundred percent in rape and seventeen percent in murder, in Miami a tourist destination. Now, Sir, that is from Newsweek and I am going to make this article a document of the Honourable House.

Now Sir, you will recall, that I pointed out in this Honourable House that we have a very low crime figures and that consistently through the years, there has been a pattern of crime in that sometimes you will see an increase one way or another, but overall our crime pattern has been stable and we took the year 1975 as a base year because it was the year we changed to the forty hour week and the Force, although not having fully forty hours, yet found itself having to reduce its hours. Now Sir, murder in Barbados covers between 17 and 9. Nine in 1975, before 1975, it was about in the region of 18 one year, 17 another, 15 another, 17 in 1976, 11 in 1977, 12 in 1978.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I believe that if the Honourable Member is going to be quoting statistics to this Honourable House to do a comparison between Barbados and the United States, that he has got to do a full comparison. He talked about percentage increases in New York 75% and that sort of thing. Now he is talking about from 7 to 18 giving numbers. Eighteen people being murdered in New York might be equivalent to 180 000 in New State. In other words, there are 230 000 000 people in the United States and 248 000 in Barbados. We must get a proper comparison.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir the Honourable Member is understandably worried because one of their campaign issues is no issue.

Sir, the point is that in 1980 there were sixteen murders in the whole of Barbados. Now, in 1975, there were eleven cases of manslaughter, in 1976, there were eight, in 1977 there were two, in 1978 there was one, in 1979 there was one.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, if the Honourable Member would give way. Mr. Chairman with the greatest respect, when I spoke, I was specific to point out that the surge had been in the non fatal offences against the person. To get up and discuss how many murders, or manslaughters would not be responding to the point because it is well known that murders and manslaughter occur near the family circle. We are talking about non fatal offences against the person. Sir, if the Honourable Member would deal with that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am not only answering the Honourable Member, I am answering everybody including the violent crime that they talk about.

Take rape, rape has been stable in Barbados virtually all through the years, never exceeded 55 including last year it was 55 and in 1979 it was 23, in 1978 it was 55, in 1977 it was 55. (ASIDE) Well if the Honourable Member has intimate knowledge of any other rape cases which he wants to reveal, we will be interested in hearing Sir.

Mr. TAITT. Yes, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I will be happy to reveal for him that precisely because one has to teach this subject, one is required to do a lot more research than the ordinary statistics.

He knows the definition of rape in the community and he himself can speak of his own knowledge of statutory rapes that have not been reported. He knows them Sir and he knows therefore that to discuss rape in terms of what has been reported is bare nonsense.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I would like to make one last statement on this Sir. The point is that statistics collected in Barbados like statistics collected in the United States, or any part of the world is brought on reported crime and any criminal statistician knows that there is a grey area and therefore what we have compared throughout the years has always been reported crime. So that, you can say, that although in 1975 for instance there were only 42 cases of rape, there could very well have been more than that. So that point is common to all criminal statistics and not specially to the statistics for 1980.

But, the point remains, that despite everything else the increase over 1979 was just about eight percent, the lowest any part of the Caribbean.

Sir, the Honourable Leader of the House is indicating that we have reached the hour of interruption and I intend to continue my reply on this particular Head after the luncheon recess.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I shall now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move Sir, that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.15 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly at 1.15 p.m.
1.15 p.m.

On Resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension 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.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before the suspension I was dealing with the point of the alleged increase in crime, and I made the point that between 1975 and 1980 Barbados maintained a low level of crime judged against the standards of other parts of the world, and judged against other tourist destinations, including those within the Caribbean area. I went on to point out that in the area of violent crime our statistics were almost consistent with what had happened during the pattern of the four preceding years, and I was coming to the point of saying, Sir, and I think I did say, that we had less than an 8.5% increase in overall crime last year over the 1979 figures, and that the percentage increase which was one of the lowest in any part of the world and was certainly lower than other Caribbean destinations.

I think both hon. members, the hon. member for St. Michael South West and the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, made the point that too often we are our worst enemies and that there are too many people who are prepared to cite any little difficulties we may have in Barbados and magnify these to the extent of alleging that there is increasing and escalating crime in Barbados and that we are doing nothing about it. Neither of these conclusions would be correct.

Now, Sir, it is no point hon. members asking what about the unreported area of crime, because every country in the world which records crime statistics will have an unreported area, and we can therefore only compare the known reports, the reports to the police, when we are dealing with this particular subject. My submission is that the police are to be congratulated for the manner in which between 1976 and 1979 in particular they managed to contain crime levels in Barbados so that it never reached the peak year of 1979 again. I think they need to be commended principally because it took some considerable time for any administration to react to the police recommendations that the police needed more manpower to cope with the additional number of visitors who are coming to our shores, and to cope with the level of sophistication which was creeping into criminal activity.

I have dealt already, Mr. Chairman, with the additional resources which have been made available to the Royal Barbados Police Force, manpower wise. We have increased the manpower by 156. In addition, we have increased the training opportunities, but in these Estimates I would like to underscore particularly that we are spending some $547,000, for instance, on providing UHF sets, Ultra High Frequency sets to the police, so that one-third of the Police Force will be fitted up with walkie-talkies as another one of the vehicles, another one of the instruments of dealing with the crime problem in Barbados.

Now, Sir, my information again reveals that since the 1960's the police have been asking the administration to give them facilities such as walkie-talkie sets, but there has been no response to their request, and it has taken this administration to take a positive step in order to put that right, so we are attacking the problem then in three significant ways. We are attacking the problem from the provision of additional manpower and manpower resources, we are attacking the problem from the provision of additional equipment, we are attacking the problem from the provision of additional training, and before this Committee rose for its lunch I pointed out to the Committee the increased number of courses that we are having at the Training College here and the increased level of training overseas as well. I know that results have accrued from this three pronged approach to the question of crime.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, the Committee would like to hear that between December and the end of February crime in those months fell considerably below the levels that had occurred in 1980 and in 1979, and I believe that this trend will continue. We have placed more people on the beat, as you will have noticed, we have placed more vehicles on the beat as well, we have reformed the Criminal Investigation Unit and we have two Senior Officers, both of whom have been trained overseas during my tenure as Attorney General, in direct control of all overall criminal investigation in the island. A special unit is there Sir. We intend to deal with any problem of crime whether it be on the streets or elsewhere.

I want now to deal with the allegations of the crime statistics involving visitors. Last year the known number of cases reported to the police involving visitors was 136 incidents. Of these 60% occurred on hotel

premises. 60% of 136 occurred on hotel premises, and it is reasonable to conclude that hoteliers must do much more about the security of their plant and their investment and not expect that this can be done by the Royal Barbados Police Force alone. Certainly there is a case – and I am glad to see that the President of the Barbados Hotels Association has accepted this – there is a case for upgrading the level of training at the hotels themselves and the hoteliers should have proper security on their premises. I told the Hotel Association several months ago that the Government is willing and prepared not only to make the advice of the Police Force available to them, but to bring in overseas specialists in this field to be available to the Association and its members, provided they are prepared to recruit the staff to deal with their own internal problem of their own premises. It would be impossible for us to provide enough policemen to deal with every aspect and to guard every virtual establishment 24 hours of the day, and it must be obvious to everyone that householders as well as commercial establishments must do something about their own safety.

Now, Sir, let me deal with the other 136 incidents in circumstances where we had 370,000 visitors last year. That statistic, if you think very carefully, shows that the number of incidents involving visitors to the island is low. The percentage is low on any rational way of looking at the problem, yet it is a fact that we are concerned, and because we are serious about ensuring that not even one incident occurs against a visitor, or indeed against our own people, we have gone about increasing the overall provision and supplies being voted for law and order servicing.

Sir, I think the hon. member for St. Michael South West said that we were spending $18.2 million on the Police but we were spending $17 million on the Defence Force this year. He is not comparing like with like, Sir.
2.25 p.m.

The expenditure which I cited on the Police Force is expenditure on recurrent account; it is not on capital account, and it is obvious that if you take the capital figure for a vote and you add those to the recurrent figures on the Defence Force that you will get $17 million; but if you add the capital figures of the Police including the building that is going on.....

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would give way, I was not making any attempt at all to do that kind of comparison. I was saying that if we can afford $17 million from the taxpayers for the Defence Force, $18 million from the taxpayers for the police in this year was not a great deal of money. That is the point I was making.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I have taken the hon. member's point. We are spending more than $18.5 million on the police in actual fact because if you bring into account the capital accounts of the police both under my Ministry and the amount being spent under the Ministry of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs who are dealing with the special project of building the new police offices in Oistin, we are spending something more in the region of $22 million over-all on police services during this year including the technical assistance programme being provided by the British Government. You also must take into account that the capital nature of the work being carried out in the Defence Force never existed before whereas the police have had over the years certainly capital expenditure on them, certainly during our administration although the last major police capital expenditure occurred in 1955, the Hastings Police Station. It is only now again in this administration that physical conditions for the police force are being improved likewise. So what I would like to leave with this Committee is that firstly Barbados compares more than favourably with all destinations including North America Miami where the rate of murder is unmistakably painful; it compares with Hawaii, it compares with destinations in the Caribbean themselves as being one of the safest areas for visitors to go. We are not satisfied with it; we believe that we can get the public to do more and we appeal to the public for their cooperation, but the Government has taken positive steps by way of making greater provision for the Police Force to deal with any problem of crime that is occurring, and we hope that the good effects of the Government's action will be seen in the years to come.

I finally wish to answer one question asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South to say that the staff of the Regional Police Training College consists of a Director of Training, a Commandant, a Chief Instructor, nine Instructors, one Pay Quartermaster, two Stenotypists, two Accounts Clerk, one Clerk-Typist, and nine non-established staff, and that it is the intention of the Government when the new Regional Police Training School is built to increase that staff. We will be doing so in stages, but in addition to this staff which now services the school, we also have been bringing in British technical assistance specialists, and as I said in my opening, there are two or three there in order to increase the teaching staff at the school.

I have much pleasure in saying that the provision for the police is getting nearer to the mark that I would like to see it reach, much more adequate. We have moved a long way from the $7.5 million under the DLP administration to $18.2 million on recurrent account, and almost $5 million of technical assistance and capital account. We have moved a long way, it is a way that I am proud of,

and do not mind whatever criticisms may come against the police or me personally, I believe that an objective analysis will show that this Government has attacked the problem of law and order in an outstanding and constructive manner which can only redound to the total benefit of this country.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, this is a measure which I normally would not be engaged in addressing the Chamber, but I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not join with the hon. member for St. Michael South West in lauding the Royal Barbados Police Force for the outstanding work which they have done over the past years and under very trying conditions. I say "trying" because between 1976 and 1979 the Royal Barbados Police Force along with the Attorney General came under a hammering from the members of the Opposition and in particular the hon. member for St. Michael South Central with what could now be considered the famous Victor "Pele" Parris case.

I cannot understand, Mr. Chairman, how you could be critical and undermine the Force that set out to keep law and order in a country as they are now trying to do with the Defence Force, as the hon. member did say that the Colonel should go back to the jungle in Jamaica and shoot down black people. He said he would deny that because he has the copy. I want him to defend it now as well as the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who repeatedly at night got on public platforms and tried to malign the hon. member for St. Michael South East when he associated him with a murder in this country along with a Mr. Eric Sealy. They brought the police into actual disrepute that almost sent the police into shambles. I will see how big they are.

I have with me a document – you know they are quiet and calm now – and I am going to make this a document of the House. It reads:

AN APOLOGY –

ERIC SEALY TO HENRY deB. FORDE AND

DAVID A. C. SIMMONS

On the 27th February 1979 legal proceedings were commenced in the Supreme Court of Barbados against me Eric Sealy by the Honourable Henry deBoulay Forde, barrister-at-law and attorney-at-law, Queen's Counsel, Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs, and David Anthony Cathcart Simmons, barrister-at-law and attorney-at-law and Member of Parliament.

The action arose out of statements which I made at a public meeting on the 4th February 1979 at Factory Avenue, Wildey, Saint Michael, to the effect "inter alia" that Messrs Forde and Simmons had obstructed and/or attempted to interfere with and/or defeat and/or pervert the course of justice in relation to the Coroner's Inquest and other investigations into the circumstances of the death of Victor "Pele" Parris; and that, during the said inquest, Mr. Forde met with one Hyacinth Goring, a material witness, and also took and detained certain papers required for the said inquest, with intent to pervert and/or conspire to pervert the course of justice.

In the course of the said legal proceedings, I admitted that I repeated the same or similar statements at other public meetings.

I accept, admit and acknowledge that the said allegations were and are untrue and groundless; that Mr. Forde never met with the said Hyacinth Goring and never took or detained any papers required for the said inquest; and that the imputations made by me against Messrs. Forde and Simmons were and are without foundation.

In the circumstances, I unreservedly withdraw each and every one of the said allegations and imputations made by me against Messrs. Forde and Simmons; I make this humble and unqualified apology to each of them."

The rumourmonger, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who has a Ph.D. in scandal, was the architect of these meetings across this country.
2.35 p.m.

He was the architect of those Meetings. He told me in Toronto at the Toronto Airport that he knew as a fact that Bradshaw had killed Pele and I withdrew my speech from him as from that time until now. It is only a matter of time. Just for political power you set out to destroy a young man.

It goes on, Sir, "And I express my profound regret to them for the grave injury and scandal that I have caused to them and to their high reputation." Something that no one can say for the member for St. Michael South Central. "In the abovementioned professions and public offices. Signed – Eric Sealy." Document of the House, Sir.

Now, Mr. Chairman, during those months I myself personally taped a number of the meetings. I personally taped a number of the meetings, Sir, and it was sickening to see how many thousands of Barbadians came to those

public meetings held by Mr. Sealy only to drag down a man or members of the Barbados Labour Party. The architect behind it, the member for St. Michael South Central.

He paid his bills. All the advertisements in the papers he paid for. You do not have to write it down. I am going to say it publicly not in here alone. You know me well enough too. I am going to say publicly and I will go downstairs and say it now that you have given Eric Sealy money to pay the *Advocate* and the *Nation* and radio releases to put out public meetings, come and hear about the Pele Parris Case.

You, a man who is a Barbados Scholar, a man considered to be of high intellect to discredit a noble profession, by associating yourself with a scandal and a rumourmonger like Eric Sealy. Now, today, Sir, a humble apology by Mr. Sealy before the Courts of this country. You should be big enough now to get up in here and apologise to the three gentlemen. You should do that otherwise I hold no respect for you as usual.

Now, Sir, that is Mr. Simmons. This I shall also make a document of the House.

APOLOGY

"I have been sued by Mr. DeLisle Bradshaw, Member of Parliament for St. Michael South East in respect of certain statements made by me at a public meeting on July, 14th 1978 at Fairchild Street Market."

The month of riots, July, not one single word coming from Mr. Sealy's mouth but I am sympathetic with Mr. Sealy because he himself is unfortunate not to have the high intellect that I associate you with. He is a grand stander. He can pull down but cannot pull up. He has not said on a public platform what he would do for the economy of Barbados. You have joined those ranks.

Now you have set about to undermine the Defence Force and the Police Force, undermining the economy of this country by going into Toronto and telling the people lies that the economy of Barbados is staggering while the World Bank, The International Monetary Fund the Washington Post, the New York Times, praised this Government for its Tenantry Freehold Act. They called it a revolutionary step in politics and all you can do is to go into Harbour Castle and arrange meetings with Dennis O'Leary and Kennie Bynoe to destroy the goodwill of this country and you are still in Barbados, a group you have been educated through.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, you mean look at you. You do not mean address the Chair. I could not be addressing anybody else but the Chair. You want me to look at you but I am not going to look at you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will address the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I addressed the Chair when I said, "Mr. Chairman." You want me to look at you but I do not want to look at you.

Now, Sir, – "It has been pointed out to me that the statement made by you suggested that Mr. Bradshaw was a man of criminal propensity."

Now tell me the truth? You really feel happy about that? "and neither murdered or was party to the murder of Victor Parris, also named as Pele. I readily accept that these allegations were and are untrue and without foundation."

All along, Sir, you were hearing how the Police was involved, how Bradshaw was at this Sergeant and this Inspector, how the Commissioner of Police was dragged down, and all of these things, the Royal Barbados Police Force which we heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central praising today. It should stick in his throat, how they praised them on the one hand and publicly try to destroy them and undermine law and authority on the other hand.

It goes on, Mr. Chairman, Sir: –

"I have also said that there was a rumour to that effect in circulation in Barbados. I now know and believe that rumour to be and to have been untrue and that the imputation made against the character of Mr. Bradshaw was also unfounded. In the circumstances I am unreservedly withdrawing all the allegations and imputations in my speech and make this humble and unqualified apology to Mr. Bradshaw."

Now if you can make a little man say these things and he has guts, the humility and the courage to apologise publicly, all you have to do is to apologise privately then to Mr. Bradshaw, the hon. member for St. Michael South East. Do not let anybody know. Mr. Bradshaw will not tell me.

"For the hurt I express my profound regret to Mr. Bradshaw."

For the hurt, the mental distress, his children embarrassed at school, threatened, all of these things. The pain and the hurt that the member for St. Michael South Central in association with Mr. Sealy caused, the architect of the plan. For what, not power, not money

of course because you are already rich so it must have been for power and alongside of doing that you have been dragging the Royal Barbados Police Force down with it by saying how the Police Force gave you information. The Police Force gave you information trying to convey that you are so true that the Police is in something with you so the Police have handed you the papers and the files.

Now we heard a couple of days ago that you met a man from the IMF who told you in Barbados that the figures given by the Statistical Department of the Government are not really true. You always receive something. The same thing you did with Grenada, a bundle of words between two Prime Ministers and the Minister of External Affairs. You are Shadow Minister of Finance and the Leader of the Opposition did not issue a Statement but a Statement came from the Shadow Minister of Finance that you are supporting Bishop, a regime that came into power by force, a law abiding country.

Whenever there is something to pull down, to destroy, to humiliate to reduce to nothingness you have done including the Police Force of Barbados. That is why you cannot get up in here today and laud them as the member for St. Michael South West. You are really a Parliamentary clown. You like talking and you are a good actor. I recommend you to be in any play in Barbados, the Green Room Theatre, anything at all. You are good at that. I know you can make better speeches but you had to be in the act, but not the Acting Leader of the Opposition.
2.45 p.m.

Not one single word about Pele. He dealt with the country's economy, the education, the housing, agriculture The Honourable Member for St. Philip South, the grand old man of Barbadian politics now was not in that and of course the other lady in Parliament, I will have no mention to make of her, the other lady, Sir, there is one over here. It goes on Sir:

"To Mr. Bradshaw,

> I have made this apology in open court and I am advised that in so doing Mr. Bradshaw will accept same as an accord and satisfaction of this action.
>
> No. 749 of 1978.
> "It has been further agreed that the cost of this suit be taxed, or agreed between Counsel for myself and Mr. Bradshaw."

You mean after all of this hammering of the Barbados Police Force into subjection almost broke the morale, almost destroyed the Royal Barbados Police Force's morale while the Honourable Attorney General is in the meantime trying to provide for them better conditions for work at all levels. A chance to improve their lot in life. The Opposition led by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central undermining law and order, yet the first person you call upon in the event of anything is the police.

Now you have turned from the police since you realise that an apology may have to come, or damages, I do not know, I am no lawyer and you have turned to the Barbados Defence Force. If there is something around here, you are going to be the first to run because you want to hold on to life and get the power. You talked all about the Defence Force, Colonel Lewis that it is too much money, all of these things. They teach young people skills. In Hurricane Allen when you were asleep, when the Defence Force was on the road cutting down trees removing trees from across the road with howling winds in the dark nights. Now, that it is all over, there is no more Allen, they turn their own skills to assist the Government of Barbados in producing artisans, the masons, the carpenters the plumbers, the electricians that you failed to produce because you turned the kids out of school at the age of fourteen. Now, it is left to the Defence Force to help train them. Eight hundred of them have been trained and eight hundred of them are working between 1979 and today. Eight hundred persons trained by the Barbados Defence Force under the Skills Training Programme under the Ministry of Community Services. Eight hundred young men and women can push their hands out for their salaries for their hard work unlike your Party who said that young people should be given $20 a week. Independence, pride and industry, that is what you said then. That we are to bear a degree of pride to their industry, their industry is their country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central had the temerity and the guts to say he does not know Miss Goring. Even your cousin you deny in the time of trouble.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You know the Defence Force, you know the Police, but in time of trouble – I will say this now. I made what I consider a Ministerial error when I made certain statements in the month of July, 1978. I had the courage and the conviction to come and apologise to this Honourable House including you the Honourable Member and to the country as a whole for the mistake of the better sense of my judgement from such a high office. I had that guts.

You do not hold that position and I do not believe that you are going to hold one in a hurry. Be humble, apologise for saying also that Mr. Bradshaw was associated with the Pele Parris case and that the Honourable Member

for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for St. Philip North were associated in trying to prevent the role of justice. I call on you as a man to get up prove what mettle you are made of, do not be a mouse in a lard oil bottle. Get up and stand the test.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is remarkable that the Honourable Member who just sat down was able to identify who is a clown and who likes to perform for the sake of performing. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is remarkable that arising out of this Head that we were able to get that harang. There are certain incontrovertible facts which no amount of shouting, no amount of hollering, no amount of grand standing can change in this country.

Victor Pele Parris was murdered. He did not die of pneumonia, he did not die of any other illness than a gun shot wound in strange circumstances. If the Honourable Member is saying that it was wrong for anybody in Barbados to raise questions about it, then the Honourable Member must understand what he is talking about. If the Honourable Member is saying that we should not have questioned statements made by the Honourable Attorney General that he was satisfied that the police had done everything that they were supposed to do that he felt they could do no more in the circumstances..(ASIDES)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member if he is going to quote a statement made by me in this Honourable House should seek to quote what I said in the Honourable House and not what people report and say that I said.

My words in the debate in this Honourable House in that matter, when I asked for the Commission of Enquiry was that:

> "The police had said that they had done all that they could."

I said:

> "Despite that there has been public disquiet and I will therefore have asked the Governor-General with the sanction of the Cabinet to appoint a Commission of Enquiry and we will see if the police had done all they could, if not, why not?"

I wish that the Honourable Member would not persist in doing what other people outside have done which is to misunderstand the context in which I spoke

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I assure the Honourable Member that I will try not to misunderstand what he says as he puts it. I put it to the Honourable Member, Sir. that if he were in the Opposition and an Honourable Attorney General had reported that the police said to him that they had done all that they could in the circumstances and I am discussing the press report that had come out long before the decision to hold an enquiry.

I am discussing the position when a member of the Scotland Yard had passed through Barbados from St. Lucia, there was a report in the newspaper which purported to quote the Honourable Attorney General and which indicated that the Honourable Attorney General had indicated that the police had done all that they could. Whether he had said so or not, it was a public statement. It was sufficient for any public spirited individual to raise questions. But Mr. Chairman, there is more.

At the end of the Malone Commission, OMNIPOL said that a substantial majority of the people of Barbados are dissatisfied with the way in which the Pele investigation was handled. Nothing anybody in Barbados can say can dispute that fact that people are dissatisfied. I am amazed that they will use Eric Sealy.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. He talked about shouting just now, I am going to be at low level. You said that OMNIPOL said that 58% of the people are dissatisfied with the investigation done, by whom, the police? Because you lauded the police in here today for their outstanding work. Are you supporting that there is dissatisfaction? Are you supporting that?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, Sir, I recall that you asked that those words be removed from the Record. The Honourable Member now refers to those words and he tells lies and says that I said so.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot say that I tell lies and I ask him to withdraw that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We cannot have two Honourable Members on their feet. (ASIDES). Both sides have got out of hand.

2.55 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. The hon member said I told lies. He cannot say that, I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. TAITT: I am not withdrawing that, because you are not telling the truth. I am not withdrawing that

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We cannot have two hon. members on their feet.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, he accused me of telling the Committee lies and I ask him to withdraw the remarks. That is all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. Both sides have got out of hand.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that a substantial majority of the citizens of this country are dissatisfied with whatever has occurred with Victor Pele Parris. Therefore, for any hon. member to get up in here and try to suggest that raising questions about the methodology, questions about the systems, questions about the investigative ability of the police in an unsolved case, for anyone to suggest that that is somehow unpatriotic, that person is not being fair, that person is not being reasonable, and indeed, Sir, it may be doubtful whether that person is bringing all the honesty within them to bear on the issue. It is doubtful.

Mr. Chairman, I am amazed that they would attempt to use Eric Sealy as a whipping boy. We have evidence of Eric Sealy sitting down with them in caucus when they were in the Opposition, in the Opposition Leader's room, Eric Sealy in caucus with them. We have evidence of it, we have evidence of them walking to Government House with Eric Sealy. It cannot fall from their lips to accuse someone or anyone of being with Eric Sealy.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. The member says he has evidence. I would not deny that evidence, because I was in the march when that happened. He was a good boy then until he met you all. He turned a bad boy because of you all, that is all.

Mr. TAITT: No doubt the hon. member would wish me now to spend a long time explaining the relationship between Eric Sealy and them, but Eric Sealy himself has given chapter and verse about their relationship with him, and I am not talking only about going to Government House, I charge that they sat down in the conference room in the Leader of the Opposition's office plotting and planning with Eric Sealy, and we have the evidence of it. I go further. They took Eric Sealy to sit in that Chair, that Hon. Chair, and their Leader who is now the Prime Minister told the policeman not to touch him. They do not have the moral ability to come in here and question anybody on the question of an apology by Eric Sealy, they themselves had said that Eric Sealy will do what he has to do.

In the Courts, Sir, when you say something you ought not to say they tell you apologise, or pay a lot of money, or go to prison. A choice between apologising, paying a lot of money and going to prison, an apology is an easy choice. You may apologise, you may pay, but it does not stop you from feeling in your heart what you believe, and you cannot stop a large number of people in Barbados from believing what they believe. Every single individual in this country has a right to believe what they believe about the Pele Case, or any other case. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: What about the Police Force?) Or about the Police Force. It is a principle of democracy that every single individual has a right to have an opinion, and in the same way the hon. member is able to say..... (ASIDES).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Mr. TAITT: When you have people like Slims living in Culloden Farm, would you consider that to be moral behaviour? You have the morality to come in here and talk about anything when you have people like Slims living at Culloden Farm? That is a fact, Sir, Prime Minister Slims. We have two Prime Ministers in Barbados, Slims and the other one.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This debate has got clear out of hand, let us get back to some level of propriety.

Mr. TAITT: I am trying to stay on the level of the hon. member, Sir. Eric Sealy burnt an effigy of Errol Barrow and threw it into the Careenage, the same Eric Sealy. Pele's murderer has not been brought to justice, and until Pele's murderer is brought to justice every single person in Barbados is free to think whatever he wishes to think. (ASIDES). And Mark Stokes and anybody else you know of who has been murdered, anybody else you know of who has suffered, anybody else you know of who has starved. We are not embarrassed because we have raised questions and put that Government on the defensive in a number of areas, we are not embarrassed and we will never be, and if I ever reach the point where I believe that my colleagues are embarrassed because we raise questions which have not been solved after $85,000 and a big report, I myself would leave the political arena, because that is what we are here for, to raise questions. I am not going to have any words with the hon. member for St. Michael West, I am going to leave him to Wes Hall.

Certain remarks made by Mr. TAITT were ordered to be expunged from the record by the Chairman at this stage.

Mr. Chairman, let me tell you the kind of Government we have, Sir, and let me tell you why it is necessary for the people on this side to go to the public and let them know what is happening. Not long after they were in power the Prime Minister of this country attempted to deliver a Budget Speech. Two hon. Ministers over there swore to the Police that they saw the man come up the stairs with me. It was nothing further from the truth and if it were not for some honest, poor security officers lining those steps, that Government over there would have sent me to Glendairy. Recently there was an attempt to a gaolbreak at Glendairy and they attempted to accuse the

Democratic Labour Party of being involved with it. We know about you all, we do not trust you and that is why we have to go to the public, we have to let the public know what you are capable of so that we do not get involved with you, because if the people do not know we will wake up and find ourselves gone.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is about up.

Mr. TAITT: I know, I told me colleagues that my time would run very short.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it has certainly now.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with the Police Department and related matters if any are worthy of any form of reply. This Estimates debate has until the member for St. James spoke in the manner in which he spoke been relatively informative, from time to time reaching its heights and its lows.

Certain remarks made by Dr. HAYNES were ordered to be expunged from the record by the CHAIRMAN at this stage.
3.05 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let us look at certain statements made within that speech. The suggestion of my presence at a hotel called the Harbour Castle in Toronto is totally untrue. I have never been to the Harbour Castle; I do not know where it is, I have never stayed there, I have never attended a meeting there, I have never had any meeting with anyone there and it is a total and complete untruth.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, the hon. member lived at a man called Grenville A. Clarke. See if you know this name: Grenville Clarke, 416 De Cote, telephone number 5950069. That is where you lived. You visited the Harbour Castle on 1st March on the 22nd Floor, Room 20, with the Leader of the Opposition where a function was held in honour of you both. See if you know about that then.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Let us leave out the Harbour Castle.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, that is a complete untruth. I went along with other persons to the particular function and did not go to the hotel. Mr. Barrow was picked up from his hotel by someone who was given an honour by that political party some time ago. I have never been to the Harbour Castle, so that is a total untruth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member referring to the Leader of the Opposition? You mentioned a Mr. Barrow.

Dr. HAYNES: I am sorry, Sir. The Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, if the hon. member would give way, do you believe any person here would know that the Leader of the Opposition was at the Toronto Hilton known as the Harbour Castle and would not be visited there over a period of four days by his private physician, travelling companion and financial adviser, and went to a function with him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am still at a loss.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: This is like saying that the man from the IMF met you here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. James will take his seat. The Chair is still at a loss to understand what all this has to do with the matter we are discussing.

Dr. HAYNES: I am not at a loss. The hon. member for St. James made a series of allegations here today under this Head and they will have to be dealt with. The fact is that the Leader of the Opposition was only in Toronto from 3 a.m. on Saturday morning when his plane got in late and left with me for New York at 5 a.m. on the following Sunday morning less than 48 hours. That is a matter of fact. There is no question of being in Toronto for four days. That also is a complete untruth. I move on from the Harbour Castle and the Toronto episode.

On the question of our position with the Police Force vis-a-vis the Barbados Defence Force, Mr. Chairman several members of my family have been part and parcel of the Barbados Police Force for my entire life time. No one has a greater respect for the Barbados Police Force than I have. My regard for the police in Barbados cannot be exceeded by anyone. We have taken as a party the position that in the maintenance of law and order in Barbados, the police should have supreme control. They should not be subjected to the kind of political directions which might interfere with their ability to investigate any matter; they should not be starved of funds, and if there is a choice between diverting taxpayers' money to the police or to the Defence Force, then the priority should go to the Barbados Police Force. That has been our position in this Parliament, and it has been our position outside of this Parliament.

There has been an unfortunate incident in which a Commission of Enquiry appointed by the present administration has pointed out specific weaknesses in the Barbados Police Force. I do not think that any member of the Barbados Police Force would condone such behaviour or would expect any member of Parliament not to take a position and say that if you have a

few people in the Force conducting themselves in a manner which might bring down the entire Force, then the matter should be dealt with. That has always been the position of the Barbados Police Force. They have never taken any other position, so our position as far as the Democratic Labour Party is concerned and the position of the overwhelming majority in the Barbados Police Force is the same, we say leave the police alone we say give them money, we say give them resources in order that they can contribute more substantially to the question of maintenance of law and order in this country.

Nor, Mr. Chairman, there are one or two other points I want to refer to. The hon. member has said that I paid -- God knows what I do not pay for in Barbados – the Leader of another political party to hold meetings. Even the Beacon newspaper not so long ago published that I did not pay that particular person and that some other Caribbean country paid the particular person. I want to get even further into this matter. The hon. member says that I should make an apology to certain members of this House. I will say that if any member of this House can point any slanderous remarks that I have made about them, let them put me in court and extract from me an apology or an apology and some money. For that I will be responsible, but they cannot. It takes a kind of depravity of intellect to seek to associate and blame one person for another's activities. Fathers cannot be blamed for what their children do, and I would not even seek to implicate them. It is the limit of worthlessness as far as I am concerned if I were to do it; it would be worthlessness in the extreme if I tried to implicate a father for what an adult son in particular may have done at any point in time.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I find it very difficult indeed *...../Asides)* I am not calling anybody's name. I will not find myself at any time trying to pass on the errors of people one way or another and trying even to invent an association, whether it is an association that exists by marriage, by blood relationship or even if it is a political association or an assumed political association. I would not do it because I would have some greater sense of decency. An indictment against me was made here in this Honourable House for 25 minutes uninterrupted and it is going to be replied to; let there be no mistakes that it will be replied to because when you hear blatant untruths being told in this House, you have a duty to protect the democratic principles and spirit of Parliament by getting up and making sure that you rebut them step by step.
3.15 p.m.

Now all the rest was just nasty, wicked, slimy, dirty innuendoes. That is what it added up to. There is nothing specific to respond to. Not one of those words, Mr. Chairman, is unparliamentary except that it is applied to a particular individual which I do not do. I said the words were.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is the right of the Chair to determine whether language is unparliamentary or not, whether it is made with or without reference to anyone. Now I know the hon. member is competent in the use of his language.

Dr. HAYNES: Now, Mr. Chairman, it is amazing that after a debate in here on the Defence Force, after the position of this Party was set out by several members including the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, after the position of this Party has been published accurately in the Newspapers of Barbados that you can find this kind of distortion arising in this Chamber this afternoon but I say this that I seriously share the views of my colleagues here in this Honourable House that the kind of capital expenditure that is now taking place in relation to the Barbados Defence Force and the level of Current Expenditure, it is not $13 million.

Within the past ten days we have voted something like $31 million for the Defence Force. I think it was $7 million last year, $14 million in Capital Expenditure and $10 million in Current Expenditure, if my memory serves me right; $7, +$10, +$14. I think that is correct but I am not looking at the Estimates now so if I make an error in that regard forgive me, but out of a total of $31 million being committed to the Barbados Defence Force between now and the end of the next Financial Year and indeed the Police have made representations for even more walkie-talkies than is being granted to them and that is a fact.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. The hon. member is misrepresenting the position. The Police have asked for walkie-talkies to outfit a third of the Force and the amount being granted in these Estimates will satisfy that one-third. It is $547,000 odd. That is the fact. They have so far had part before, both in the last Estimates and the Estimates before that and they are being granted that amount, if the hon. member would just stick to the facts. He can draw any conclusions he likes and he can differ on his conclusions but that is the factual position.

Dr. HAYNES: Thanks for the clarification because I was rather concerned that the Police were not getting as many walkie-talkies as they wanted but I am concerned that there is not a more rapid expansion of the Barbados Police Force in terms of numbers in order to meet the increase of crime in this community, because Mr. Chairman, when you get the statistics relating to reported crime, that does not necessarily bear a distinct relationship to the unreported crime in the community.

I recognise that it would be a statistical impossibility to have accurate data relating to our reported crime but where a whole community perceives that there is an increase in criminal activities within it, when they feel an increasing sense of insecurity, it is simply not good enough to come in here and bring in statistics reporting crime. That may be relevant but what is not relevant is certainly to take those percentages, those figures, and then translate them by comparison with the crime rates in the United States, of much larger population, of different social attitudes and a completely different ball game to play. It is not relevant. Quoting figures in large cities in the United States will have no relevance whatsoever to the situation in Barbados.

One thousand people can be murdered in New York in one day and it would not hardly disturb the lives of the vast majority of its citizens because they would have been murdered and they would not have come into contact with them. Two murders in Barbados in one day would put no end of fear into the community of Barbados. It is an area of productivity and it is an area of subjectivity and it is wicked to suggest that because of your position in alerting this Honourable House to the problem of crime in Barbados that we are responsible for the increase in crime just as you said that we were responsible for the increase in cane fires. We were responsible for the attempted massive jail breaks the other day. I gather that they were trying to link the Democratic Labour Party with that. We are responsible for every ill in this country but the fact is that whatever happens in Barbados, Mr. Chairman, politicians as a whole must share the responsibility, one way or another.

When there is improvement in some areas in the society, politicians would have contributed to it. When there is any failure in any area politicians may well have contributed to it but the point is you cannot in the absence of evidence get up and make the kind of remarks that I have heard here.

I want to get back to this Victor "Pele" Parris issue because I think it is the most vicious and wicked accusation that I have ever heard made against any hon. member. Mr. Chairman, I can tell this Honourable House that I never knew Victor "Pele" Parris. Secondly, that at the time when the matter was escalating into some political prominence I was involved in a Bye Election in Barbados and I was not even aware of the person allegedly involved or even the political significance of the particular murder until the Coroner's Report appeared in the *Advocate* and the first person to bring it to my attention was my own wife who came to me with the Coroner's Report some months after and said "Have you seen this Report?" Never before had I heard anything about it and that goes down in the record of this Parliament.

(Certain remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN).

3.25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir a number of the points that are being raised deal with the general status and stance of the Government and there are a few observations which I will like to make.

The Pele matter has been a highly unpleasant matter in our national life and I must confess that I am to be reckoned among those who do not think that everything has gone as it should. I have read a report from a Chief Justice assisted by a Commissioner from Scotland Yard and a Commissioner from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police which identified a young lady as having killed Pele Parris and it stated that there was undoubtedly a cover up on the part of some members of the Royal Barbados Police Force to enable her to escape justice. I obviously would have to be reckoned among the dissatisfied on this.

I find it virtually impossible to believe the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central when he says that he was not aware of the persons involved in the Coroner's Report. That was strained credulity beyond the capacity of the most dangerous psychopath at the Psychiatric Hospital. The young lady concerned is a first cousin of the Honourable Member, a daughter of one of the very many members of the Police Force with whom he claims relationship. She was one of his agents during the Election in the Constituency of St. George North in 1976 and I have never heard the Honourable Member deny that he called the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and told him that she was his cousin and asked him to do the best he could for her at the inquest. It is therefore impossible for me to believe that he was not aware of all concerned until the Coroner's Report. I mean, that just does not wash, but I do understand the situation of the Honourable Member.

A report has said that Eric Sealy invented a rumour against an Honourable Member on this Side for the purpose of influencing a bye-election in which the Honourable Member was standing and assisting him to get into the House of Assembly. It is therefore incumbent on him to put as much distance as he can between the Malone Commission's findings and himself. It would be a disgrace on any Honourable Member if it were thought that he was in any way responsible for the promulgation of a rumour that one of his opponents in public life was guilty of a murder, so as to help the Honourable Member get into the House in the first place. I therefore think that even though we cannot believe the Honourable Member that we should make allowances both for family feeling and for the characterisation of the rumour invented by Eric Sealy as being calculated to assist him to win the bye-

election. I really would say no more on the Pele Parris matter and the Honourable Member. It remains an unfortunate matter. I hope that nothing that we have said today in any way hampers the police investigations and the police charges against the officers concerned.

It would seem that on the evidence of the Malone Report that a very powerful *prima facie* case was made out for some police misbehaviour, not on the part of the Police Force, but on the part of individuals within the Police Force. It is up to the Commissioner and his enquiry procedures to discover and deal with that, but one or two bad eggs do not spoil the whole chicken farm. The Government has endeavoured to support the Police Force, we have increased its numbers, we have upgraded its staff, we have improved the senior ranks, we have improved training against a very heavy background of vain attacks and some not so vain attacks upon the police.

We have a magistrate who constantly uses his position as a coroner to make remarks exceptionally destructive of public confidence in the police. We have many people on political platforms and whatever the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West may generate by way of righteous indignation is obvious nonsense in the face of facts, political platforms by Eric Sealy and his speakers which also will tend to undermine the confidence in the police. I refer to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West. The Honourable Member could tell the public a million times over that Eric Sealy was in that Chair, that Eric Sealy sat in the Speaker's Chair. He could tell them a billion times over that Eric Sealy attended meetings in the Leader of the Opposition's office when I was Leader of the Opposition. If he thinks that he will have the slightest effect in making people believe that Eric Sealy's activities for the last four years have anything to do with the Barbados Labour Party, then he too would deserve to be in the same institution as I sometimes think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is driving himself into in his more impassioned and violent outrage. It is perfectly clear that Eric Sealy and his cohorts represent the second eleven of the Democratic Labour Party indeed, sometimes the first eleven because I think Eric Sealy is a better speaker than any of the gang of four who now represent the Democratic Labour Party platform. I think that he is more fluent and the points he makes are more likely to be accepted and picked up by the public.

What we are really talking about when we talk about Eric Sealy in here we are talking about a man who wears a psychopathic disorder on his arm, on his sleeve for all to see. A man who hates himself and who consequently is trying to make one half of Barbados hate the other half and why I say that the Barbados Labour Party has a particular responsibility for this is that his hatred and his preaching of hatreds always seem to be more virulent and violent when they are expressed on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South West can perhaps no more escape having to hold hands with Eric Sealy in bearing the body of racketeer Clarke to its final resting place, that I could escape Eric Sealy walking next to me on the way to Government House on an occasion when I marched from this Honourable Chamber to Government House. It is just unfortunate perhaps that there should be a large picture of Eric Sealy, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West and racketeer Clarke, the dead rose on the front page of the Nation. It is just unfortunate, but the Honourable Member will have to live with it and no amount of trying to fool the public that Eric Sealy has any connection with the Barbados Labour Party can save that.

I think that the Honourable Member is also doing his reputation for decency a disservice, when he suggested in here that Eric Sealy's apology to the Honourable Members for Christ Church West, St. Michael South East and St. Philip North were insincere. When he said that Eric Sealy could go to jail, nothing at all could happen to Eric Sealy if he did not apologise. I say so now that he has apologised. I do not know what his lawyers told him.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order Sir, you will recall that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North corrected the situation and pointed out that not only did he apologise but he also had to pay some money. I am not here to try Eric Sealy and I am sure that the Honourable Member is not in a position, or has never been in a position as a judge to try Eric Sealy. We can both speculate on what might have happened in a given set of circumstances in a law court, but for him to go in that direction, he seems to me to have missed the point which I was making.

3.35 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member is a great interpreter of his own phrases and he should leave others to interpret phrases. Words are to be interpreted according to their natural and ordinary meaning. The hon. member said that Eric Sealy would have had to pay a whole set of money or go to gaol if he did not apologise. That is a perfectly simple statement, explicable in its own terms and understood by all Barbadians.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order. The hon. member was not sitting in his seat when I made the statement, which might account for his misunderstanding. He might have got the impression but what I said was that when one goes to court one may be faced with an apology, paying money or going to prison. That is what I said, Sir. The hon. member may have got the impression that I was saying something which he thought I said, which is

the sort of thing that happens when he speaks to the population, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point of explanation.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The point is a meaningless point. The hon. member is trying to suggest that because I was not in here I did not hear what he said. I believe I may have heard better what he said than you, Mr. Chairman, because I was sitting next to a loud speaker directly connected to his microphone. There was so much noise in here that you and other hon. members and the Public Gallery could not hear, but I could hear. I do not know who he is trying to fool, everybody who was here heard him say it. It is as bad as saying that he did not say that Colonel Lewis should go back to Jamaica and kill people in the jungle like he is accustomed to. I have the report of what he said right here. (ASIDE). Well, in fact he did not say shoot, he said let him go back and join the professional army and let them go into the jungle and kill people as they are accustomed killing, and he spoke of him, nobody is afraid of him because he is a crack shot, a crack soldier, a crack anything, he could be a crack liquor, and no matter what kind of training he has had, let him not come down here to practise on the people of Barbados. (ASIDE). But on the last occasion you said it was conditional, you denied saying those words.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. On the last occasion those were not the words the hon. member quoted. I stand by that, I said that, I am not like the hon. member, I stand by that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: And I am glad the hon. member feels proud that he did not say go back in the jungle and shoot people, he said go back in the jungle and kill people. If the hon. member has nothing else to be proud of, he can at least be proud of one of the most disgraceful statements ever made in here.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. It may have caused a measure of laughter from his side, but it seems strange and then again not so strange that the Prime Minister can quote directly from a document and within a matter of seconds manage to misquote the same document which he has not moved from in front of him. That is the nature of the man, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I must remember not to tell any more lies on the hon. member. I must never again say that he said that Colonel Lewis must go and shoot people in the jungle. I must not tell a lie like that, I must say he said he must go and kill people in the jungle. I am very sorry for my telling a lie on him that he said killed and not shoot as he is accustomed of doing. I am very very sorry, Mr. Chairman, and I apologise to the House, to the public and to you for misquoting him. He said kill, not shoot.

Mr. Chairman, there was also, although impassioned in its delivery, an argument relating to the Defence Force and priorities as between the Defence Force and the Police Force, and the figure of $31 million was mentioned. Now as Minister of Defence I think the record must be set straight. First of all, out of the $31 million, $20 million is represented by funds which have come from Britain and which have to be voted out again. I have explained at great length over and over again that this is not one year's expenditure, that this expenditure is spread over 15 years and it could only be used for that purpose, and I do not want to go over it, but perhaps there might yet be an argument that in the same way as the Defence Force's equipment needs to be bought all at once.

I mean, Sir, you do need a ship and you cannot buy the funnel today, the hull tomorrow, the engines the third day, you have to get it all at once even if you pay for it over a period. There might be an argument that the police are being starved of equipment. The hon. member for Christ Church West will deal with that particular matter, but it should be pointed out that land rovers, jeeps, buses, arms, ammunition, horses, dogs, police stations; these things have been provided for the police for upwards of 100 years. (ASIDE). Well perhaps not land rovers, land rovers are only 20. The Police are not a new force, they already have a corpus of equipment and the value of the police equipment far exceeds the value of the regimental equipment, but the regiment needs a ship now, the conversion of the shrimp boats, the repair of its buildings and the putting them into shape to take a permanent garrison once again, because the regimental buildings have not been occupied by a permanent garrison since the year 1902 and standards of comfort have changed, and up to the year 1902 so far as I know there were no female soldiers. We have to provide a separate hospital and separate facilities for female soldiers, a female barracks and so on.

We also need a Coast Guard Headquarters. Barbados had an abundance of forts, but Fort Willoughby which will be built at the Pierhead has to be built now, so in its nature you cannot spend all that on the Police Force. You would not expect to spend all that on the Police Force in one year, even though I suppose next year when the main expenditure relating to the Defence Force is over we will then take up the slack and build a new Headquarters for the Police Force, about which I believe the hon. member for Christ Church West will speak later on.

The walkie-talkies. One wonders where this continual flow of false information comes from. The

police applied for a number of walkie-talkies. (ASIDE). Have all the facts. I am told that it was answered by the hon. member for Christ Church West, but hear it from the point of view of the Minister of Finance, because he and I have had a little tug of war over it, not a big one, a little one.

The situation was that we have a certain volume of military credit from the United States, some of which indeed should be spent before September 30th of this year. We have been negotiating to make sure that communications equipment will be covered by the military credit from the United States and also small boats for use by the Harbour Police for shore related crimes for which they are not now fully equipped in terms of transportation. Now we have been negotiating and talking about this, there is a Committee under the Head of the Civil Service which is going through the job of coordinating the communications needs of the Central Emergency Relief Organisation, the Defence Force, the Police Force and some shore to boat communication for fishermen, so that when fishermen go adrift we can locate them by radio from the shore, use the Defence Force aeroplane to find them and send out a Coast Guard vessel to pick them up rather than to have them go through the hazards of drifting to St. Vincent or St. Lucia. We feel that we need a broader communications base to cover the waters around our shores and that it should be integrated and we want domestic integration so that the Coast Guard Station can pass on a message to the police, or CERO, to the Ministry of Agriculture or to the Defence Force or whatever it is,.....
3.45 p.m.

And that there can be some inter-communication within Barbados, and also we are investigating under a larger military credit from the United States relating to the Coast Guard needs of the Eastern Caribbean the establishment of a link, a really solid security link between St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica and Barbados. The sums of money available from the United States appear on the face of them to be large enough once they can be used for that purpose to cover the entire purpose, and I therefore recommended to the Commissioner of Police through his Minister that he wait while that exercise was proceeding so that equipment compatible with the ultimate aim can be bought for the police.

Now we have what is called a crime wave. The crime wave does not apply in crimes against the person of Barbadians so much. Rape happens to be very low in Barbados at the moment. When I see the figures which were shown to me by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister effectively within Miami, I think it is one woman in every 500 can expect to be raped per year, I realise that we have no rape at all in Barbados. Equally they do not apply to murder and to some extent there has been a very moderate profile of building breaking and commercial burglary in Barbados. I do not know if it is that the police have managed to lock up most of the warehouse breakers and so on, but my reading of the crime reports which like the Attorney General I read every morning suggests that the expansion in crime is tourist related. We are in any event going through a period when there has been a maximisation of the criminal age. Nearly all crimes involving stealing are committed by people under the age of 25 years and over the age of 15 years. We have an exceptionally large number of people in that age group in Barbados, perhaps the largest that has ever existed, therefore we must expect some increase in the number of crimes, because there are more persons in the criminal category, the demographic category than perhaps there ever has been in the history of Barbados, and there are also more targets.

On any given day in February there are probably between 6,000 and 7,000 tourists in the Island. I believe at the moment there are over 7,000 tourists in Barbados. Each one of them represents a potential tourist related crime. Five years ago there might only have been 5,000 or 4,500, therefore both the number of targets and the number of potential perpetrators have been on the increase and the combination of demography and economic expansion has had its effect. You have got more tourists related crime, so the Commissioner of Police made a submission that the patrolling of the beaches and of the roads where robberies – robbery only means stealing from the person – are rampant, depends on a plan which he is working out that calls for instant communication, and the Attorney General set all this out very carefully in his usually lucid style, and I believe that a total amount, I am not sure of how much is voted in each year, of $800,000 to give the police walkie-talkies so that they can communicate instantly, call up help, warn people when something is going on, has been voted.

I saw the aftermath, I did not see the crime, right at Government Headquarters. My Private Secretary saw and I was on the scene seconds after with several other people; a young man rode his bicycle into the yard of Government Headquarters and under the eyes of a policeman, security guard, visitors, security guard upstairs and several public officers snatch a handbag from a lady tourist who was by a moke and he got back on his bicycle and went back down the road. Now I surmise that if the policeman had been equipped with a walkie-talkie it is possible that had he been very alert he could have called the Bridge Police Station and somebody from the Bridge, if everything worked well, could conceivably have intercepted the young man before he turned into Beckwith Street or Wellington Street which I would take to be his destination. Certainly I would see the possibility that there would be a better chance to catch him if word could be sent on down the line and an interception arranged, and it is for that sort of quick action

that the police are being equipped with walkie-talkies. When it is suggested that we are not giving them walkie-talkies, all this is half digested rumour or false information that comes out of the Police Department sometimes into the all too willing ears of some hon. members.

There was a great deal of talk about the gaol break, and I am advised that the gaol break is still under investigation, and should be treated as a secret matter. I do not think any hon. member on our side has tried to pin it on the Democratic Labour Party. Apparently all the talk about the gaol break has come from the other side. Now when things like this are introduced into the debate, they only have the effect of confusing the public. Talk about gaol break, trying to involve the Democratic Labour Party in a gaol break; looking for sympathy or what?

A senior police officer reported to the Superintendent of the Prison that he had obtained evidence relating to a conspiracy inside the prison. This conspiracy, it is a little more out in the open now so perhaps the Attorney General will forgive me if I make a few references to it since he probably does not know that the Chief Establishments Officer has been approached by the National Union of Public Workers about the matter, so it is a little more out in the open now. As a result, it was decided that two prison officers represented a serious security risk. Representations have been made on their behalf and I really can't go any further than that. Barbadians do not really want to know about these things. Barbadians prefer private matters to be dealt with privately, I think so; I think that we have not yet got a full appetite for sensationalism, despite the Nation Newspaper occasionally, that exists in other countries. I really believe that most of my fellow Barbadians would be quite glad to know that the prison and the police and other worthy citizens are pulling together to nip something in the bud quietly without publicity than to have it blazoned. I do not know why it had to be mentioned. I believe that one of the prison officers concerned at some stage perhaps may have become very well known to some hon. members on the other side, but at no stage so far as I am aware has there been any involvement of the Democratic Labour Party relating to this matter. If hon. members over there know something that I do not know, well I hope they will tell it to the Commissioner of Police, but tell him privately, because you may see the Commissioner of Police, but it does not mean that anything you have to tell him has to be trumpeted from the rooftops and published abroad in Gaza and for all to hear. If you know something about the people, go and tell him. I know that at least one hon. member of the House has in fact assisted the police with information about this matter. Would that all hon. members had observed his discretion and gone about things in the right and proper way instead of canvassing these things at the tops of their voices.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that even my half hour must be running out by now. I would only like to take the opportunity of expressing publicly my thanks to the Police for the outstanding co-operation which they have given the new Government from the moment we obtained power.

Without the co-operation of the Police, the Sydney Alleyne matter would have been very, very much more difficult. That was one of the first matters we had to deal with. It would have been very, very much more difficult to deal with. Without the co-operation of the Police we might have had the sort of dissension that arose when we were in Opposition with the conduct of the Bye-Election in St. Michael South Central. I am dealing with the political and security matters. The Attorney General will deal with the crime matters.

Without the co-operation of the Police we may have continued to have the same strictures, the same unpleasant industrial arguments – Thank God I have never put my name to a file giving instructions that no duty allowance be paid to Police. I never depended on any policeman to suppress those instructions until the election was over, but we would never have had the industrial difficulties.

I believe the Police Association, if they could talk, could tell the public that when the question of allowances for the Police came up, detective allowance, washing allowance, disturbance allowance, people who were at a Station and who had to spend more than three hours away from the Station to which they were assigned, subsistence allowance, I think that is called, and so on, when they came up in many cases I insisted that the allowances be made more than the Association was asking for because I really do not think that it is fair to ask a man to be a Police Detective for something like $60.00 a month and walk all over Baxter's Road buying drinks for people, paying $5.00 out of their own pockets and $10.00 out of their own pockets to pick up information and so on. I insisted that a proper allowance be paid to the Criminal Investigation Department Officers for the work they have to do.

I have even commented to my colleagues and to some Senior Civil Servants that I can never remember being anywhere in Bridgetown in a bar drinking and had a Permanent Secretary come in and buy me a drink out of his entertainment allowance but I have also been in a bar and have a Police Sergeant and a Police Inspector and perhaps another Minister and myself to have a drink and clearly they were not involved. *(Asides).* In fact I am told now that Gazetted Officers for the first time will be

getting an allowance so the Inspectors perhaps can buy me a brandy next time that they see me at the Fountain Club or elsewhere.

This Government, Sir, has never attacked the Police Force. We have thanked them for their co-operation. We have had to defend them against Eric Sealy, against some of the hon. members on that side. We have seen them when they are being rinsed out in common with civil servants and we have thanked God for the Royal Barbados Police Force as we found it and as we hope to send it on its way, an outstanding body of men who have deserved better than they got in the past and to whose future we are devoted as the rank and pride of the Force itself.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, when I heard the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister speaking just now and he started out to thank the Royal Barbados Police Force for the good work that they have done and so on I could not help but thinking, Mr. Chairman, how it sounded like a Vote of Thanks, a kind of a farewell speech that the Prime Minister is about to lay down the reins of Office and he is now making his farewell speech. Be that as it may. He is laying down the reins of Office, he has already made his cheque payable to the Police Association and now he is making his Vote of Thanks as he proposes to lay down the reins of Office.

I am not trying to find anything particularly wrong with the speech of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. We are not going to be diverted from the main thrust of our argument and what we are saying is that this is an attack that has been launched on members from this side and in particular the members for St. Michael South Central and St. Michael South West that we consider this to be a political attack in which the Government is trying to divert the blows and lashes that they have sustained over the past four days and trying now to regain some political mileage.

Now it is a common debating tactic, Mr. Chairman, that when one has a weak case or when one has nothing to say that one attacks not the arguments of your opponent but on the opponent in his personal capacity and I am not referring to the Prime Minister because I did not hear any personal attacks except perhaps against the Coroner as he called it.

That is the only thing I would take exception to, Sir, but what I am saying is this that what we have witnessed after the luncheon recess is a personal attack against the member for St. Michael South Central and the member for St. Michael South West and what is the purpose of that attack, or what is the basis of it because those members got up and particularly the member for St. Michael South Central and denied each of the points made by the member for St. James, denied each one of the points and effectively demonstrated that the charges made against the member for St. Michael South Central were without foundation either in truth or in fact.

When you take away what was supposed to be the essence of the attack we were then left with shouting, we were then left with the histrionics so the whole case fell to the ground. There was no substance at all in the charges made, no substance at all in the attacks made on members of this side. Each one of the points made when you took them up one, two, three, each one of them were effectively refuted and effectively rebutted.

4.05 p.m.

We need say no more about that. But, what we wish to establish is that and nothing that is said from the Government side can divert our attention from this fundamental position. In this year's Estimates, a substantial amount of money is being provided for the Defence Force and a much smaller amount is being provided for the Royal Barbados Police Force and we are saying that it is time that we get our priorities right in this country. We are saying that when we have money to allocate in this country as those who are charged with that responsibility to comment upon how the resources of this country are allocated, we are saying that the priorities of the Government are wrong in this particular regard because we start from the fundamental argument and this has been the thrust of our argument, that we believe that the Royal Barbados Police Force should be second to no other disciplined Police Force in this country, as far as resources and as far as assistance and help to that force is concerned and we do not see that coming out in these Estimates.

We do not believe that the priorities are right. We believe that the Royal Barbados Police Force should be given a greater measure of assistance. Mr. Chairman, having made that point, what happens? They accuse us, they attack us, they try to divert the brunt of their weapons at us. They try to do everything to demonstrate that the Democratic Labour Party has done nothing for this country, has done nothing for the Royal Barbados Police Force, has done nothing to uplift the standards of living in this country, that we have done nothing at all. We are going to maintain that we believe in all of its structures from the top administration right down to the lowest echelons, that that Royal Barbados Police Force, at this particular time and following upon the very trying time that the Force has had, we believe that it needs greater help.

I believe it was about 1936, that a President of the United States indicated that the President needed help and he got additional resources to assist him in carrying out the very onerous duties as being President, Chief

Executive, Chief of Foreign Policy and the other major roles that he carries out in that large country. We are saying today again and we are asking the Government to think on this particular problem. We are saying that they have those priorities wrong and as a determined Opposition, we are saying that the type of attack that has been launched upon us for saying that is beyond the mark.

I am very sad myself and I believe that they are others who are sad at the level of the debate on this particular measure because instead of thinking about the problems that we have to deal with, we have these personal attacks without any substance. But, I am certain that members of the press, that members of the public are intelligent enough to note that in those contributions, there was very little substance and a lot of grand standing, a lot of histrionics and I believe that the Government front benches can do much better, or I should say, should be able to do much better, than they have done after lunch. I think they have done a discredit to their own position and we are certain that that discredit is going to be carried over whenever the battle is joined. There comes a time when we cannot seek to make any political points. This particular Estimates on this particular Head is not a time for making any political points, it is a time for looking seriously at the problems facing this country and trying to come up with some solution to those problems. I leave it at that. I rest my case at that particular point, that is the position of the Opposition.

Our main point is that the Royal Barbados Police Force has not been given the necessary resources to do the job, when it is taken into account the resources that have been provided to other sectors of the economy and particularly to other disciplined Forces in this country. We believe that as the most important disciplined Force that we have, that it deserves better than that. It is a question of priorities and we say that the Government has got its priorities wrong in this particular case.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, the Government appointed a Commission now known as the Malone Commission to enquire among other things into unsolved murders in this country and also to look into certain aspects of administration of the Police Force. Now the first part of this enquiry was held publicly. I would like to admit that maybe a lot of dirty linen was washed in public which did nobody any good, but, I think around July last year the members of that same Commission were brought back here to do the second part of their task which was to look carefully at aspects of administration of the Police Force which the Government thought necessary to seek advice on. What we do not know because we have not been told is the recommendations made in relation to the Police Force by that Commission.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The complete Report of the Malone Commission was published, the second part of that Report includes specific recommendations made about the Police Force and the investigation of crime.

In the Speech of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister which he read for me, the statement which he read for me in my absence, we said quite clearly that steps are being taken to implement those recommendations. The Honourable Member has a copy of the Report just handed to him by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, via the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and if he looks at the back of that Report, he will see the concrete recommendations made. If Honourable Members do not read these matters, but presume to speak on them from a position of the absence of knowledge, then they would not know what is going on. It is not my fault.

Dr. CADDLE. I was under the impression that the Honourable Attorney General was making a point of order, but, he seems to be making a speech. I will give way.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 4.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly at 4.15 p.m.

4.15 p.m.

On Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension 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: The hon. member for St. Michael North Central.

Dr. CADDLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will begin by conceding to the Hon. Attorney General his point about certain recommendations being made public. I would like to draw to his attention that the comments or criticisms made by this Commission against the Police Force, or certain members of the Police Force, only go to strengthen the feelings and convictions of the public at large that something is wrong within the Police Force. It may be that they have also strengthened the convictions of those members of the Police Force who for a very long time have felt that something was wrong within the Police Force and that something should be done to improve it.

Sir, if one looks at the society of Barbados one must admit that a lot of change has taken place in the society over the years. Some of the changes have been for the better and some have been for the worse. When we look at the question of crime in this country, we see that newer forms of crime or newer approaches to crime have been introduced into the society by people who are interested in crime. In fact, one would have to admit that some of the people today involved in crime are far more intelligent than people who used to indulge in crime say 25 or 30 years ago, and it is the responsibility of the society to ensure that whatever Force it has for the maintenance of law and order must be able to keep abreast of these changes, the tactics, intelligence and general behaviour of those people who commit crimes against the other members of the society. It is also the responsibility of the members of the Police Force to ensure that they are keeping abreast of these developments within the society, and developing themselves and preparing themselves in such a way that they will always be able, as the Barbadians say, to be one step ahead of the criminal, because if they are not one step ahead they are not likely to be able to solve these crimes and catch these persons who need to be caught.

Sir, the recommendations in this report make interesting reading, and I would like to refer to some of them. On page 194 of this document at paragraph 5.2, it is stated: "Crime is undoubtedly the concern of the entire Police Force, and these problems must be viewed as such by all members. We appreciate that a large percentage of the reported crime is first related to members of the uniformed branch and it is their responsibility to take whatever initial steps are available. However, as our terms of reference are to enquire into investigative methods, we must of necessity concentrate our observations and findings on the workings of the Criminal Investigation Department, hereinafter referred to as the CID."

Then it goes on to say at paragraph 5.4. "It is an inescapable fact that in any civilised community the public judge the police by their day to day association, coupled with the success of the Police in dealing with matters affecting them. There is likewise no doubt that the proper investigation and solving of crime at any level is of high importance in relation to the subsequent conviction of the culprit."

The Barbadian public is certainly not satisfied with the manner in which the Police Force has been conducting itself lately. I do not want it to be believed that we on this side are opposed to the Police Force or that we are in any way seeking to undermine them, but what is important is that if the public is to feel satisfied and give the police the type of support which the police need to enable them to solve crime in this country, then the public must be convinced that the police are doing their best at all times.

Furthermore, there are certain incidents which have occurred here over the past couple of years which have gone a far way to blur the image of the Police Force. One of these incidents has been the Pele murder case, and a lot has been said about that already and it is not my intention to rehash all of what has been said. Suffice it to say that the public and many of us in this Chamber are not satisfied with the outcome so far of that particular case, and we are hoping that the Police Force will be able to bring to bear on that the proper investigative methods which will allow a more favourable conclusion to be reached by the public as regards their performance.

There has been another matter which has recently gained the attention of the Coroner in this country, and I need not go into that apart from saying that here again what has come out of that Inquiry has done nothing more than reduce the level of confidence of the public in the Police Force, and it must be admitted that when you have a Police Force on whose behalf you have to rely most of the time for the maintenance of law and order in this country, when its members find that the public is not giving them the respect, the co-operation which will enable them to successfully discharge their duties, then their morale must of necessity get lower and lower and lower as these defects are displayed to the public.

While this is so, one has to admit that it is the responsibility of the Government, and particularly the Minister responsible for the Police, to ensure that we are not reaching a state of affairs in this country where the police through a lack of morale, where the public due to a lack of confidence, are creating the very same situation which we all hope will not occur, that is, an environment which facilitates and encourages criminals to commit their crimes and get away with it. How are you going to do that? This is very important. It is very easy to bring a Commission down here to look into the Police Force and to make certain recommendations, but a lot has to come from within the Police Force itself, because they are the people who are involved in the actual discharge of the

duties and the confrontation with the criminals in this country, and they must have some idea about the problems which confront them and the way in which they believe the problems can be best dealt with.

If they are going to sit back and due to a lack of morale, due to diffidence because of the public's attitude to them, and do not set about to set their house in order, then do not care who you bring into this country to make one type of recommendations comparable to the ones now made in this document, you will find that even if attempts are made to put these recommendations into operation they are not going to be as effective due to the fact that the morale of the Police Force has been permitted to go down to a very low level.

I would like to say quite strongly that it is the responsibility of the people on this side, as well as the people on that side, to ensure that a proper environment is created at all times in this society which will enable the police to discharge their responsibility in a proper manner and would encourage the public to have the right type of confidence in that Police Force. But certainly we are not going to get that type of environment being created if the type of strictures that have occurred here today continue to occur.

I would like to say quite strongly that a discussion on the Police Force or any of those matters falling under the Attorney General in this particular Head should not permit the type of confrontation which was brought on here today between members on that side and members on this side. I want to make it clear, I am not trying to be impartial, what I am trying to say is that the type of charges which have been levelled here today against the hon. member for St. Michael South Central are not the type of things which are going to engender the goodwill and the good feeling to enable us to get together to create the type of atmosphere which will redound to the benefit of the Police Force and the people of this country as a whole.

Sir, I believe, and I would like to give credit to the Hon. Attorney General, in spite of strictures that have been passed on him in the past when these matters were discussed in here, because I distinctly recall during some debates on Estimates in the past years when the matters of an enquiry into the Pele' case was being asked by certain members on that side, he very forcibly resisted the idea.....

4.40 p.m.

.....even to the point of saying he would resign. I distinctly recall the Prime Minister saying that who wants to resign can resign because he intended to do what he considered was fit to allay the fears and the suspicions of the people of this country, and in conceding that to him I would also like to concede that I believe he has the ability to rise to the occasion and develop the Police Force so that the people of this country can once again have confidence in and respect for them. What has happened so far is that rather than developing that ability and rising on that occasion, we see that the Hon. Attorney General has permitted a lot of things to irritate him, maybe to divert him from what his duty should be, and in the end rather than coming to grips with these problems in the initial stages and seeing that things be brought to justice as quickly as possible, maybe from a question of pride or from a personal assessment of how things should be done, he has permitted a lot of things to slide with the result that we have a situation in this country regarding the Police Force as it now stands.

I do not know what are his problems with his colleagues on that side; it is for him to come out and tell us if he so cares to do, but the point is that we have got the impression over the past two or three years that inactivity or activity, may be taken too late, has allowed a situation where the public and the Police Force find themselves now differing somewhat as regards the function of the suitability of the Police Force to protect the interests of the people of this country.

I agree with the Hon. Prime Minister that the opportunities for crime in this country have tremendously increased, one of the reasons being that you have a lot more tourists, but there are other reasons and another reason is that due to people now having to be away from their homes at work and the homes are being left unattended during the day for long periods of time, and because of that people find it easy to break into a lot of people's homes. Then there are supposed to be a lot of other factors because it is quite likely, as the Hon. Prime Minister has contended, that the element of the people who are interested in committing crime has now taken in a wider range of the Barbadian society. Maybe you will find, as he has pointed out, that you now have people at a younger age getting involved in these types of acts when compared with 25 years ago, but also, whether or not it is true, people are contending that the type of films which are being shown on television repeatedly do in some way assist people in developing their techniques to commit crimes in this country. I am not going to say that this is true, but there is a feeling within Barbados that the type of crimes being portrayed on T.V., people who are interested in committing crimes learn these things from watching T.V. and then set about to put them to use in the Barbadian society.

What is going on at the same time as regards the Police Force is that the training of the policeman, or let us go a step further, the recruitment of people for the

Police Force and their subsequent training have not been of that type to enable these people to keep abreast of the criminals in this country. In fact when you read further on in this Report, you find that the Commissioner stated quite clearly: "The Detective must be aware of modern developments in investigative techniques and interrogation, and be highly trained to take full advantage of them. Unfortunately, it has been indicated to us that such a degree of training is lacking in certain quarters and indeed has been so for some years. We do not suggest that some members of the CID have not received detective training. What we question is its potential and when it was supplied, in terms of police service particular to that individual, how it was used thereafter by virtue of his assignment, and whether that individual was able to pass on such benefits of training either formally or informally. We suggest that initially such training should be intensified, as we are aware that it exists at the middle management level of Detective Inspector rank and we would urge that as many selected officers as possible should be sent on an intensive practical detective course at an overseas training establishment, followed by attachment to specialised units such as fingerprints, method index, laboratories, etc. It is only by becoming conversant with the potential of these units that their full use can be employed."

And this is what they have to say about recruiting.

"A recruit to the Police Force should receive initial training in the preservation of the scene of the crime and what first steps to take in detecting the author of the crime. On his admission to the CID, this expertise should be advanced by high calibre training to ensure the officer is skilled in the area of crime investigation."

Can we say that this takes place within the Police Force? The answer is likely to be "no".

Sir, when you look at the Police Force as regards the money being spent on it in relation to other departments, especially the Defence Force, one detects that there must be a feeling of dissatisfaction in certain quarters regarding this development. I take the point of the Hon. Prime Minister that the Defence Force is new and therefore in the initial stages you are going to have to spend a lot of money on it in comparison with what you will be spending at the same time on the Police Force, but while this is going on people get the impression that there is some preference for the Defence Force especially in ordinary matters of maintaining law and order in this country, and one gets that impression when you notice the deployment of members of the Defence Force at certain times in this country. You get the impression that there is an attempt being made to replace the Police Force virtually by members of the Defence Force. This may not be true but at the same time that is the impression you get by the way in which members of the Defence Force are being deployed. If one gets the impression that you prefer the Defence Force and you can bring them in to perform certain functions as seen recently, I would like to remind you; Sir, that there is a certain Clause in the Defence Force Act which states that the functions of the Defence Force shall be (1) defence of Barbados and (2) any other matter that the Defence Force may determine, and that second one is a very wide one because under the umbrella of that particular section many things can be handed over to the Defence Force if the Defence Force so feels.

Sir, if you get a situation like that where there is this apparent competition, one may very well look at the question of loyalty of certain members of one force as opposed to the members of another force and a particular individual in this country. If a Minister feels that a member of the Defence Force may be more loyal to him, then one must accept at some time that same partiality to be shown to those people who are expected or considered to be more loyal especially in the minutes of stress. That would be a very unfortunate situation if this turns out to be the case in Barbados, because certainly while we accept that there must be a place in this country for the Defence Force in the defence of certain problems like smuggling, infiltration of unwanted people in this country and the socially potential threat that is being raised by a particular individual every now and again, we would like to believe and to feel secure that these people are not going to be given the task of the ordinary day to day maintenance of law and order in this country which the police have been doing for a very long time and for which until recent times Barbadian people have been impressed with their performance. This is important because unless this is done you may very well find that there will be sections of the police force who feel that they are being belittled or being overlooked in preference to members of another organisation, and if this becomes a general feeling, you are likely to find that they are not prepared to pull their weight. We cannot afford to have such a situation developing in this country.

4.50 p.m.

Therefore, while the point is a good point that you have to spend more money on the Defence Force because it is a new organisation, and no one, as I said, is going to refute that, we must admit that at the same time bearing in mind the present position of the Police Force as regards the public estimation and also more importantly the variation of the crime in this country and the problems which the detection of those crimes present to

this country and continue to present to this country, one must admit that it is urgent to do a lot more for the Police Force at this juncture than normally you would have to do if things had been different.

Circumstances and conditions in Barbados at the moment particularly in relation to the type of crimes being performed and the difficulty in detecting those responsible for those crimes and bringing them to justice, it means that a lot more immediate attention be given to the Police Force and a lot more be done to bring the Police Force up to that level where it can deal effectively with those people committing those crimes and restoring the confidence of the public in the Police Force and more important, restoring the morale of the Policemen themselves to the level where it should be.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to get drawn into this debate on the Police but I think that it is incumbent on me by reason of a number of comments that have been made by members on the Other Side to make a few brief observations. I wish to reply to some of the matters raised by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. Before doing so, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a general comment about the level of crime as perceived in Barbados.

Now, what we are witnessing in Barbados, despite what Statistics may tend to show, is a situation that is not unusual in a country which is developing and showing signs of prosperity and a country which is structured along class lines. I think it was in 1960 a man called John Maine wrote a book "Crime and the Social Structure" and he put this phenomenon in its proper perspective when he pointed out that wherever you have, for example, new housing developments you find an infiltration of crime there, allurements and attractions for the criminal element and that has happened in Jamaica. It has happened in Trinidad and it has happened in Barbados because for the most part those who tend to commit crime come from the less well off sectors of society and are aiming to get some of the observable wealth from those who tend to clog it with large houses, hotels or whatever and Barbados had to face up to this social phenomenon over the years.

Policing would have to be expanded and improved to help to cope with this situation but at the same time as we witness this expansion of criminal activity into middle-class areas and affecting tourists and so on, there are still certain signs of hope because the statistics for murder have shown that murder in Barbados is like murder anywhere else. It tends to be concentrated in a domestic or quasi-domestic situation of a man and a woman, a jealousy, a husband and wife, some close relationship like that, or two people suddenly come up in a quarrel and one loses his temper as a result of some provocation and which may result in a killing.

What we have not got in Barbados at the moment and I hope it never comes are people setting out in gangs deliberately to terrorize neighbourhoods and shoot down people as they do, for example, in Jamaica. Perhaps one of the reasons for this difference in criminal attitude between the Jamaican criminal and the Barbadian criminal maybe in the personality and make-up of Barbadians but I think the level of violent crime is manageable.

The escalation has been in the areas of property crime, burglaries, robbery from the person and so on and the Honourable Attorney General will say there has been no escalation and this is not a criminology lecture and even though I may have done criminology, I am not getting into that area today except to say that our statistical base for crime in Barbados is far from perfect. In England it is far from perfect and it cannot be perfect for the precise reasons mentioned by one of the other members that the level of unreported crime is so high that it beclouds the true level of criminal activity in Barbados. A lot of crimes do not get reported, not only to the Press but I mean reported to the Police, for one reason or the other.

I know somebody broke into my father's house a couple of years ago in Rendezvous. He called the Police and the Police did not come for the whole night. Three weeks later another attempt was made and he refused to call the Police. Now, that was a criminal act that was unreported. Every little assault and abuse of people on the Highway, all those are criminal acts and they do not find themselves into the statistics and this is what Professor Radzinowick talks about in his several books and it is now known as the "Dark Figure" and in his latest book, "The Growth of International Crime" he says that the "Dark Figure" is expanding internationally beyond the actual reported figure. Do not let us fool ourselves. There is a lot of crime going on out there that the Police do not know about.

Any lawyer in Bridgetown will tell you that they have made up in their time rape cases and so on and the Police do not bother to get into that. The Police statistics will start at the level of crimes cleared up. If you want accurate reports as to what the Police have cleared up, the statistics would be accurate on that level but those crimes which are never reported, the Police do not know.

I would just say, Sir, that I am foursquare with those members in the community who feel on their own subjective evidence and from their own observations that there is more criminal activity in Barbados than there was previously, and this is something that we have to expect. You feel it. What I am saying is that it is not

as frightening as some members of the general public, especially the very monied classes and property classes may want to make out. It is not as bad as all that and I am satisfied that the Police is doing a proper job in trying to cope with it.

I wish to congratulate the Attorney General and the Prime Minister for having the foresight during our term of office to give scholarships and training to a number of the Policemen especially in the C.I.D. who never had the opportunity before under the Democratic Labour Party to get the training which is so necessary to keep abreast with new techniques that the criminals are using.

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central made the point that there is public dis-satisfaction with the Police Force because of the Pele Enquiry and the Sylverton Small Enquiry chiefly. I am not going to say anything on the Pele Enquiry because I had a brief in that and that matter is now resolved. Chiefly because the matter is now resolved by the Malone Commission Report and I am not going into that again. I want to make some comments on two cases, general comments.
5.00 p.m.

I was also involved in the Sylverton Small enquiry and I am very grateful that I did not go into court the morning when the coroner's verdict was read. What I saw in the newspaper upset me to the point that I threw my arms up and I tended to lose respect for certain people and faith in the judgement of certain people. It was an unsatisfactory enquiry because at one stage, the press were excluded from the enquiry and all of a sudden the press were led back into the enquiry. I do not know for what purpose, I do not know why there was this change in the ruling, but there were some very unhappy and unsavoury moments in that case which I did not see reflected in the ultimate verdict.

Everybody now wants to crucify the police without being biased in their approach to a matter like that. They are ready to attack the whole police, the eight hundred, or a thousand, or whatever they are, a large section of the population, those people have families and if you do down the police consistently and hold them up to ridicule in the press, you are weakening an essential fabric in the society and I think that people who have public announcements to make must choose their words very carefully.

Now, in that case, the public would have read of the number of attacks made on the police by the dead man Sylverton Small prior to the morning of his death. The dynamite that was thrown at Superintendent Whittaker's house, the shooting that was done up in St. Thomas that had Inspector Greenidge and others scrambling. I cannot recall reading the coroner's judgment on those acts. He asked for all the evidence leading up – the lawyers had nothing to do with it, the police had nothing to do with it – the coroner requested witnesses and he asked for all the evidence leading up to the very first incident after Small escaped.

In the middle of the case, a number of civilians suddenly appeared to give evidence including one Donald Brathwaite well-known supporter and yardfowl of the Democratic Labour Party in the Pine, one who abused the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, he turns up to give evidence, followed by four, or five more and the tenor of the evidence of the lay witnesses was to the effect that they saw Small lying on his back in MCW's yard and a policeman go up to him and fire three, or four bullets in his face. That is what those people came to court and said.

The coroner himself viewed the body on the day of the shooting. The day before the enquiry finished I was able to get the coroner to say that he saw one bullet hole in Small's face. Now, he had been there early, and he allowed a number of witnesses to come and give evidence that three, or four bullets were pumped into the man's face. The photographs showed no such evidence. He himself saw nothing like that in his pronouncement, the coroner castigates the police and makes no finding – and this is my criticism – no finding of fact of the lay witnesses who were obviously first class liars. It was in place for him, he was giving a balanced judgement and he had legitimate criticisms to make of the police. There may have been – the system of reporting of entering ammunitions and guns taken out on duty was obviously lacking, no criticism with that finding, but at the same time he was duty bound to the public of Barbados to make a finding that those witnesses who said that Small had three, or four bullets pumped into his face were lying. He was duty bound to say that. I am not attacking anybody, I am entitled to criticise a publicly delivered judgement. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West will know what Lord Denning has said about criticism of judicial office and I do not believe that that criticism was properly balanced and if it has not been properly balanced, it has contributed wrongly to the disrepute in which some of us would want to hold the Police Force.

Similar thing in the Pele case, no evidence at all to connect the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. All types of criticisms are made of the police. During the enquiry, the representatives of the Parris family were allowed to make sport at the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. One representative was saying, "you sure you ain't see Bradshaw car up there the night, you sure you ain't see MF 37?" You all know what I am speaking of, dragging his name into the enquiry, no evidence to connect it and yet, no finding is made in the delivery of the judgement as to whether there is evidence connecting it or not. No finding is made,

a finding is made about the police. I think you have with every case a number of issues and if you are a judicial officer, you must pronounce and make finding of facts as the case may be. That is all I am asking. Deliver a judgement, I do not care who you criticise, but be fair and balanced.

So, I think that a lot that has affected the police within the last year and a half has been contributed to by sources from whom I would expect a slightly higher level of responsibility and better judgement.

Now, the Police Force is but a microcosm of the larger society. You have bad eggs in every group of people. If you have a thousand men coming together, you are going to find some who will commit peccadillos. There was one who was robbing the armoury and he has gone to jail. I really wish to say, from my association with the police, which is similar to that of the Honourable Attorney General in that I am still an Honorary Adviser to the Police Association, myself and Mr. Elliott Mottley. I have represented police ever since I have been back in practise, I have been critical of the police, I have castigated them on witness stands when other lawyers would not cross-examine Keith Whittaker, or Jasper Watson, I would cross-examine them because they are supposed to be "hard seeds", I would cross-examine them, give them a little hell, but, I think that what the public does not realise is that the police do their own investigations. I think in 1980, there were about 50 complaints which were heard and disposed of, some of a criminal nature, some of a fair high criminal nature and policemen were disciplined.

I think perhaps, Police Week which started a few years ago and caught on has all of a sudden in the last two years seem to have gone into disfavour and there needs to be a revival of the spirit which attended Police Week when it first started. I think that a lot of public relations is necessary to help restore the morale that may be lagging in the Police Force.

5.10 p.m.

What I can say, finally, Mr. Chairman – you have indicated that I must wind up – is that since that Malone Commission Report, and since a number of C.I.D. Officers have been going on training, I have recognised as recently as yesterday, Thursday, I have recognised in the preparation of their cases a greater thoroughness than I recognised hitherto, and I believe that the police are genuinely making an effort to carry out thorough investigations and to prepare their cases more completely in an effort to maintain their standards as perhaps the best Force in the Caribbean, and I commend them. They are trying, and I think it behoves those of us in public life to give all encouragement to the police in the efforts they are making. At the same time, we must not be hypocritical and be afraid to comment when adverse comment is necessary in the interest of the country or in the interest of the Police Force itself.

I recognise the points made by the members on the other side, that at times they have been commenting with a view to improving the efficiency of the Police Force. I believe that is genuine, but at times in their treatment of the Pele matter I cannot forget – not necessarily the members sitting there, but their party – I cannot forget that their party encouraged the rumour and the belief that the hon. member for St. Michael South East was in some way implicated in that and that he was part of a "buh-ball" and cover up with the police. I am not saying any of you specifically, I do not have that evidence and I do not talk idly, but members of your party put abroad the rumour.

Mr. Chairman, I want to support this sum of money for the Police and I look forward, just as I indicated today in respect of the courts, I understand the position with the Defence Force. It is new and you have to start capitalising it from early, okay, but I want to see in the future some positive steps made in terms of the improvement of the physical amenities for the police. The C.I.D. building wants a bomb putting under it and building something proper. That is a disgrace. Some of the barracks, some of the stations, I talked of the courts this morning, and I want to hear of an overall plan that they have for improving the facilities at the stations. The St. Thomas court and station, I do not know if any members of the Opposition spoke about that, but it has moss, mildew, the rooms downstairs – the kitchen and so on – smell badly, I have been into them. (ASIDE). The hon. member spoke about that? All right, I might not have been here but I will not carry on, but the time will come when we must do a complete refurbishing of the police stations.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the debate has ranged wide and far, but there are certain specific matters relating to the Police which I should like the Minister to indicate. I think I have made my general attitude and position with regard to the Police known, but I should like to find out from the Minister the number of vehicles which have been purchased, if he is in a position to tell me, over the last, let us say, three years, but I would prefer the last four. I should like to know the amount of money expended on those vehicles, how many are in service at the moment, how many are out of service, if any, and I should like also to get some indication of what has been the cost so far on the repairs effected to MP-1. I believe MP-1 falls under this vote, correct me if I am wrong. (ASIDE). It comes under your vote? I believe it comes under the Attorney General, as far as I know, the Police. I do not believe the Prime Minister has any car. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: $1,700). $1,700 in repairs? That is $1,700 Barbados? Is the Prime Minister right? We will get the accurate

figure. As the Prime Minister himself would say, I will treat what he says with the utmost reserve.

I would like to know really the general cost of repairs, and while we are at it, I would like the Minister to indicate what is the state of the place of incarceration, short term incarceration in the police compound at Central Station. I remember that when we were in the Other Place the hon. member for Christ Church South Central and the hon. member for St. George South used to raise questions about the accommodation in the Central Police Station. They used to discuss this in the context of their own experience of what happened to persons who were held in police custody. I would like to ask another question. I would like to know if there is a declared policy on the part of the police on the question of granting of bail, that bail which falls within the ambit of the Senior Police Officer on duty especially on weekends.

I hope the Minister will understand that in asking these questions one is seeking to allow him to enlighten the public and perhaps the profession. There have been once or twice when I have been called in my capacity as representative of a constituency to deal with the question of bail, especially on the weekend, and I must confess that I have found different attitudes at different police stations, and indeed different attitudes in different jurisdictions. Generally speaking, the attitude is one of reasonableness permeating the Police Force as a whole, but every now and again one runs into what appears to be an attitude not dictated by any policy position, but based on the particular feeling of the particular officer at the particular time. I do not think it is in the interest of the police to have certain statements made of them in the constituencies, and here we are not dealing now with theory, we are dealing with the attitudinal relationship between the masses in the community and the Police Force, and the attitude of the masses is informed by the experiences which those who are unfortunate enough to fall within the ambit of the police expertise or the police activity who report back to their colleagues and fellows in the constituencies. What one finds is that not all the information which they bring back is true, all of it could not possibly be true.....
5.20 p.m.

But some of it does leave room for question on the part of the society. I believe that we should get some indication of what the general policy is. I am not here suggesting that the Minister should lay down policy for the force. What I would like to hear is if the force has a policy and if the Minister is aware of it so that all and sundry can know that certain kinds of crimes are likely to be visited with a proper bail. I know that the hon. member for St. Philip North on one occasion claimed that he had to travel a substantial amount of distance going back and forth to find his client, but those are some of the difficulties of the profession, I am told, and that is something which one comes to expect I understand, if not accept, understand in the pursuit of proper police protection and proper police investigation. I think the Minister should take the opportunity to clear up one or two instances where I think the reputation of the police has suffered because sufficient public information was not made known in a few instances.

I do not wish to be specific because to do so would require me to make reference to individuals which I do not believe is desirable especially in this Honourable House at this particular time. There is also a question which I should like the Minister to deal with for me. There was a time when we had police dogs. There was a time indeed when there was a lot of controversy as to the attitude towards police dogs as compared with the attitude towards policemen, and I know that when the Democratic Labour Party came into power in 1961 they were amazed to find that in those days there were certain attitudes taken towards the comfort of the police dogs while there had been a less gregarious attitude shown to the comfort of the men; but those are the long days coming immediately after the inept administration of the Barbados Labour Party and one does expect them to be as bright and/or as capable as either the Democratic Labour Party which followed them or indeed the Barbados Labour Party which followed them. It is true that one might say that the Barbados Labour Party administration has been disappointing in that it promised so much and has delivered so little, but that would be a passing remark, Sir, more fitting for when we can discuss that in greater detail outside this Honourable House.

What I would like to know is whether in my pursuit of the detection of crime as it relates to drugs any attempts have been made to make use of the dog either at the airport or elsewhere and if so, unless the Minister believes or feels that what is going on is sufficiently security concerned that he would not wish to reveal it to this Honourable House although I can hardly think of anything which the police would be doing which would be beyond the information of this House, I nonetheless feel that we ought to hear whether the police has reached a stage yet where they are using the advanced techniques for the detection of drugs.

I believe I heard the hon. member for St. Philip North in another capacity raising the question of the attitude of the police in pursuit of its mandate to prosecute for the criminal offence relating to drugs, and I am not canvassing a statement from the Minister on this issue; I am seeking to find out if there is a particular section of the Police Force that has been trained in the advanced techniques which are being used in some parts of the world for the detection of drugs and drug abuse.

Mr. Chairman, I am one of those people who believe that it is wrong if it should ever occur for any person to be wrongfully prosecuted or even worse convicted as having in his possession drugs when in fact the person might have been innocent up until such time as he made contact with some official person. I believe that is wrong *per se*. At the same time I also believe that we are going to have to take an intelligent attitude towards this whole question of drugs and drug abuse. We must pay more attention to those who push; we must pay more attention to getting the suppliers and we must leave some of the users, some of them quite unwitting users to their devices; many of them will soon stop if they are not made to believe that they are heroes, but we have evidence from what is reported in the newspaper that the population believes that there are senior people in Barbados who are involved in the dope rackets.

Now I do not know if this is so obviously and perhaps the Minister might not wish to tell us if he knows if this is so, but we would like to know what are the steps which the police are taking to ensure that the ordinary people are not the only ones who are being caught, let me put it that way, and prosecuted and punished for the use of marijuana and other drugs while rightly or wrongly, truthfully or falsely, the community at large, the wide masses come to believe that certain other people are using drugs in a widespread manner and are not being apprehended, and when apprehended they are being let off the hook. I think that it would be a wrong situation for us in the community to get into a posture where the young people of the society come to feel that there is literally one law for the Medes and another for the Persians. That is not the role of the police. I am not suggesting that the police must become involved in issuing punishment and deciding on blame. That is not their role. What I am saying is that when we read in the newspaper for example that a large box or a large trunk of dope has been left at the Port and we get communications that the police were aware of the large trunk and that this trunk was not claimed, when one sees the circumstances in which that information is published in the newspaper and then one attempts to reconstruct the possibilities, there always seems to be some missing link. I would hope that we would be able to get some indication of that.

I see you are nodding at me, Mr. Chairman, as if to indicate once more that my time is up. Is that correct?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have another minute.

Mr. TAITT: I have a few more things which I wish to ask the Minister, so I would prefer to give someone else a chance and come back later.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I really must take the point. Hon. members have spoken at length on this Head, some hon. members twice, and I believe that I ought to reply. Indeed I had finished what was my final reply when the debate was again reopened.

Now the hon. member who wants to speak has spoken this afternoon already for upwards of half an hour and I am not giving way anymore. I intend to reply.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Dr. HAYNES: I got up to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did inform the hon. member for St. Michael South West that he had a minute to wind up his speech. The hon. member said he would take his seat and let somebody else speak. Indeed this debate has been going on for quite a long time and we are now faced with a series of new questions coming from the hon. member. I have no wish to deprive, and I certainly would not, any hon. member to speak,.....
5.30 p.m.

We all understand the rules relating to speeches in Committee, 15 minutes. When the Minister winds up, unless he raises something new and different, there is no other chance to speak.

I take it that the hon. member for St. Michael South West has concluded his 15 minutes and he will not be heard at this time.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I had sat and then when the two hon. members got up I was rising on a point of order and I wanted to point out something that was not related to my speech. It is a point of order, Sir. I believe, Sir, with the greatest respect, that Your Honour.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will hear your point. Just let me hear what the hon. member has to say.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I think it is quite clear that I should reply to the several points that have been made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will do so almost immediately but just let me hear the last thing.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the point of order I wish to make is this, Sir. The hon. member, the Attorney General was not here during the Sitting that has gone on since Monday. I wish to draw to Your Honour's attention that very early in the debate it was pointed out that hon. members would be permitted to make as many interventions as they wish as long as they were raising matters because the manner in which these Estimates have been

set out unlike in the past have one large Head and Sub-heads. It would be impossible for hon. members bearing in mind what has gone in the past to deal with it in the same way.

You will recall, Sir, that the debate on the Ministry of Health went on for a few days.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is well aware of all that the hon. member has said.

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Sir, but the hon. member not being aware of it starts talking about somebody having spoken twice and I just want to point out to him that that is how we have been functioning.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair will explain that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I wish now to answer the matters raised.

Dr. HAYNES: My understanding is that members will have the opportunity to speak 15 minutes at a time until such time as the Minister wishes to reply.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I wish to reply now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is a very simple thing. The Hon. Attorney General has caught my eye. The Hon. Attorney General has caught my eye, not the hon. member for St. Michael South Central at this stage.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am much indebted to the Chair for hearing me because before Lunch I commenced my reply to the debate up to that time and continued after Lunch and I thought before then you had asked if there was any other hon. member who wanted to reply.

The debate has reached far and wide. It has reached the height as being very useful and it has also gone down to the level of being very distasteful. Some of the suggestions made are ones worthy of comment. Several of the statements made are worthy of being ignored and I do not want to be fractious in this debate at this time so I shall confine my comments to those parts of the debate that I think are worthy of some answers.

There have been several points made under the heading of what I would call the vote for the Police as against the vote for the Defence Force. I think that one has to approach this subject without trying to create in the minds of either the Police or the Defence Force that there is some plan whether deliberate or not deliberate to prefer the Defence Force to the Police Force because in my humble submission, that type of approach at this stage of the nation's history will only create unnecessary and unwarranted friction between the Defence Force and the Police Force of this Island.

Mr. Chairman I have requested and have succeeded in getting a study being done on the organization and structure of the Royal Barbados Police Force. This Report is a Confidential Report. It has not been published and it will not be published for the simple reason that the Report contains in it matters that affect the security of this country and it would be highly irresponsible for any Minister of Government holding responsibility as I do for law and order and to some extent security, to make this Report a public document.

I wish to allay people's fears, to let them know and in reply to my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, that as long ago as 1978, well ahead of the Pele Enquiry, or any other enquiry, I recognized that the Barbados Police Force had gone through at least 10 years and certainly 9 years of neglect, absolute neglect, and that therefore the Force had reached the stage where its morale could have been affected, and its efficiency would have been affected.

I therefore approached the British Government with a request for certain experts to advise us on certain aspects of the Police Force in this Island. The first expert, Mr. Gay, came down and he gave us the Report on the training needs of the Force and made recommendations for the upgrading of the Regional Police Training College. He was followed soon after by Mr. Graham, Mr. David Graham who is the Deputy Chief Constable of the Cheshire Constabulary and he spent roughly six months in Barbados and presented to me a report on the organization and structure of the Royal Barbados Police Force dated December, 1979.

This report contained over 209 recommendations which he suggested we take in relation to the Force. Since his report has been handed in to me, comments of the Commissioner of Police have been obtained on this report and those areas that effect the welfare of Policemen have been referred to the Police Welfare Association in keeping with the Police Act.

We have consulted with other Departments of Government on those other areas which effect the various Departments of Government. One such area is the relationship between the Police and the Defence Forces and I am happy to say that the Commissioner of Police and some of his Senior Officers have been meeting periodically with the Chief of Defence Staff and his Senior Officers and have been working out areas of cooperation between the Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Now, we have had from time to time to ask for the assistance of the Defence Force and had response but it

has always been clear that Civil Law duties in this country would remain the responsibility of the Royal Barbados Police Force. I have heard from time to time rumours of bad blood between the two services. Whenever these rumours have surfaced, I have had them investigated and any difficulties have been sorted out. More often than not, the rumours, like so many other rumours in Barbados, have been totally unfounded. It is the easiest thing in the world for people to speak in perjorative terms concerning relationships between the two services.
5.40 p.m.

To me, I think those of us in public life have to be a little more restrained when we deal with a subject such as this because both the Police Force and the Defence Force have their respective areas within which to operate and there is also a great area in which they will collaborate and that must be clearly understood.

We have set out, for instance, very clearly their respective jurisdictions in relation to the territorial waters of Barbados and we are relying for instance on the Coast Guard arm of the Defence Force to come to our assistance in dealing with smuggling and various acts which go on off the coastline of Barbados. I say to this Honourable House that there is no friction in relation to the existing relationships between the Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force, none at all.

There is in this country a senior committee of officers and other public servants and Ministers who deal with intelligence matters and the closest collaboration goes on between the Police and the Defence Force in that area as well as I must resist very strongly any suggestion of preference, or any suggestion that these two Forces are being made to be antagonistic one to another, or that one Force is suffering as a result of the existence of the other. That is not so.

Now Sir, I want to deal with the votes of money because in an Election Year, it is quite easy to take certain facts and draw the sort of conclusions from them that may not be well founded and I want to be slow on this Sir, I am going to take some time over it, but we must see what we are dealing with. In 1970–71, the Democratic Labour Party spent $3.9 million on Police. In 1971–72 $4.3 million, 1972–73 $4.6 million, 1973–74 $5.6 million, 1974–75 $6.2 million, 1975–76 $6.6 million. In short, over a period of six years the expenditure did not even double in relation to police services. When they left the administration of the day to day Government of this country the amount of money that the Democratic Labour Party was spending on police services was $6.6 million. Of that amount, almost 95% went on emoluments and very little money was provided for equipping the Force with the necessary aids and instruments which they needed if they were to come into the period of sophistication in crime.

Now, in 1976–77, we spent $8 million, in 1977–78 $9.5 million, in 1978–79 $9.6 million, in 1979–80 $12.6 million and last year, on the revised Estimates 1980–81 $14.72 million and in 1981–82 on recurrent expenditure $18.285 million. This Government.....

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, would the Honourable Member tell us how much inflation has accounted for this large increase?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I will deal with the inflation. The rate of the inflation has not risen significantly in relation to these, even allowing for it. There has been real increase, it is a 300% increase in the expenditure on the police services between 1976 and 1980–81. That is the position.

Now Sir, I reject categorically any suggestion from whatever quarter it came, that the position that the Police Force has reached, if indeed it has reached that position of a downward trend is due in any respect to this Government, or indeed, to my Ministry. There have been years of scandalous neglect under that last Government and years of tricking the Police into believing that the Democratic Labour Party were their friends. That is what we have got Sir. Let me deal with it, Sir. I asked in my Ministry, why was this position allowed to continue and I got the answer. "Well, you know we used to give the boys a little bit of change, allow them to borrow money for vehicles and that was all". Nobody attended to the real needs of the Police, despite the fact, as I said earlier in this Debate that successive Commissioners had been drawing to the attention of the Democratic Labour Party that they would end up eventually with a Force that was not properly equipped, not properly trained, not properly housed and not properly organised and structured to deal with increase in crime worldwide. I have had to take over that job. Sir, it was so scandalous that I had to go into the CID, questions were asked about the CID, in situations where the CID officers in the CID were sleeping on their kits. they did not even have beds in the CID.

I do not want to hear the Democratic Labour Party come in and preach to me now as though they are converted. Where were they when I was putting the police case before the Gay Commission? Under their Administration....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I believe that the Honourable Minister must know, I am sure he must know that in his capacity as Honourable Minister, his actions will have to be separated.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What Standing Order are you complaining is breached?

Mr. TAITT: The Standing Orders relating to the conduct in the Honourable House of an Honourable Minister making a statement. The Honourable Minister knows that in his professional capacity, what he did cannot be related to his position.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the Honourable Member believes that he could put me off my stride....but if this is the last Head that is debated tonight, I shall refute all of the unfounded allegations, when the allegations are correct, I will acknowledge them.

But, if there was any problem confronting the Force it pre-existed this Administration and this Administration has the guts that it has begun to grapple with the problem. My friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central said that he believes that I had the capability to do it, but he did not know what was happening. I am doing it, I have been dealing with it, but years of neglect cannot be cured within a short period of time. Consistent years of ordering their priorities wrong cannot be cured in a short space of time.

I came in and found not one plan left by the Democratic Labour Party for the Police Force, even the plans for District A were not completed when I came in. That is the position, neither for training, neither for reorganisation, neither for physical structure, a complete bereft of ideas, a complete neglect down through the years.

Dr. CADDLE: Are you saying that the Police never put up any plans for their own development? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Police put up suggestions but successive Ministers of Home Affairs including the Honourable Member, who held the portfolio for some time never took positive measures to deal with their suggestions, that is what I am saying.

Dr. CADDLE: How come you said that the plans for District A were not completed. Who started them?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I make bold to say that the plans for District A were not completed including the detailed plan for the administration block. I sat down peacefully and listened to them. They cannot take it, they built a wall that fell down. They built dog pens and horse pens before they attended to housing the policemen.

When I hear them on expenditure, it was scandalous, the way in which they treated the Police Force in relation to other Ministries during their tenure of office. They never increased the manpower of the Force.

Sir, the detection rate of crime in the Police Force today is 65% and over. During their period of time it was not so high either. That is one of the things they have to recognise. Let us go ahead and deal with this, Sir. In relation to the military, it is obvious that the military will have their role to perform.
5.50 p.m.

We have begun to deal with the areas of jurisdiction between the military and the police, and therefore I do not anticipate any difficulty will occur in those areas. I am saying that on the basis of the Estimates now before this House that more money on Current Account..... (Dr. CADDLE: More money but less purchasing power). Sir, am I going to be allowed to make my point? I did not interrupt the hon. member.

This year, in the Estimates for 1981–82, we are spending on the day to day administration of the Force $18.285 million as against $10.858 million on the Defence Force. In short, the Police vote is some 80% above the vote for the Defence Force on the day today administrative side of the Force. This point must be made. It is not a reasonable submission to take Capital Expenditure, expenditure of a Capital nature, and lump it together and say you are therefore spending more money on defence than you are spending on the police, because the day to day administration of the Police Force shows that we have increased expenditure by 300% in five years, and we have at the same time given them 80% more money than we have given to Defence and Security. That is a fact, Sir.

Dr. CADDLE: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, on a per capita basis which is higher? The expenditure on the Defence Force or the expenditure on the Police Force?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I think that any objective person looking at these figures will be well satisfied that the Government has taken the problem of the police seriously, if you look at these types of supplies which are being granted by this Committee.

The area of training and recruitment, Sir. I want to deal with recruitment first, Sir. When we came in I was presented in my Ministry with the various pleas which had been made to the Democratic Labour Party Government from 1969 asking for an increase in manpower. Successively the Democratic Labour Party Government had refused it. Ask the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. His Prime Minister refused it

to him too when he was there. He says yes. They turned down every request that the police made for training to deal with the growing problems that they expected to confront them in the eighties and nineties. It takes time to train police and it takes time for them to gain experience. If between 1969 and 1976 you sat down as a member of your party, you sat down as a Minister of Home Affairs without the ability to stand up to the right hon. member, the Maguffy, and could not get through and could not convince him of the necessity to provide adequate manpower and resources for the Police Force, you ought not to come in here stating that we are not dealing with the problem, because it is my submission that the area of neglect which occurred for those crucial seven years have manifested themselves in what has happened between 1976 and 1980. (ASIDES). Can I be allowed to speak, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order!

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let them bark, Sir. They will bark when they hear 85% of the votes in Christ Church West.....

In the area of manpower, we have between 1977 and to date increased the Police Force by 156 men, the establishment. We are now training them. In addition to this, Sir, we have taken away from the Police duties in the Writ Serving Department, duties in Immigration and other areas without reducing the number of policemen, and as I said earlier this morning, we have qualitatively and quantitatively made more manpower available to the Police Force.....

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I wish to draw to the Chair's attention the rule against repetition. The hon. member is going over ground that he has covered already.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will take note of that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Now, Sir, in the area of training. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central says that more must be done for training, and he read from the recommendations of the Malone Commission about training for the C.I.D. I spoke to Superintendent Northorp and Commander Neville who wrote that section of the Report. I had a meeting with them on their findings in so far as those findings affect the efficiency of the Force. Commander Neville and Superintendent Northorp, two Commissioners of the Malone Commission, made it quite clear to me that we were fortunate that Barbadians had so much a degree of common sense, because the Force had been handed down whatever little knowledge they had gained and he could detect several long years of neglect in the training of the Force.

Now, Sir, when the Barbados Labour Party was in Government it started the Regional Police Training School in 1956. At that time, between 1956 and 1967, we had seen some courses other than courses for recruits being introduced. Once again for no explicable reason the Democratic Labour Party stopped those courses. We have again reimplemented them. Now, Sir, in the early years of the Police Force, in the forties, fifties and sixties, the early years of full representative ministerial Government, the police were still being sent in significant numbers overseas for training. Again in the mid sixties and early seventies very few policemen were sent for training, and indeed if you compare them with the number of teachers or other areas of the Civil Service that receive training, you will notice that the police happened to have been at a great disadvantage. That is the position, Sir. Last year alone 16 police officers of varying ranks received training overseas, including C.I.D. training. The hon. member wants to know what courses. Courses running from dog handling to senior command course to criminal investigation.
6.00 p.m.

In addition, Sir, the Government has had the advice of a senior police officer from Britain on upgrading the Regional Police Training College, and as I said, steps have already been taken to prepare a brief to recruit some of the experts that are necessary to plan for the physical building of the College. The expenditure that will be outlaid on this project should be something in the region of $15 million on last year's prices. It should probably be more by the time we finish. Even ahead of the construction of the College we have gone ahead and recruited from overseas with the assistance of the British Government senior police officers in order to re-organise the curriculum at the Police Training College. and to introduce new courses. We have started on this.

I mentioned earlier this morning a list of the different courses which we are putting into being at the Police Training College. *(Asides)* The hon. member asks me to repeat a few whereas his partner, the other hon. member, says I am repeating myself; so it is a little difficult to know how to deal with the Opposition, but let me tell them again. We started a sergeants course on the 23rd February, 1981. We will start another sergeants course on the 4th October, 1981. We have a Court Prosecutors course going and we will have another Court Prosecutors course on 3rd August, 1981. We have a basic CID course to start on the 4th May, 1981, and an advanced CID course on the 2nd August, 1981, and a basic CID course on 1st March, 1982. We have senior constable courses planned for 1981/82, special branch courses planned for 1981, a driving course, 1981, and three recruit courses, one from 1st March, one from 20th August and the other one from 31st January, 1982. The course content has been restructured to take into account a wide series of subjects including accounts,

sociology, psychology among the subjects and West Indian Law. *(Asides)* The trouble with the Opposition is that they are too late. I am several steps ahead of them. They are now beginning to see the light of what is being planned, but they are too late; they do not understand. They are still in Opposition and must remain there until at least 2081, until they catch up with what is happening in the modern world. That is their problem.

In terms of physical improvements in the Police Force, the hon. member for St. Philip North raised this. I said a little earlier that I found a force where there were people in the Criminal Investigation Department sleeping on their kits. That pre-existed me. We have cleared that up. We had provided in last year's Estimates and in this year's Estimates as well an increased amount of money for beds, cots and blankets for the police as well as proper chairs at the Police Stations throughout the island, and we have got a system of repairing those that are broken down, so that we keep a check on all of the conveniences and the physical and other amenities which are necessary to keep up the morale of the Police Force.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, if the hon. member would give way, we have been hearing about all of the improvements that are being proposed. I wonder if in his reply the Minister can tell us whether he has brought about any improvements in the physical facilities for, I believe it is called, the Ballistics Expert. I believe he does a very good job in this country and I believe that the facilities are below standard, and I am wondering if he has any plans for improvements in these facilities. I would not like to hear that this is waiting for the new courts as there seems to me to be some need for immediate improvement in that area.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Again, Sir, let me preface my reply on that point by making the following remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just would like at this point to inform the Hon. Attorney General that at 6.15 the guillotine comes into play.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I want to make this point for the hon. member. We have been in the process of providing additional room at the CID for the Ballistics Expert, and ahead of the building of a Forensic Laboratory in the new Police Training School we will try to upgrade the facilities at CID by moving out some of the people who slept in a part of the CID to make additional space and equipment available for him. I am not giving way anymore. I really must finish by 6.15.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I intend to hear your point of order. I want to hear which Standing Order has been breached.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister promised earlier that he would not repeat himself. He is repeating himself over and over again and I am drawing to Your Honour's attention that the Minister is not exercising the usual courtesy of giving way, because we want to ask him at least one or two other questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have to allow you another short period for the interruption.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Thank you, Sir. Hon. members, I believe, do not want the Press to hear the reply. I have never seen any people so afraid of the truth as the Opposition. You all had your say: why don't you hear the facts for a change?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, when they were in Opposition they were the ones who got over here and cursed George Reid and brought down the whole Police Force. Don't talk about the Press; we can talk to the Press too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. That is no point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: They are afraid of the facts. We want to give you facts and truth, not impressions. That Government sat down on this country for 15 years without providing a Forensic Laboratory, and the result is that we have been losing murder cases in this country because there has been no proper pathologist or Forensic Laboratory available. For the first time we have recruited a pathologist for this country in order to carry out the necessary study to assist in the investigation and prosecution of murders. You should hang your heads in shame for doing nothing for fifteen years in Government, every year voting $1.00 in the Estimates and the inability to put into effect any concrete plans in this country.

Now, Sir, I want to spend the four minutes that are available to me dealing with two cases that have come before the courts. Sir, in the first place the relationship of a Minister to a Commissioner of Police must be understood. As I understand the situation in this country, it would be highly improper for me to give directions to the police how to investigate a case or when to investigate that case. I have made that point repeatedly. If the public do not accept it, the public will have to take me as I am because I do not intend to breach the Constitution.

Secondly, that does not mean that in relation to areas of policy there is no discussion between the police and myself. Thirdly, in relation to every case, the Director of Public Prosecutions must have his say. It is not proper for the Attorney General to do the job of the Director of Public Prosecutions in this country where the Constitution forbids that. I have made sure that the Constitution has been honoured in all respects.

I will leave a final word on the Pele case. The difficulty about the Pele case was that it was being made a political football by the Opposition and its supporter, Mr. Sealy, in order to denigrate some of us from the public platforms from time to time.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation,.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am not giving way, Sir.

Mr. TAITT: We only wanted to find out who killed Pele.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It was made a political football and the Police were not allowed to do their work properly because there was every Opposition politician pimping behind them and asking policemen even to be disloyal to their command in bringing out information otherwise in Police files. That is the position in this country. It has been a most scandalous attitude of political people in this country that I have seen in relation to a case and I am sorry to see it, but I think that when all of the files are revealed, history will certainly condemn not only people like Eric Sealy but leading members of the Democratic Labour Party for the attitude that they took on this issue. That is the position that is existing.

Mr. TAITT: You interfered with the files. The Coroner said so.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: 'You see, Sir, the hon. member can make statements *sotto voce* about interfering with the files.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Since the hon. member would not give way I have to make them *sotto voce.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the hon. member believes that he can do things properly he better believe that there are others that have a greater sense of propriety than he can ever achieve and fortunately for me, I made sure that in that case every interview that I have had with anybody was fully documented by my Permanent Secretary and the Solicitor General.

I am not sure that the hon. member ever documented the interviews that he had with Mr. Parks and other people in this society. I have always documented any interview that I have ever had on that matter, Sir. I am not surprised. People hungry for power will seize on any disadvantage in a community to misuse it and that is exactly what happened in this unfortunate case and if the Police have found that they have a few of their members who have let them down, that is regretted. We will deal with them in accordance with the Law of Barbados as is provided in the Constitution of Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. Order, please.

The question that Head 31 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 32 – PRISONS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $795,737 under Head 32 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 33 – FIRE SERVICE

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $482,500 under Head 33 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 34 – PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $300,700 under Head 34 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 75 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,273,281 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 40 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,137,068 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 80 – CAPITAL – EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,150,282 under Head 80 – Capital – External Affairs as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 25 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9,499,685 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 26 – CO-OPERATIVES

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $32,999 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 27 – METEOROLOGY

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $881,182 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 74 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $18,343,564 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $43,406,883 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 78 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $30,095,206 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,015,328 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 83 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $501,544 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 44 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $31,906,033 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 84 – CAPITAL – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,075,000 as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

6.20 p.m.

HEAD 50 – POST OFFICE – $3 345 530

Head 40 was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Annexed Estimates of the Post Office stands part.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report to His Honour the Speaker, the passing of the Appropriation Bill and Annexed Estimates in Committee.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Appropriation Act, 1981.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WESTBURY ROAD, ST. MICHAEL

Order Number Three was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Westbury Road, St. Michael for the construction of a drain.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this is an acquisition Sir of a few small parcels of land at Westbury Road for the purpose of drainage, I think they have to improve the drainage system in that area. Of course, my Ministry for this aspect of it is always the executing agency Sir. If there is anything which probably the Honourable Minister responsible would like to say Sir, he may.

At this point, I can only move that this resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Speaking on this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if any publicity has been given to this particular matter particularly over the Caribbean Broadcasting. I would not bother with that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member knows when he trespass.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MASON HALL STREET ST. MICHAEL.

Order Number Four was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Mason Hall, Street, St. Michael for the provision of a playing area for the St. Mary's Infants School.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would think that this is in the back of Keith Rayside, that part which we refer to as Murphy pasture Sir. There is a portion of land there which is owned by Mr. Rayside and it is for the purpose of improving the recreational facilities.

I believe the major contribution, if any at all to come from this resolution would have to come from the Honourable Minister of Health, who is the sitting Honourable Member for the constituency of the City. I was involved in this exercise during the initial stages Sir and I am very happy to see that we are in a position now to acquire the land to help improve the facilities in that area.

I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Mr. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, March 31st on which date, it is intended that the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals will be delivered. I intend to present the Budget at 5 o'clock on that afternoon and the following afternoon Wednesday April 1st, the spokesman on behalf of the Opposition will be invited to make his reply and the Debate will continue on Wednesday April 1st and Thursday April 2nd, the usual arrangements, Sir.

The Government holds itself out to enter into the usual arrangements to permit all Honourable Members of the Honourable House to receive the same facilities of having live television coverage of their speeches, as will be received by the Honourable Minister of Finance and the chief Opposition spokesman.
6.30 p.m.

In the hope that we can avoid the fiasco of last year, Sir, when no hon. member of the Opposition volunteered to speak, the Leader of the House will make himself available to the Leader of the Opposition for the purpose of allotting speaking points. I should however advise hon. members that there will be no suggestion of restricting the speech of any hon. member on this side because hon. members opposite may not wish to speak.

The Economic Report, Sir, should be laid on Tuesday 31st March, but should it come to hand at an earlier stage than that from the Printery it will be circulated to hon. members. I have the draft of it in my case and I trust that the Government Printery will be able to produce it in time for hon. members.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am particularly delighted to second the motion for the adjournment and I think this is going to be another land mark in the history of this Government, because it is the first time that Budgetary Proposals would ever have been introduced into the House at such an early date. I do not know if it is too early for us to say goodbye to a couple of my colleagues on the other side. I suspect we may be short of a doctor or two, I am almost certain about that, Sir, and if it may be the final opportunity for him to speak on the Appropriation Bill in this Parliament, then they had all their opportunities, Sir.

I take pleasure in seconding this motion and look forward to a very interesting debate on the Budgetary Proposals.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I failed to make it clear that the time should be 2.30 on the 31st. The Budget will be at 5.00 but I am moving the adjournment of the House until Tuesday 31st March at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Speaking on the adjournment, we have taken note of the proposals by the Prime Minister and the Government for the business of this House from Tuesday 31st and onwards. I would just like on this occasion on behalf of the Opposition, and I am certain the Government would not mind if I say on behalf of all members, to express appreciation for the work done by the Reporters in covering our five days of debate on the Appropriation Bill, especially under circumstances in which they have not been up to their usual quota, as I understand it.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I would like to concur in the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael South on behalf of the Government and to say that we appreciate very much the work which has been done by the parliamentary staff, the Reporters as well as the Clerks of Parliament, as well as the parliamentary Reporters, the newspaper Reporters to Parliament, whom I think have done a lot in putting forward things that were said in Parliament during the debate for the last four days and hopefully for today as well, which will be the fifth day of the debate.

I think it is necessary that Parliament's business be covered adequately and that members of the public should be made fully aware of the substantial matters debated in this House, and I think that one can say that fair reports on the House's proceedings have been occurring in the Press, both in the written Press and the spoken Press, and I think that is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I would be failing in my duty if I did not also commend the Chairman of Committees who has carried the brunt of the session, the tolerance which he has shown to members, the latitude, the sense of humour and the calm with which he has approached every issue. I think that this has gone a long way towards helping us to get through a major part of the Estimates and to have heard some of the Estimates. From our point of view we would have liked to hear more of them, Sir, because I think the Government has done a fantastic job in the last four years of its Government in putting forward various matters, Sir, and I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, if you could have spoken would have liked to have got into the affray and put your point of view, but I also wish to commend you for the tolerance that you have shown when you have been in the Chair to members of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday 31st day of March, 1981 at 2.30 p.m. but before I put the motion, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has given us an indication as to when the Budget will be presented. I want to invite all hon. members to take part in the Budget debate. I am saying so for a good

reason, but I want to explain to all hon. members that for it to appear as if we are having a balanced debate, there are sixteen members on the Government side and there are seven members expected on the Opposition benches to take part. We do not want to see sixteen members on this side debating one after the other and then seven on the other side.

In parliamentary procedure, quite contrary to what Mr. Cameron Tudor tries to tell the public, there is what is known as a Speaker's list. A Speaker's list does not afford the Speaker to call whom he will when he will, but it gives the Speaker an indication of who will want to speak on either side, and in such a case if the Speaker knows that there are 10 members on this side who will want to take part and only five on the other side, the Speaker will be prepared to hear two members here, one there, two here, one there as the case might be, but if the Speaker does not know what the situation is we can have a very unwieldy presentation. I make this mention because I want it to be understood by all hon. members, and I am going to ask the Clerk of this House at the appropriate time to secure from the Leader of the House on the Government side a list, not necessarily the order in which he wants his members to speak, but a list of those members who will want to speak, and likewise from the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader, whoever, a list showing how many members and their names who will want to speak, so that we will present a balanced address to the public.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday 31st March, 1981 at 2.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.40 p.m.