

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 31st March, 1981.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.45 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, C.B.E., J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B. (Minister of Communications and Works); Dr. R. B. CADDLE, M.D., Ch.B.; Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A. (Econ.); Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that there are no Minutes ready for confirmation.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: His Excellency the Governor General has advised this Honourable House that acting on the advice of the Prime Minister he has appointed DeLisle Othniel Bradshaw, Esq. M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, to be temporary Minister for the period 27th March, to 12th April, 1981 and to be responsible for the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay Message No. 3/1981 advising of the appointment of Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw as temporary Minister for the period 27th March, to 12th April, 1981.

Sir, on behalf of the Prime Minister I am commanded to lay the following:—

The Defence (Summary Jurisdiction) Regulations, 1981.

The Defence (Miscellaneous) Regulations, 1981.

The Barbados Defence Force Reserve Regulations, 1981.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning I am commanded to lay the following:—

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 28th February, 1981.

The Economic Report, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 10) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 11) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 12) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 13) Order, 1980.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1981.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1981.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:—

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Checker Hall, St. Lucy, for the establishment of the Cement Processing Project.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to make provisions respecting the certification marking of goods.

A Bill to provide for the control of standards and the labelling of commodities.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to amend the Constitution of Barbados.

A Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act.

A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to repeal the Education Acts, Cap. 41 and Cap. 41A, and to provide for a co-ordinated and effective system of education related to the needs of the people of Barbados, the registration of private schools and for related matters.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On motion of Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG a Bill to make provisions respecting the certification marking of goods was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG a Bill to provide for the control of standards and the labelling of commodities was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE a Bill to amend the Constitution of Barbados was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE a Bill to repeal the Education Acts, Cap. 41 and Cap. 41A, and to provide for a coordinated and effective system of education related to the needs of the people of Barbados, the registration of Private Schools and for related matters was read a first time.
2.55 p.m.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days ago the Rt. Hon. Dr. Eric Eustace Williams, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago passed away. I believe that the whole of the Caribbean received this news with shock. Dr. Williams was an outstanding scholar, one of the leading intellectuals of the Caribbean, the Commonwealth and the world. He was perhaps one of the most astute of the politicians produced in this century. He was certainly a statesman and his insistent cry for freedom for the colonial people has gone beyond the Caribbean Sea. Dr. Williams was in many respects a true West Indian, he believed passionately in the rights of people to govern themselves and he believed equally passionately in the rights of people to own their own resources and to control their total destiny.

Barbados and Trinidad have for centuries enjoyed very close relations and in the last 25 years, perhaps this was due in a great respect of the leadership of Dr. Williams and his great love for Barbadians. It is less than two years ago that together with the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I had the honour to meet with him and to hear him recount the deep love which he felt for the people of Barbados and to hear him too trace his genealogy to St. Vincent and to Barbados, as well as to Trinidad.

Many of us who are younger than him came to see him as epitomising all that he wished for the Caribbean, the final destiny of the Caribbean peoples as one nation. Many people today do not recall the outstanding document which he wrote on the economics of nationhood. Perhaps, it will go down as the hallmark not only of scholarship, but of idealism for West Indian nationhood, that now it did not succeed is now a matter of history, but I think we must all recall the efforts with which he has striven from time to time towards the full integration of the territories of the English speaking Caribbean.

His vision too, Mr. Speaker went beyond the English speaking Caribbean because he conceived of the Caribbean as all of the territories within the Caribbean Sea and those even within the Caribbean nation and he saw for these territories a common destiny. Within the history of Trinidad and Tobago, he has towered larger than any-

one else. His passing will leave a void which it will be difficult ever to fill, but I am sure that his great contribution to that great Republic has laid a foundation on which others can build.

I believe that I speak on behalf not only of the Government, but on behalf of all the people of Barbados, when I say how sad we are at the passing of one of the greatest West Indians who has ever lived. Many of us will recall his first assault by his intellectual powers on the system of slavery and capitalism. Many of us will recall too his great work, "From Columbus to Castro". Many of us will feel ourselves driven by the inward hunger of which he spoke. Many of us will recall the fight which he waged on behalf of the Caribbean people for the recovery of American leased bases in this area and many of us will recall the words which he spoke when cryptically he said:

"Massa day done."

All of these are chapters in the history not only of Trinidad and Tobago, but of the peoples of the Caribbean as well.

I therefore wish to state that it is with deep sympathy and with great condolence that we have witnessed the passing of this great man and the Government has already, through the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister conveyed on behalf of the Government and of the people of Barbados, the deep sense of loss which we feel on his tragic passing. I am sure Mr. Speaker, that this Honourable House would wish in due course to show its respect not only by a moment's silence, but also by forwarding an appropriate message of condolence to the Government of Trinidad and the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult on an occasion like this for one fully to express one's appreciation of the contribution which people like Dr. Williams and Dr. Williams in particular have made to the bringing of the people of the Caribbean to their national independence and self respect.

My knowledge of Dr. Williams goes back a very long time, but I remember very well that soon after assuming office in December, 1961, I flew down to Trinidad and Tobago to be more accurate Mr. Speaker, I flew down to Tobago, the hope of one of my maternal grandmothers to meet with Dr. Williams symptomatically on property which belonged to my maternal great grandfather to draw up a plan for the immediate economic reconstruction of the economies of our two countries.

It was within a matter of days and actually before the first meeting of the Legislature of Barbados, I believe held on the 19th December of that year and it was out of

that meeting that the crash programme was initiated. A couple of years later, we could not have had a more diverse assortment of leaders in the Caribbean countries because Sir Alexander Bustamante was head of the Government of Jamaica, Mr. Cheddi Jagan was head of the Government of Guyana, I was Chairman of the Cabinet of Barbados and Dr. Williams was Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

But, it was due to Dr. Williams' persuasion that we were able to meet together and start what eventually developed from a meeting of four Heads of Government into the Caribbean Community which was consummated by some 12 or 14 Governments again symbolically at Chaguaramas around the year 1971 some eight years later.

3.05 p.m.

No matter how the Governments changed, the Government of Trinidad went on forever, so that Dr. Williams was the founder and the Central point. The Government of Jamaica changed, the Government in Ghana changed, but we still manage to have our biennial Heads of Government Conferences which regretfully have now fallen into abeyance to the dereliction of the cause of Caribbean unity.

In later years Dr. Williams was a very lonely man, a very isolated person. His children had grown up to the extent that when we heard of his passing it came as a sudden shock, and very few people were aware that Dr. Williams had been in a serious state of ill health for over one week, so that the people in the Caribbean community were deprived of the benefit of even praying for his recovery. I am not aware that the Trinidad Newspapers even said that Dr. Williams was ill. If the President of the United States sneezes, the vapour is seen by television by 80 million people. If he dons his riding habit to go for a ride at 6.00 in the morning, it is in full view of the American public, but the leading political figure in the Commonwealth Caribbean was allowed to languish and waste away for one full week without our knowledge. That is very regrettable. It is all water under the bridge now.

I join with the Hon. Attorney General. I am not going to make this an occasion for a recital of all the brilliant things that Dr. Williams has done. A complete rethinking of the role of the African was generated by his controversial, in those days, thesis on capitalism and slavery. His professors at Oxford did not take to it too kindly. I seem to remember that Dr. McKinnister, the person who later at Bristol objected most strenuously to some of the startling propositions that he put forward. I made his monumental work "From Columbus to Castro" compulsory reading for my students at two Universities, who wanted to understand the Caribbean, and I think that no better tribute could be paid to Dr. Williams that

our educationists here in Barbados should make it compulsory reading in all our schools, primary, secondary and at all levels, because I do not think we will be able to understand ourselves until we read the exposition of the development of our nation states as set out by Dr. Williams in his monumental work.

On behalf of the official Opposition and on behalf of the Executive Council of my party, I have already cabled my condolences, and I second the motion so ably moved by the Hon. Attorney General and support this motion in every respect.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with the distinguished Attorney General, the member for Christ Church West, and the distinguished Leader of the Opposition in speeches of condolence to the late Dr. Williams.

A light has gone out in the Caribbean and death, the great leveller, has claimed the life of one of the outstanding Caribbean citizens. Born of humble parentage, the qualities of ambition, courage, vision and determination were perhaps the driving motive forces that impelled him in his quest through life. Sometimes for those of us who live today it is not fully realised that without the ability to devote oneself to intellectual pursuits that the vast majority of those of us who were born of black parentage could not achieve social mobility or economic advancement. And so it was to scholarship that he dedicated the earlier part of his life. It was through scholarship and intellectual achievement that he was able to go from the Tranquillity Intermediate Boys' School to the leading secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago at that time, Queens Royal College. It was also through scholarship that he was able to leave that institution and to go to St. Catherine's, Oxford where by 1939 he had written the brilliant thesis which so shook the world of scholarship at that time.

Much has been said about Dr. Williams' contribution to the field of learning. His publications attest to that. He rose of course from Assistant Professor through Associate Professor and full Professor at the University of Howard in the United States. He also found time to produce many articles, and in a busy life the number of books that he has written is a tribute to his industry and to his dedication. We have heard of "Capitalism and Slavery" and we have heard of the book "From Columbus to Castro". The scholars can best determine the seminal importance of those publications.

It is sometimes little realised however that he dedicated himself not only to the realms of esoteric scholarship but also to the interpretation of complex and difficult ideas for the ordinary man in the street, and when he returned to Trinidad and Tobago he was a Consultant to

the Adult Education Programme at the Public Library at Trinidad and Tobago and delivered a series of lectures on Caribbean history, Caribbean social problems and Caribbean literature.

3.15 p.m.

He also opened and no doubt was Dean, Principal, and Chief Professor of the University of Woodford Square which was a university without walls before the concept of the University without walls or an open university became a popular concept, and it was this fascination with the world of ideas and the interplay between the world of ideas and the practical real world that gave meaning and purpose to his life. It is sometimes also not realised too that were it not for his vision and for our determination maybe Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean might for a longer period have been wallowing under the heels of imperialism and colonialism. At a time when leaders of the Caribbean were still very much committed to everything that was British or European, he was preaching the worth and the importance of the black man and was also saying that all peoples of the Caribbean irrespective of race, colour or creed could as Caribbean citizens grasp independence and create a new future, a better future for themselves.

Of course I have had the privilege of sitting in Councils with him both in attendance as an adviser at some Heads of Government meetings in the Caribbean, an also within the University of the West Indies when he was pro-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, and I can attest to his great commitment to the idea of Caribbean integration and Caribbean nationhood, a Caribbean that embraced not only the English speaking territories, but also took in those of other colonial origins as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to join with the two previous speakers in expressing condolences to the surviving relatives and to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago on the passing of this outstanding Caribbean citizen.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to be associated with the speeches of sentiment and condolences expressed by both sides of the House on the occasion of the passing of the late Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. It is all agreed that a true Caribbean man has passed away leaving a void that can hardly ever be filled for a very very long time indeed. He was indeed a great Caribbean man amongst other things. As the Hon. Attorney General has moved, this Parliament of ours will in due course despatch with all haste to the Parliament, Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago the sentiments as expressed by this Honourable House and to the relatives of the late Dr. Eric Williams.

I can only ask hon. members to stand with me for two minutes in silence in respect thereof.

Hon. members stood in their places in silence for two minutes.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 60 asked by the Rt. Hon. member for St. John is now ready.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 61 asked by the Rt. Hon. member for St. John is now ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Item No. 4.

THE LINER CONFERENCES ACT, 1981

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications to move the second reading of a Bill to make provisions respecting the giving of effect to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences.
3.25 p.m.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, for many years the developing countries have been experiencing difficulties especially in shipping affecting imports and exports of commodities into their countries and as a result of the expression made by Third World Countries, the United Nations formulated a Conference which resulted in 1974 in what was called "A Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences."

Let me explain that the term "Liner Conferences" is the name given to those Organisations which own and operate ships bringing and trading commodities on specialised lines, that is, the sailing of ships are regulated on specific routes, on specific dates and cables or notifications of these sailings are usually set well in advance so that persons involved in commercial trade know well in advance what lines or what routes are taken on what given days or dates.

The Caribbean has been particularly vulnerable to changes in freight rates as set out by Liner Conferences. I believe many of us recently read in the Newspapers a protest made by Jamaica over the most recent

increases in freight rates by West Indian Trans-Atlantic Shipping Line that moves most of traditional products from Europe to the Caribbean.

These rates are unilaterally adjusted annually and the recipient countries have little or no control over these rates. Caricom looked at the problem and it was suggested by the Experts in Caricom that the only way the Caribbean would begin to have influence upon the shipping rates which affect commodities coming through or leaving the Caribbean would be to join in the ratification or accede to the Convention on the conduct of Liner Conferences.

Barbados acceded to the Convention on the 10th July, 1980 and it is for this reason that we are bringing the Bill which now moves the Convention into our local Laws. I believe it is a non-controversial matter because unless we do something in the Caribbean we really cannot deal with the freight rates and every time there is a movement in freight rates there is a movement in insurance charges for all commodities coming into the region.

One of the objects of the Convention is to ensure a balance of interest between suppliers and users of Liner Shipping Services and I consider the two most important objects of the Conferences, the principle that Conferences hold meaningful consultation with Shippers' Organisations, Shippers' Representatives and Shippers' on matters of common interest with, upon request, the participation of appropriate Authorities.

Another objective, the principle that all Conferences should make available to interested parties pertinent information about their activities which are relevant to those parties and should publish meaningful information on their activities and I can very well see why this principle was embodied in the Convention.

When we were notified in the Caribbean of the new rates which would be applied by WITAS, we asked them to give us an explanation and a breakdown of the charges to see if the new rates were justified and even the Experts in Caricom have confessed that none of the Shipping Lines plying in the region has ever supplied meaningful information so that those of us in the Caribbean can evaluate whether or not the charges are appropriate at the appropriate time.

Now there are only two Shipping Lines in the Caribbean that ply extra-regionally. One is in Jamaica, the Jamaica Merchant Shipping Line and Gibault in Guyana and they both deal with the freighting of aluminium bauxite out of Jamaica and Guyana respectively. The other Caribbean Islands, therefore, are at the mercies of the Shipping Conferences that ply in the region and WITAS is not the only one. WITAS

plies on the lines from the United Kingdom and European ports. There are Sea Lines that ply out of the United States Coast and there are other lines that ply from the far European countries in Australia etc.

I believe that as soon as the Convention has been ratified by a certain number of countries that the developing World will really begin to have something or at least meaningful discussions with the local Conferences and it is hoped that at that time we would be able to sit down at round table conferences and look at how increases in freight rates affect our respective countries.

The rates, as I said before, do not only affect the commodities coming to the country but they also affect commodities going out of the country.

The Code of Conduct does not deal with Charter parties because they are special ships for special jobs and they do not sail on any specified route or specified sailing dates so when we are dealing with this Convention we are dealing with the Conventional Shipping Lines that bring most of the commodities to and take them from the Caribbean.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I know that the object of this exercise probably is to fill in time until 5 o'clock but members of the House received this Bill some two days ago and I do not think that we should just adopt it likely like that. It contains a lot of issues.

In the first place, I should like to inform the Hon. Minister who just sat down that there is no Steam Ship Line called the West Indian Trans-Atlantic Shipping Line. WITAS is an Association. It is an Association of various Lines which have ships plying trade between the Caribbean and Europe which are vital to the cost of living in Barbados.

I made a calculation about a year ago that over \$18 million is spent in freight and consumer items coming to this Island alone, over \$18 million. Some time ago, about six years ago, the Heads of Government agreed to get together with the President of Mexico in an endeavour to establish our own shipping lines in the wider Caribbean area with a view to domesticating our International routes in bringing them, or repatriating them, using any expression that would convey the idea that a vital part of our economy is in the hands of foreign and non Caribbean multi-national Corporations.

The Shipping Conferences are very arbitrary in the fixing of their tariff rates, what they charge for conveying cargo from one part of the World to the other part

of the World. I wish to remind the Minister that this is not a simple matter.

3.35 p.m.

The United States of America today is an independent country because of the Navigation Acts which were imposed by the Government of England as it then was on the Colonies including Barbados that all trade between the Colonies and Great Britain had to be carried in British ships. This is part of the Imperialists pattern and we still have today after the formal cessation of Colonialism and the lowering of the British flag, we have these multi-national organisations imposing upon us their dictatorial assessment of what the goods should cost landed in Barbados.

Barbados in 1651 was the first overseas territory to revolt against the Navigation Acts, we were followed by the thirteen American Colonies. It is such a serious matter that people have gone to war about it and we supinely accept the dictation of these Shipping Conferences and the Honourable Minister feels that by coming in here and moving the Second Reading of a Bill, which he calls a Bill, which will make provision respecting United Nations Convention. There are so many useless United Nations Conventions on all aspects of human behaviour that they are honoured more in the breach, than in the observance.

A Shipping Conference which does not wish — a Shipping Conference being a collection, or collaboration, or whatever you feel like calling it of various owners of various shipping lines, Hamburg American lines, the Saguenay, Harrison Lines and you go right down the line with all the shipping lines that they do not feel like paying any attention to the Conventions, still have to be at their mercy. I was very amused when the Honourable Minister spoke about the experts in CARICOM. He can speak about officials who receive salaries in CARICOM have the business of shipping under their jurisdiction. There are virtually no experts in the Civil Service in the Caribbean on Shipping and we have to admit that because we have not trained anybody, this has been the exclusive preserve of the multi-national corporations and the industrial countries. We have no experts in CARICOM, or in Barbados' Civil Service on shipping.

The Government of the Republic of Guyana, even before it was a Republic had established some competence in shipping because of the peculiar nature of their international trade, but no other Caribbean country not even the Government of Jamaica to which he referred has established any competence in this field. Goods landed in Barbados, Mr. Speaker before they reach the consumer have to pay import duties based on the cost free on board, the insurance and the freight and then, on top of that the Consumption Taxes levied by the individual Government, particularly the Government of Barbados on top of the CIF value of goods.

I should like to ask the Honourable Minister where in this Bill he is going to control the tax? Where is he in this Bill going to tell the West Indies Transatlantic Shipping Association? What sanctions? Is he going to tell them not to bring the goods, or is he going to put them in court? We need a lot more than this. What we need in the Caribbean Mr. Speaker, we need our own Shipping Lines, instead of our own shipping lines, we are discouraging the small people who own those vessels who grew our inter colonial trade. We have, I think in the words of Cromonso at the end of the First World War when he was referring to the Austro Hungarian Empire, he said:

"We have destroyed it with our own hands."

We have destroyed the Schooner Pool, we have dismantled any form of active association between West Indies ship owners. We have given them very little encouragement, we have hounded them from one part of the Careenage to the other part of the Careenage, we are telling them, they must now go back to the Shallow Draft facility, which all of us, from both Sides of the Honourable House have to admit is inadequate to handle our inter colonial trade. The inter colonial tariff rate is probably the worse rate, probably an uneconomical rate to move cargo from one part of the Caribbean to the other and we go adopting the United Nations Conventions and we introduce a Bill to give effect to the Convention on a code of conduct.

You know, one significant feature in the Bill in the brief time that I had to look at it, I do not see any provision in it at all maybe I did not have enough time to look at it, but the Honourable Minister can help me because he must have had it a long time — that you could send a ship owner to jail. That is what I would like, that is the kind of provision, if you are giving a code of conduct, and you have a breach of the conduct, if you break the criminal code of Barbados, you go to jail. I would like to see some ship owners go to jail because the freight rates affect our standard of living in Barbados.

This Shipping Conference and the other Shipping Conference, they are the people who are dictating how we should live. The immense profits are being made by these people. I will tell you something further, not only do we have to watch them, we have to watch the so-called benevolent associations which go under the guise of seamen's unions who refused to load goods in Wales destined for Barbados and St. Lucia because the Geest Line was going to bring those goods down to Barbados and St. Lucia at a lower freight rate than that charged by the Shipping Conference and the Trade Unions were persuaded, by the Shipping Conference to join in that kind of behaviour and we get down here and we support those British Trade Unions to the dereliction of our own local trade unions here in Barbados.

The thirteen colonies went to war, Barbados went to war in 1651 at Oistins at the Mermaid Tavern. In 1652, we signed what were described as the Articles of Capitulation to General Aesque in the Mermaid Tavern at Oistins wherever that is now, probably in the sea, but this is something which is persisting right down to this day. The dictatorial attitude of the metropolitan countries towards the united colonies, who supinely sit by and see because of the unilateral nature of the ownership being vested in the metropolitan owners. Increase after increase in the cost of living for the consumer durables and the consumer goods which have to be imported into our economies from those countries.

I am not making a personal criticism of the Honourable Minister because the Honourable Minister is probably out of his depth in this whole matter, this is a very serious matter indeed. All I am saying, Sir is that it is passing a Bill to give effect to a UN Convention on a Code of conduct for conferences. Unless you have sanctions in it, it does not mean we are going to take up that it is written on. We have to get down to studying seriously the whole problem of transportation of goods within and without the Caribbean region and take effective measures to control it by ownership either into Government ownership, as suggested by President Alvarez Achiveria of Mexico, as I mentioned about six years ago of which very little follow up action had been taken, except by the Government of Jamaica, or make up our minds that we will always be at the whims and fancies of these Shipping Conferences no matter how many Conventions we get down here and adopt in our respective Legislatures.

3.45 p.m.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. member when he started out was going to attack me for introducing the Bill into the House, but I fully understood after that the hon. member did not read the Convention and because he is Leader of the Opposition he had to find something to say.

When he talks about the shipping line which was supposed to have been started by the President of Mexico, he is so far behind that I at this point do not really think it is worthwhile pursuing any argument on that line, because NAMUCAR, was set up by the Mexican Government. Trinidad became a member of NAMUCAR, Jamaica became a member of NAMUCAR and they have both withdrawn from NAMUCAR because they found that NAMUCAR under the guise of bringing help to the West Indian countries was just as exorbitant in their freight rates as lines which originated out of Great Britain that he is talking about.

I go further. NAMUCAR brought a shipment of bottles from Mexico to Barbados for the Pine Hill Dairy

and when they got here they charged so much that the agents, DaCosta and Musson, sent a Trinidadian who was the freight officer to my house a Sunday morning asking me to forego the port charges, otherwise they could not pay to take the bottles off NAMUCAR'S ship. The hon. member should remember something, he should have read the Convention first. If he was pleading for time I would comfortably have sat down and agree to do it another day.

What he said was correct, that the shipping lines out of Europe, United Kingdom, Australia etc. charge whatever freight rates they feel like. There is nothing we can do about it, but what this Convention seeks to do is to provide a situation where Third World Countries can now develop their own shipping lines, and when I talk about developing their own shipping lines I do not mean buying ships like the North Point, I am talking about buying decent ships. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Battle ships). Probably they might be better than the North Point.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will not be having any cross talk, please.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Now, Third World countries, when they come into their own shipping rights, would still not be able to ply on the routes or to get cargo in their holds, because the established routes have got those tied up on a commercial basis, but the Conference says that if you establish a shipping line that you are entitled to move 40% of the freight coming from any port in to your port, you are entitled to carry 40% from your port, and you have what they call Third Conference rights for another 20% of the freight, and you can designate which line can move that freight.

The hon. member asked about sanctions. Those are the sanctions, because you can now say to the exporting country, we want 40% of that freight to be carried by X shipping line to be brought from your country into our country and they would have to comply with it if they are parties to the Convention. That is the penalty, those are the sanctions that the hon. member is asking about. He cannot say there is no sanction. He talks about putting a ship in prison. The Convention agrees, it makes provision for shippers, representatives, everybody to discuss rates and conditions, and we discussed this in this Parliament before, so the hon. member is not really looking at the Convention today.

Now, on one point I agree with him. He talks about the seamen in Barry who refused to sail a ship because goods were coming on the Geest Line to Barbados and St. Lucia. I do not know about that. I know that Acme Engineering was waiting for material to complete 30 buses for the Transport Board, but because of the failure of the ship to sail because of a Union strike, the goods have not

yet all arrived in Barbados, so that is a delay. But what I want to say now, and I agree with him about one thing, we have a \$29 million port down there that the people of Barbados have to pay for, and I take great objection to seamen who get on board ships in England and other places and come to Barbados, and as soon as they get to Barbados they run off the ship and say they are on strike and even attempt to fight with the Manager of the Port Authority and say they are not going to let the ship sail, or they would not even agree to put the ship out of the Deep Water Harbour into the Carenage where it could stay if they want to be on strike.

I have had a chat with the gentleman who represents the NUS in Barbados, and I hear him talk about tying up boats in this harbour and shutting down this harbour. But I want everybody out there to know that all the disputes where seamen have come to Barbados and sat down saying they are on strike never occur anywhere else in this region. The disputes arose particularly in the Far East, and the NUS Representative in the Far East has been telling seamen not to do anything and asking them where they were going, the next port is X, the next port is Y, and then we are getting to Barbados, and they would send Telex messages from the Far East to Barbados and then tell them when they get to Barbados they should run off and say they were on strike. I want the world, I want the whole of Barbados to know that.

Barbados has been made the port of convenience by NUS around the world, but we have taken steps to deal with that, because we have adjusted the rates for ships lying in the Deep Water Harbour and we have given the Harbour Master the right to determine whether they are there on a genuine cause to discharge cargo or whether they are there on strike. We have also looked at the new Shipping Bill and we have adjusted that as well to give Barbados the right to sell any ship that sits down there unjustly, because I do not believe that anybody in Barbados should take it upon themselves to settle the differences of seamen when they could have been settled outside Barbadian waters. Persons outside are protecting their own ports and trying to cause congestion in this port.

Now, the hon. member is correct when he says that we have got to watch what is happening in our port. I agree with him on that, but coming back to this Bill, I believe this is the only way that developing countries can begin to regulate shipping to and from their ports. It is the first step. He says that nobody in the Caribbean knows about shipping. Jamaica has established a School of Maritime Services, CARICOM has discussed and it was agreed that a school would be set up, one branch of the school would have been in St. Vincent and the other branch would have been in St. Lucia. These plans are still being worked upon. Rome was not built in a day

and he knows full well that there were no vets being trained in the region — and it is sad that the good Dr. Eric Williams has passed away — because he was the instrument behind CARICOM to establish a new school of medicine and a school of veterinary medicine alongside it, and had set aside land in Trinidad for the building of the complex. We never used to train doctors in Barbados, we now train doctors in the Caribbean, so if we are now getting to the point of training people in shipping in the Caribbean, we are moving forward, we are not sitting back, we are not being idle, we are trying to recognise the deficiencies in the region and we are making plans to rectify those deficiencies.

I would ask that all sides of the House join in approving this legislation, because as I say, this is one step nearer to justification in dealing with the shipping rates that affect the entire Third World countries.

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

3.55 p.m.

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

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

Clause 4 was called.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part.

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

Mr. ALLEYNE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if he could enlighten us as to when the companion Bill to the Shipping Acts is likely to be brought before this Chamber. My understanding is that there was to be another Bill, companion to the Shipping Act, which would have charged a levy to ships which were registered in Barbados, and this Clause deals with the question as to when this particular Bill is to come into effect. I would like to know if that companion Bill to the Shipping Act is to come into effect on the same day or earlier than the one which we are now considering.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Bill he is talking about really has little relation to this particular Bill, but what he is talking about, we have looked at the charges which would be involved in ships being registered in Barbados, but because there are several matters bound up in this, the International Business Companies Act, the Offshore Shipping Bill and several other Bills etc., it has

been decided to bring one Bill which will deal with financial transactions of that nature, and I do not want a Bill which sets out a financial regime specifically for shipping, but all that would be incorporated in one Bill which would find a relevant place in the Laws of Barbados dealing with charges, exemptions etc. which would be for easy reference in relation to matters of that nature.

The question that Clause 4 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 3.

THE DOGS (LICENSING AND CONTROL) ACT, 1981

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health to move the second reading of a Bill to repeal the Dogs Act and make new provisions for the control of dogs.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, in moving the passage of the second reading of this Bill, I think that there are a few facts and figures which I need to draw to the attention of hon. members. First of all I think that I first want to point out that this Bill is really an attempt to consolidate the legislation in respect of the control and licensing of dogs, and as the Addendum states very clearly, it is making certain new provisions in respect of the licensing and control of dogs. I am hoping that this would be the last time in a long time that it would be necessary for this Honourable Chamber to entertain legislation of this sort, and that this consolidation will close a number of loose ends and a number of open avenues so that we can better administer the whole matter of the licensing and control of dogs.

It is of course, Mr. Speaker, a very well known fact that the Animal Control Centre which is getting to be known as the Dog Pound in Barbados is located at Walmer Lodge in the parish of St. Michael.
4.05 p.m.

Since that Control Centre was set up and went into operation, I think it might interest hon. members to know, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the total number of dogs captured between December, 1978, and February of this year,

February, 1981, was 5,128 and that the total amount of revenue — if the Honourable Minister of Finance was in his seat, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that this would raise a smile from him — the total amount of revenue raised between December, 1978 and February, 1981 in respect of licenses was \$177,050.90.

To give a more recent picture to show that the programme is as vigorous as it was, or perhaps more so since it started, I would point out that for the last quarter, January to December, 1980, the whole of last year, we picked up 2,809 dogs and that the amount of revenue raised between April 1980 and February, 1981 was \$36,839.50. That is simply to give hon. members, Mr. Speaker, Sir, some idea of the quantity of work that is done at the Animal Control Centre.

We now have more vehicles, courtesy of the United Nations Development Programme, and we are hoping, as I stated a few weeks ago during the debate of the Appropriation Bill, we hope that we will very soon be able to move into shift work at the Animal Control Centre because it turns out that it is easier to pick up stray dogs in the cool of the early morning hours and late at night when their owners let them out, the high-classed stray dogs that is, and the ones who roam in packs who do tend to move at nights.

With those two bits of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can tell us what the programme cost. I understand that from December, 1978 to February, 1981 the revenue raised was \$177,000. There are too many carcasses of dead bodies of dogs and cats on the streets of Barbados which we do not see in any other part of the World. I have never been to Delhi or Calcutta and I do not really want to go because it is depressing enough to see the poverty that exist in the Caribbean so I cannot tell you anything about out there but in any of the other parts of the World that I have been there is no place that you see so many dead dogs and dead cats in the road.

Now, does the Minister include the ones which have been run over by motor vehicles in her body count or of the 5,128 dogs which have been captured or picked up because they could be picked up by the Sanitation Department after death, AD and BC so perhaps the Minister can enlighten us on that.

I should also like to find out from the Minister specifically how much money has been spent on the programme and how many people have been employed

on the programme or currently employed in and around the Animal Control Unit Centre.

The other matter which the Hon. Minister probably is competent to enlighten us on, Mr. Speaker, is why we need so many amendments to the Dogs Act in such a short space of time, in less than three years' time.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in respect of the first question of the cost of the programme. If the hon. member for St. John had been attending to the business of this Honourable Chamber during the debate of the Appropriation Bill it would have been clearly pointed out to him during the long drawn out debate on Health what the cost of the Animal Control Centre is. It is to be found on Page 100, Head 41, Subhead 18, of the Estimates.

The hon. member did not attend the debate on the Appropriation Bill as he ought to have done, as the taxpayers pay him to do and I will refer him to Head 41, Subhead 18 if he wants to know what the cost of the Animal Control Centre is.

In respect of the second question about run-over dogs. The figures given do not include the number of dogs run-over in the streets and in respect of the amendments to the Act, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is entirely a matter for the draftsmen in the Attorney General Chambers. I have the file in respect of this Resolution here with me and if members could see they would see where I have written on my disgust at the number of amendments.

It appeared that the Attorney General's Chambers were doing amendments also to the Animals Act and a certain amount of confusion seems to have been reigning from time to time but the fact that this has been amended for so many times has nothing to do with me. I am not a Lawyer in this capacity, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am not a Lawyer paid for by the Government. I am no longer registered to practise as an Attorney. I am the Minister of Health.

The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Adviser for the Barbados Government and he is the person who would be best able to say why there are so many amendments to this Bill but it is a source of great disgust to me as it is to other hon. members that we have to come back to this Honourable Chamber on so many occasions with Dog Legislation and that is why I said in my opening remarks that I hoped that this would be the last time in a long time that we would be coming before this House with this kind of legislation and I hope that the consolidation has really tied up all the loose ends.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of elucidation. The hon. member said that I did not attend the debate on the Estimates. That is completely incorrect. I attended the debate on two days and I did not attend on the other days because I was ill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please. A member must rise to elucidate the moment he perceives that what he has said has been misrepresented by a member in this Honourable House. The member cannot sit in his seat and allow the member who is addressing the Chair to complete his or her speech and then rise after that person moves that the Bill be read a second time to get up and elucidate. I do not hear the point of elucidation. I do not hear.
4.15 p.m.

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

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, 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. Part I.

Part I was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Part I stands part.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister made a statement in relation to this Bill. I was asking a question about how much revenue was raised over a period and how much it costs and she said that if I had been here during the Debate on the Estimates, as I was paid to do I would know. I consider that unnecessarily rude and provocative on the part of the Honourable Minister, but I will excuse her this time.

The Honourable Minister knows that I was here on two days and that I protested on the chilliness of the air-conditioning and that I was ill and that for the last three days of the Estimates, I could not attend. The Honourable Minister was ashamed to say that the cost of running the Animal Control Unit is projected for 1981-82 at

\$233,388 and because the Approved Estimates were \$138,956 for 1980-81, but that does not disclose the actual cost over the period of which she spoke and therefore this cost of \$233 388 has got to be based on some figure which she has not vouchsafed to Honourable Members of this Honourable House and we do not expect when we ask polite questions in here that we will get impolite answers from any Honourable Ministers because if they want to be impolite, we are as capable of exchanging blows as anybody else. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must understand....You have gone into it, but it would have been nice if you had done it in Part II.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would be willing, if you want it in Part II Sir, if you want it in Part I and Part II.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Have you finished your contribution?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: For Part I, yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

The question that Part I stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part II was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Part II stands part.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, in seconding that, let me take the opportunity to clarify and in answer to a query made by the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John, the position about this Bill.

The Dogs Act was passed in 1975 Sir, it was 1975 No. 26. Between 1975 and now, there has only been one amendment to the Act and that was contained in the Animals Act which was passed last year. As I understand it, there have been no further amendments to the Act, but what we sought to do in the Animals Act was to transfer to the Animals Act all questions affecting civil liability for animals and since a dog is an animal, we so transferred that Section which was the original Part V to this Act and therefore, this Act deals primarily only with the licensing and control of animals, but not with liability in Civil Law, as I understand it. I wish therefore to take the opportunity to clarify the fact that the members of my Chambers had merely dealt with legislative policy, as enunciated and there had been no pethora of amendments to this Bill, as the impression may have been given.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not sure why the Honourable Attorney General got up. Now, that he

has sat down, I am no wiser as to the cantankerous unnecessary reaction of the Honourable Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is being personal.

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please leave that out.

Mr. TAITT: Sir, I am dealing with the manner in which an Honourable Minister of the Crown responds to this. Parliament seeks to find out from the Honourable Minister.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The comments of the Honourable Member I find, take no place under this Part. Please take your seat, you are out of order.

Mr. TAITT: Can I not respond to the Honourable Attorney General.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You invited me Sir. Mr. Chairman and I will now deal with Part II.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I made no such intimation. You would like me to feel that a bark is worse than a bite.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not saying that the Honourable Minister's bark is worse than her bite, I have never been bitten by the Honourable Minister. I really would like the Honourable Minister to help me, since the statistics which she quoted do not include the number of dogs run over by motor vehicles. It seems to me that there must be a large number of animals still which are escaping the clutches of the Animal Control Unit because they would not be run over. The whole idea of this Act was to control the straying of dogs particularly upon the highway not merely to collect revenue from dog owners and I am not satisfied that there are not still a large number of uncontrolled and stray dogs on the streets of Barbados to the detriment of motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and the public health which is within the province of the Honourable Minister.

Now, there is another aspect to it. You are asking our Sanitation workers to scrape up dead dogs, they are being taken to your constituency, are they part of the general garbage or are they treated separately? Do we have an animal crematorium, or are they pulverised with the general garbage in the same way that the waste paper from the Advocate-News is being pulverised? You know I think that thinking people want to know these things because a public health hazard may be being created right there in your constituency, or on the borders.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We have no dog, nor cat cemetery in St. George.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You have a dog pulverisation plant though.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not in St. George North.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Where is that then, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You check.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am sorry, on the border of your constituency. Now, it may sound as if I am being very trivial, I am being very serious because I am very concerned about the number of bloated corpses of dogs that I see with flies around them sometimes over the weekends when the Sanitation services is not functioning. I am wondering whether we should not have a special service. I do not mean a church service Sir, I mean a special service for the collecting of these things. But, if the control Unit were doing its job properly, or properly staffed adequately staffed, then these dogs would not be on the street to get run over. That was the point which I am making and it is a very serious point, but since they are on the street, they are being run over and really it is not only an eye sore, but it is a hazard to public health and then, it is a hazard to the health of the people in Workman's, St. George where the plant is. 4.25 p.m.

It is a hazard to the health of the people in Workmans, in St. George where the plant is, and it also must be a very objectionable kind of function that our sanitation workers could have to perform in addition to ordinary garbage that they have to be scraping up, the remains of decomposing bodies of animals.

The question that Part II stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part III was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Part III stand part, let me say that there are still many stray dogs in Barbados, there are more stray dogs being born every day, it is an on-going programme.

I have never suggested for one moment that we picked up all of the stray dogs; 5,128 dogs cannot be all the stray dogs in Barbados. What I do know is that we picked up a lot of the stray dogs. During November last year, 1980, the Sanitation Service workers were on strike for 18 days, and we saw piles of garbage in and out Bridgetown, St. Michael, St. James, Christ Church, in the heavily populated residential areas, and I saw letters in

the Press, I got calls at the Ministry of Health and other ways to inform me that the public was satisfied that we had picked up a lot of the stray dogs from those residential areas, because if we had not, the piles of garbage would have been stripped apart and we would have had streets of garbage instead of piles of garbage in November of last year.

The dead dogs are not a threat to you or your constituency or where you live, Mr. Chairman, because they do not go to the Workmans Pulverisation Plant. We have a modern incinerator down at the Dog Pound, which is a gift from the United Nations Development Programme. It has cost the Government of Barbados nothing, and these dogs are incinerated in a very sanitary and humane manner.

It is the business of the Sanitation Services Authority to pick up some of these carcasses and to deal with some of these carcasses, not only on the road, we had the problem with the cow in the field in the constituency of the hon. member for St. Michael North East just a few days ago and that problem was solved. They have ways and means of dealing with this. There is a lot of new technology to deal with this, sanitation is not what it was fifty years ago. The sanitation man is not, as is popularly believed, a man with a broom and a shovel anymore.

Mr. Chairman, you do not have to worry about any threats or hazards to health at Workmans or anywhere else in Barbados, this matter is well in hand.

I beg to move that Part III stand part.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to hear the Hon. Minister say that all the stray dogs have not been picked up, because in the parish of St. Philip, I want to let her know that only a few days ago, approximately at 6.30 p.m. I was taking care of my sheep, as a shepherd does due to the fact that I will retire soon, and I saw approximately a dozen stray dogs passing near my home. I am wondering if the Minister has any plans for stray dogs in the rural areas, because it is known that at night you have all kinds of dogs roaming through the various districts, and I would draw to her attention that these dogs can destroy sheep in the various districts, and therefore in her planning I do hope that she will not only consider the City and St. Michael, but that she will take into consideration the various parishes in the rural areas and find a solution to this problem, which is a costly one to people who are taking care of or rearing sheep.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, very briefly, Sir. The Minister has said that she did not claim that they had collected all the stray dogs but the matter is well under control. I plead guilty to not having been

present at that part of the discussion of the Estimates which dealt with the Ministry of Health, because I would have taken her up on that immediately, and probably I would have been of some assistance to the hon. member for St. Philip South who has just sat down.

On page 101 under Head 41 — Ministry of Health and National Insurance, Subhead 18 — Animal Control, the explanatory note which calls in the Estimates for an expenditure of \$233,000 it says this: "This activity is concerned chiefly with the control of dogs against losses of livestock." (ASIDE). Now, the hon. member did not accuse the hon. member for St. Philip South of not being here, because he was here, he was not ill like myself.

Now, it also goes on to say this, that the increase in the number of stray dogs with the possibility of spreading zoonotic diseases is also causing serious concern within the Ministry, but it does not cause any concern to the Minister, because the Minister says it is under control, but the note in the Estimates which were passed less than two weeks ago says that the increase in the number of stray dogs with the possibility of spreading disease is causing serious concern, and she gets up and ridicules me. She was right, I did not read the

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: In the middle of a speech?

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was on my feet, Sir, and I was interrupted.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You were on your feet, what, try and sit down.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is not a point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, please. You will be able to do it at a later stage. Sit down.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Under what rule am I being asked to sit down at this stage?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Under what rule?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is in no position to question my ruling. The hon. member knows very well what recourse he has.

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, 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 4.55 p.m. 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 sitting accordingly.
4.35 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 1 under Government Business.

THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to present the Annual Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker,

Almost five years ago I rose in this Venerable Chamber to deliver the first Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals of the Government which I have the honour to head. That Budget was introduced against the background of an international economy still recoiling from the effects of massive and unprecedented increases in oil prices, and of a domestic economy characterised by high levels of unemployment, little or no real growth, and low levels of investment. I indicated that the restoration of confidence and promotion of renewed growth would require the formulation and implementation of short-term policies designed to strengthen the public finances and the balance of payments, and of medium-term policies aimed at overcoming obstacles to development by continuing the process of structural change. The Budgets which I have presented in the past four years have sought, through the implementation of appropriate fiscal and monetary policies to achieve the short-run objectives, while the Development Plan laid before Parliament in 1979 addressed the development issues facing this country, and proposed policies to resolve them.

The international economic environment has remained troubled and indeed in 1981 the world is faced with the prospect of a contraction in the growth of international trade and with the continued co-existence in the developed world of high rates of inflation, sluggish growth, and levels of unemployment in some of these countries which have not been experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930's. Because of these unfavourable external circumstances over which we have no control, I have consistently stressed the need in small countries for a high degree of efficiency in economic management and of the need for all those engaged in economic decision-making in both the private and public sectors to have available in a timely fashion a flow of dependable and comprehensive data.

The results of this systematic approach to economic management in Barbados are now evident for all those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Between 1976 and 1980 the level of unemployment has been halved, the level of investment has more than doubled and Barbados has recorded four consecutive years of real growth, achieving in 1979 a record increase in real output of approximately 8%. In fact in the five year period real GDP has increased by over one fifth and nominal per capita income has almost doubled, going from \$3,138 to \$5,868 or almost US\$3,000 for every man, woman and child in our country. As a result of this sustained economic performance, the fiscal position of Government has been strengthened and a substantial reduction in the incidence of direct taxation has been made possible. In addition, liberal increases in wages and salaries were granted in 1980 in both the public and private sectors, and it can be stated incontrovertibly that all Barbadians have been able to enjoy the fruits of this quite remarkable achievement.

I certainly do not wish to create the impression that it is the Government alone which has made these achievements possible, achievements of which we can all be proud. The Government has created a climate of stability and confidence in which investment decisions can be made and carried forward without fear. The private sector has responded

admirably, and not only large business enterprises, but the small business sector as well has been active in seeking out and exploiting new avenues for the productive use of our resources. Workers' organisations too, responded to the Government's call for moderation of wage demands when the situation so required, and private individuals, both as workers and consumers have responded to the needs of policy.

Mr. Speaker I want to make it clear that it is not my intention this evening to create an atmosphere of complacency in Barbados. Indeed, it should be apparent to all observers of the international scene that the world around us in the next two to three years is not going to be a particularly comfortable place for developing countries. In the past eighteen months oil prices have increased by 15%, and the combined GDP of the OECD countries which contain some of the world's major developed economies has hardly increased. Against this background of rising unemployment and high levels of inflation, many Governments in the developed world have found their resolve to resist the call for trade protectionism weakening. The new administration in the United States is seeking to reverse the economic decline of that great country by instituting a series of bold and innovative but very controversial policies. The short-term outlook for the world economy therefore remains sombre and as on previous occasions when we have been faced with uncertainty, I feel it necessary to repeat earlier calls for the cooperation and restraint of the Barbadian public in enabling us to chart our way through these rough waters successfully. In particular, I believe that we should heed the words of warning of one of the most illustrious sons of the West Indies, Sir Arthur Lewis, who in a recent address in Jamaica stressed the need for Caribbean countries to become more self-reliant. Self-reliance requires discipline and restraint. It requires increasing savings and restraining consumption. It means producing and consuming more of what we use. Above all, it means not making excessive demands on our productive capacity, and not living only for today, but thinking also of tomorrow.

Developments in the International Economy 1980

The slow-down which started in the international economy during 1979 reached crisis proportions in 1980. The performance of the major developed economies was characterised by a sharp decline in real output, rising unemployment levels, persistent inflation and historically high interest rates which served to induce a decline in investment and consumption expenditure. The performance of the developing countries in general was even more disastrous. These countries not only recorded a decline in output, high unemployment and inflation, but were also faced with rising payments imbalances and debt service problems as a result of the sluggishness of world trade, escalating oil prices, and depressed prices for commodities, with the exception of sugar and cotton.

Real GNP in the major industrialised countries as a group increased by only 1% in 1980 as compared with 3.3% in 1979. In the U.S.A., output fell in 1980 by $\frac{3}{4}\%$ after an increase of $\frac{2}{3}\%$ in the previous year; the crisis in production here being especially manifested in the automobile and construction sectors, where activity was depressed by the high interest rates. National output in the U.K. fell by $2\frac{1}{4}\%$ as against an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ in 1979, and the Canadian economy exactly mirrored the performance of the U.S. economy with a decline of $\frac{3}{4}\%$ in real GNP in 1980. The only points of real resilience were the Japanese, French and German economies where growth rates of 5%, 1.8% and $1\frac{3}{4}\%$ respectively, were registered. The relatively strong performance of the Japanese economy

resulted to a larger degree from the continuing competitiveness of its output in international markets and buoyant domestic demand.

The unemployment situation worsened considerably in the industrial countries during 1980. In the U.S.A. and Britain, levels were the highest since 1945, and more particularly so in the U.S.A. where the rate reached 8% in May/June. Italy, Canada and France recorded high levels of 9%, 8% and 6%, respectively.

The most disturbing feature in the performance of the international economy was undoubtedly the acceleration in world inflation. In the industrial countries, the average annual rate of increase in consumer prices was 12% in 1980 as compared with 9% in 1979. The rapid growth in prices was especially pronounced in the U.K. and Italy, where increases of over 18% were recorded. In the U.S.A. the rate of inflation eased slightly to 12.7% from a high of 13.5% in 1979, under the influence of a restrictive monetary policy. The phenomenon of double-digit inflation, usually thought to be endemic only to developing countries, also afflicted Canada and France where rates of 10.7% and 13% were reached. The universality of these large increases in consumer prices during 1980 can be traced in large measure to the sharp increases in oil prices since 1979.

As mentioned before, the functioning of the developing countries was made all the more difficult by adverse conditions in the international markets for commodities and capital. 1980 was a poor year for all commodities, with the major exceptions of sugar and cotton; a result largely of the sharp recession in the OECD countries, combined with over-supply problems for the commodities concerned. The problem of weak export markets in 1980 was compounded by the high cost of borrowing on the international capital markets.

The outlook for the international economy in 1981 is less than reassuring. All indications point to a continuation of the confluence of recession, high inflation and unemployment and restrictive monetary policies in the course of the year. Fundamental to any prospects for a recovery in the short-term, will be the efficacy of the policies used to tackle the centrepiece problem of inflation.

Regional Economic Developments

The performances of most of the economies of the CARICOM community reflected, on an enlarged scale, the general features evident in that of the wider international economy. Agricultural production was severely hampered by Hurricane Allen, particularly in the LDC's and tourism was adversely affected by the recession in North America and Europe. Inflation and unemployment remained high and most CARICOM economies experienced acute balance of payments problems.

Regional sugar production fell by 3.6% from the previous year. Banana production in Jamaica and the Windward Islands decreased by 42% and 50%. Nutmeg and cocoa production in Grenada declined. On the positive side, bauxite and alumina production in Jamaica reached the highest levels in six years, and in Trinidad and Tobago, petroleum production reached its highest level ever - 95 million barrels.

During 1980, the rate of inflation accelerated in most countries; in the order of 18.7%, 26% and 22% in Trinidad, Jamaica and Guyana respectively.

The balance of payment positions of many regional economies worsened under the impact of escalating oil prices, adverse terms of trade, and declining export agricultural production. In consequence, Jamaica, Guyana, Dominica and Grenada were forced to seek balance of payment support loans from the IMF during the course of the year. On the other hand, petroleum exports by Trinidad and Tobago increased in value by 21%, and that country's foreign reserves at October, 1980 stood at TT\$5.9 billion; an increase of almost TT\$1 billion over the figure recorded at the end of 1979.

The Barbados Economy in 1980

The Barbados economy recorded its fifth successive year of growth; a solid achievement in itself, and a spectacular accomplishment when viewed in the light of developments in the international economy. GDP at factor cost increased to \$1.46 billion in current prices, or a nominal growth of 22.8% over the 1979 figure of \$1.19 billion.

However, GDP at factor cost is estimated to have grown in real terms by 5%. While this rate does not match the record 7.9% achieved in 1979, it surpasses the planned target of 4% predicted for the 1979-83 period, and is very much in line with the best rate achieved by any of the developed countries. A 5% growth rate is therefore very much a testimony to the resilience of the Barbados economy, coming as it does at a time of recession in the world economy and massive increases in the price of oil. I also make no apology for pointing out that there was no actual growth in the Barbados economy for the overall five year period 1971-1975 when the figures show that there was a real decline of just under 1%.

All the major sectors of the local economy registered increases in 1980. Output in the manufacturing sector is estimated to have expanded by 6.1% during 1980, compared with 3.8% in 1979, and exports of the sector increased by approximately 35%.

Although visitor arrivals decreased marginally in 1980 over 1979, visitors remained on the Island for a slightly longer period - an average 10.2 days against 9.9 days for 1979. As a result gross tourism receipts have increased by approximately one-quarter in 1980 over 1979. Last year's receipts from tourism were originally estimated at \$332m gross and this figure was later revised to \$369.7m. First estimates of 1980's tourist receipts were \$473.7m, but revised estimates by the Central Bank, based on a survey conducted during the year by the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, suggest that gross spending by tourists actually amounted to \$502m. Barbadians travelling abroad spent \$31m in 1980 so that net tourism receipts amounted to approximately \$471m.

Nineteen-eighty also saw the recovery of production in the sugar industry, with output reaching its highest level since 1971. Despite labour shortage problems and cane fires, production in 1980 amounted to 135,000 tonnes, an 18% increase over 1979. Given a 25.5% increase in the average export price, sugar's contribution to GDF rose by \$30 million (47.1%) to reach \$94.2 million.

The production of food crops, livestock and the catch of fish did not attain the growth rates recorded in 1979, and the increases in milk and poultry production did not make up for the decline in other non-sugar agriculture. These relative failures were due in large measure to the destruction of equipment in the fishing, poultry and dairy industries by Hurricane Allen.

Activity in the construction sector remained buoyant throughout 1980, and the value of output increased in both real and nominal terms, stimulating linkage activity in mining and quarrying, the manufacture of structural products and building materials.

An analysis of the GDP indicates that the personal consumption expenditure component although it rose to over \$1 billion for the first time, up from \$925 million in 1979, decreased in percentage terms in 1980 (64.2% down from 68.9%) while the relative share of Gross Capital Formation has increased from 22.5% in 1979 to 23.4% in 1980. This is a healthy sign, which when taken in combination with the evidence of real growth in the productive sectors, indicates an economy whose structure is fundamentally sound, and more importantly, an economy which is making the necessary provision to ensure stable growth over the medium and long term.

Prices

Persistent inflation in the economies of our major trading partners together with internal factors such as wage demands in the construction sector, and shortages of vegetables, poultry and fish, exerted upward pressure on prices during 1980. The average annual rate of inflation for 1980 was 14.5% compared to 13.5% in 1979. While this rate of inflation is relatively high, two factors should be considered in association with it, to get a balanced perspective of the matter. The first is that the rise in current income for 1980 far exceeded the rise in prices; indicating a real improvement in the standard of living of the people. The second is that our rate of inflation did not get out of line with that of our major trading partners, such as would reduce the competitiveness of our output in foreign markets. In summary, from both a production and consumption perspective, our recorded rate of inflation did not reach a crisis proportion in 1980, as it did for example in 1973 to 1975.

Employment

The quarterly Continuous Household Sample Surveys from which employment figures are obtained were discontinued for six months during 1980, to allow enumerators to work on the Census. A new phase of the survey recommenced in October 1980, and the sample size was increased from 26 Enumeration Districts (based on the 1970 population census) to 45 Enumeration Districts (based on the 1980 population census). The revised sample size will provide more precise estimates of the characteristics to be measured.

From the surveys conducted during 1980 it is derived that the total labour force in 1980 averaged 114.8 thousand persons, of whom 100.3 thousand were employed. This compared with a labour force of 107.9 thousand in 1979 and an equivalent number

employed figure of 94.1 thousand persons. The economy, in generating a 5% growth rate also created net employment for an additional 6.2 thousand persons.

The average number of persons unemployed in 1980 stood at 14.5 thousand persons, representing 12.6% of the labour force. It is to be noted that the unemployment rate for 1979 was 12.8%. There was, in consequence, some marginal improvement in the unemployment rate during the course of the year.

Significantly, the unemployment rate for the last quarter of 1980 was 11.4% of a total labour force during the period of 115,300 persons. These indices reflect the seasonal buoyancy of the economy during that period in question, but they also indicate that there was some overall improvement in employment generation during the course of 1980.

An analysis of the numbers unemployed for the January to March period reveals that of the 15,700 unemployed in that period, some 5,300 or just over one-third never had any previous working experience. Of the labour force without previous work experience some 3,500 or 66% were women.

It is also important to note that of the 15,700 unemployed during the January to March, 1980 period, 10,900 persons, or more than two-thirds fell within the 15 to 24 years age group. Taking all these indices as a whole, it becomes obvious that the crux of our unemployment problems centres around the school leavers, predominately women, who have never had any work experience. With this firm knowledge we can now chart the necessary strategies to address this problem at its source the problem being not so much one of the growth of the economy, but the skills of the young.

Balance of Payments

Barbados recorded an overall balance of payments surplus for the third successive year. This performance was based on the combination of two sets of factors. In the first instance, the rate of growth in current account receipts outstripped the rate of increase in import expenditure, giving rise to a contraction in the current account deficit in 1980 as compared with 1979. Secondly, the country attracted an inflow of capital into both the private and public sectors, sufficient to finance the current account deficit and to increase the foreign exchange reserves.

Total foreign exchange receipts from exports, and net services and transfers rose from \$762.6 million in 1979 to \$1,017 million in 1980; an increase of 33.4%. This export thrust was led principally by increased output in both sugar and manufacturing, and a 25% rise in gross earnings from tourism. Specifically, sugar exports earned \$42 million more than in 1979, manufactured goods, valued at \$224.5 million, increased by 35% in 1980, and gross earnings from tourism amounted to \$502 million.

In the process, our exports to Caricom, which had increased by a mere 10% in 1979, rose by a record 59.4% in 1980, and our extra-regional exports increased by 45% in 1980 over 1979.

The country's import bill in 1980 amounted to \$1,049 million up 26.3% from the 1979 figure of \$830.5 million. This left a current account deficit of \$32 million in 1980, as compared with an equivalent deficit of \$67.9 million in 1979; and indeed, the current account deficit reached its lowest level since 1976.

During 1980, the country attracted \$86.6 million in long-term inflows; an amount which enabled it to finance the \$32 million current account deficit, reduce commercial banks long-term liabilities by \$8 million, repay \$15 million of the 1977 IMF balance of payments support loan, and to increase its foreign exchange reserves by \$25.1 million.

It is to the country's credit that, in spite of the escalating cost of fuel and the substantial rise in the price of other imported goods, we yet managed to generate a healthy foreign exchange surplus in 1980. It also merits emphasis that Barbados has been one of the few energy deficient developing countries which has managed to avoid the crippling debt service and payments problem which are now very much a feature of the international economy, and that our Island has not fallen into what has come to be known as the "debt trap".

In summary, the principal economic indicators for 1980 strongly suggest an economy whose structure is fundamentally sound. Among other things, we experienced a solid 5% growth in real income. All of our major export sectors expanded. Unemployment decreased marginally, and the rate of increase in prices was kept within tolerable limits. Gross investment increased as a percentage of total domestic expenditure and the country's foreign exchange reserves also rose. All this, at a time of world recession, spiralling oil prices, increases in borrowing rates, increases in world inflation and contraction in world trade.

Financial Review

Revenue

I turn now, Mr. Speaker to the review of the domestic financial year ending today. The current revenue for the financial year 1980-81 was originally estimated at \$395.1 million. However, actual collections at the end of February, 1981, suggest that total revenue for the year will amount to \$447.9 million. This represents an increase of \$52.8 million or approximately 13% over the amount of revenue which was collected during fiscal year 1979-80.

In spite of the very substantial Income Tax concessions granted in the 1980 budgetary proposals, this outstanding revenue performance was achieved through the combination of increased economic activity and the reasonably good results of the restructured Consumption Tax.

Expenditure

Current expenditure for the year 1980-81 was originally estimated at \$371.5M. During the year under review, supplementary provisions amounted to \$58.5M. Thus, the total amount of expenditure authorised by Parliament was \$430.0M.

Government, in pursuit of its declared policy of financing part of capital expenditure from current revenue, took positive steps to restrain the growth of current expenditure in spite of very sizeable salary increases which were granted to public sector employees during 1980. Consequently, actual expenditure patterns to date indicate that the out-turn figure for this year's current expenditure will be \$422.5M. (This represents an increase of \$81.8M or approximately 24% over that for fiscal year 1979-80). It is therefore expected that there will be a surplus on current account for fiscal year 1980-81 of the order of \$25.4M, compared with \$22.1M in 1979-80. This surplus was achieved despite the record wage increase and record cuts in direct taxation and illustrates more dramatically than anything else the growth in the economy in 1980-81.

The approved estimates of capital expenditure for the year 1980-81 amounted to \$162.5M. During the year, supplementary provisions amounting to \$24.8M were granted. Therefore, the total capital expenditure approved by Parliament was \$197.3M but actual spending suggests that by today, the level of expenditure will be \$120.9M. This represents an increase of \$34.1M or 39% over capital expenditure for the financial year 1979-80. The overall deficit for 1980-81 is estimated at \$95.5M, compared with \$65M in 1979-80, and is a manageable 6.5% of GDP.

Public Debt

The Public Debt on February 28, 1981 was \$472.8M, exclusive of the Government overdraft at the Central Bank. Local borrowings were \$307.8M while the remaining \$165.0M represented foreign debt. The cost of servicing the external debt continues to be very low by any standards and will be approximately 2.6% of total export earnings by the end of the financial year. The cost last year was 2.7%.

Public Finances 1981-82

Current revenue for fiscal year 1981-82 is estimated at \$483.7M. Therefore, with current expenditure estimated at \$469.5M, a current account surplus of \$14.2M is anticipated. With capital expenditure estimated at \$200.9M, the overall deficit is officially estimated at \$186.4M, although as in former years it is not expected that the entire capital allocation can be spent.

During the coming year, efforts will be continued to restrain the growth of current expenditure and various administrative measures will be introduced to improve the efficiency of all revenue collecting agencies.

Review of Major Budgetary Proposals - 1977-1980

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, our system of Government is such that under normal circumstances the party in power forms the Government for 5 year periods with such repetitions as the electorate allows us. This is therefore the fifth occasion on which as Minister responsible for Finance I have had the honour of addressing this House while presenting the annual budgetary proposals. I consider it appropriate that before dealing with the 1981 proposals I should make brief reference to some of the very many important budgetary measures which the Government has introduced between 1977 and 1980 and which have contributed significantly to the undeniable improvement in the standard

of living of the Barbadian people over the period. I have always in my Budgets attempted to take the public fully into my confidence and today I also hope that the public will better be able to appreciate the significance of the proposals which will shortly be made and which are designed to consolidate the achievements made during the last four years and to pave the way for future prosperity.

Since September 2, 1976 the major thrust of Government's fiscal and monetary policies have been directed at the following areas:

1. Restructuring of the tax system to encourage greater individual effort and to achieve a more equitable distribution of the national income and wealth of the country;
2. Reduction and eventual elimination of unemployment;
3. Conservation and rationalisation in the use of energy;
4. Protection of the Balance of Payments;
5. Mobilisation of domestic savings for productive investment;
6. Improvement of the housing stock and the promotion of greater property ownership.

Restructuring of the Tax System

On the question of restructuring the tax system, you will recall, Mr. Speaker that as early as 1977 I indicated that the Income Tax system had become so burdensome to the tax-payers of this country, that it was proving to be a disincentive to greater individual effort. This development resulted from the combination of a relatively progressive rate structure and phenomenal increases in inflation during the early 1970s. That is why, Sir, in 1977 I took immediate action to restore the purchasing power of all tax-payers by increasing certain allowances and by introducing a tax credit to protect the lower income groups. This was followed by the elimination of certain tax rates in 1979 simultaneous with sizeable increases in personal allowances. The exercise was carried a step further in 1980 when in what amounted to a 30% reduction in income tax, the entire rate structure was revised downwards, the taxable income bands were made wider, and the tax credits were increased. These adjustments resulted in some \$41.0million being returned into the hands of taxpayers, thereby increasing their purchasing power very substantially without in any way reducing either the quality or quantity of the services provided by the public sector. In fact, the services were improved, the standard of living of all pensioners was raised, charges for school meals were abolished, and parents of school children were given financial assistance for school uniforms, to mention only a few things.

I take great comfort in the fact that the after-tax distribution of income in Barbados is now such that it is rated and recognised as being among the few countries of the

world with reasonably even distribution of income. However, there is still room for improvement and later in my speech I will introduce further measures which will address this issue.

Unemployment

During the past four years, various concessions have been made to industry, including agriculture and fisheries, so as to create the kind of atmosphere in which they would prosper. The steady progress made on the industrial front has led to a sharp decline in the level of unemployment. The success of our attack on unemployment was assisted by the Employment Levy which remained in effect until 1980. However, it is now felt that additional measures are necessary because of our determination that unemployment should be completely wiped out and later in my speech I will indicate how we intend to move towards achieving that objective in the not too distant future.

Energy Policy

Mr. Speaker you are aware of the gravity of the energy problem which now confronts the nations of the world. Government's policies have been aimed at conserving and rationalising energy consumption so as to ensure that financing the country's imports of petroleum products does not use up a growing and disproportionate proportion of scarce foreign exchange. As a result, pricing and fiscal policies have been adopted which are intended not only to discourage unnecessary oil consumption but are also aimed at encouraging the use of alternative sources of energy. One such measure is the 1980 budgetary Proposal which permits an income tax deduction for the total costs of installation of solar water heaters in addition to the duty concessions already granted on the imported raw materials used in their manufacture. Some idea of the relative success of these efforts and of measures to increase domestic crude oil output may be gleaned from the fact that over the past five years, imports of feed stock for the local refinery as a percentage of total imports only increased marginally from 5.7% to 6.7% inspite of the nearly threefold increase in world oil prices in the period.

Protection of Balance of Payments

The policy on energy is also tied in with efforts to protect the balance of payments position of the country. As a small open economy, our island is very vulnerable to fluctuations in the international economy. Nevertheless, that does not signify that we cannot take certain defensive measures to protect ourselves to the fullest extent possible. That is why, from time to time the Central Bank has instituted certain policies with respect to the cost and availability of credit in order to channel resources into the sectors generating foreign exchange savings and earnings as a means of strengthening the balance of payments position. Additionally, quotas on the value of imports of certain goods — especially motor vehicles — have had to be imposed to conserve foreign exchange for food and income-generating purposes. As a result of adherence to these policies even in the face of unreasonable and unreasoning criticism from persons who should know better, the country has been able to enjoy continuous real growth without a crippling foreign exchange constraint.

Domestic Savings

Another major concern, has been the level of national savings. The public sector finances have been turned around during the past four years to such an extent, that current account deficits have been turned into surpluses and a portion of capital expenditure is now financed from current revenue.

Also, various measures have been taken by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank to restrain consumption and to encourage savings. These measures include concessions to credit unions, income tax allowances for purchases of National Bonds, tax concessions in respect of issue of bonus shares and of issuance of shares to employees in lieu of cash bonus, and other savings schemes. Reasonable success has been achieved but there is still much room for improvement and on this occasion I intend to introduce further measures to encourage greater savings. It is hoped that any increase in savings will result in investment and therefore greater job opportunities.

Improvement in Housing

Finally, between 1977 and 1980, the Government has taken a number of important steps to encourage people to improve their housing stock and to permit the landless masses in our midst to own a portion of land. Housing Development Bonds have been issued and housing developers given important fiscal incentives to produce houses for sale. For the first time, last year, chattel house owners were permitted to claim, as an income tax deduction, repairs carried out during the year. In addition, a Chattel House Mortgage Fund has been established to ensure availability of loans for purchase and repair of Chattel Houses. Finally, there was that very important piece of social legislation which permits those persons who have been living on plantation land for several years to become owners of that land at a very small price.

Employment Levy

The Employment Levy was introduced in 1977. At that time, unemployment was extremely high and it was thought that the situation was so serious as to warrant unusual and untried methods to deal with such a problem. Therefore an Employment Levy was introduced. This was a novel scheme and many of its detractors were very critical and sceptical about its potential for success. However, Mr. Speaker I am happy to report that it was most successful as a fiscal stimulus to promote employment. This was most noticeable from the increase in employment opportunities in the service sector since businesses recognised their entitlement to refunds and considered the additional jobs worthwhile.

Annually, approximately 50% of the Employment Levy was refunded. This is further evidence that it was successful. The levy was never conceived as a tax measure and that is why from its inception I indicated that it was designed to deal with a specific problem and would remain in effect for 3 years. Therefore, the levy will not be applied after income year 1980. In addition, the unemployment figures now show a reduction among adults and a concentration among school leavers. These young persons, find themselves in that situation mainly because they do not possess any skills. The Employment

levy is therefore not capable of dealing with such a problem and I have decided to tackle it through increased training opportunities which I will indicate shortly.

Budgetary Proposals – 1981

And now Mr. Speaker, after that brief review of some of the many measures introduced during the last four years, I turn to the budgetary proposals for the fiscal year 1981–82. There will be certain increases in taxation and fees in order partly to accommodate concessions in other areas and I will deal first with these increases.

Court Fees

The fees charged in the Magistrates' Courts on the Civil side have been in effect since 1977, while those charged in the Criminal Court have not been increased since 1958. Salaries and other costs of providing such services have increased significantly over the years and I consider certain increases in charges to be justified. I now propose to increase the following fees with effect from April 1, 1981:

1. Supreme Court fees;
2. Magistrate's Court – civil fees;
3. Magistrate's Court – criminal fees.

The increases are set out in Appendix I to this speech, since it will be too tedious and repetitive for all of them to be repeated here. Additional revenue for the above changes is estimated at \$150,000.

Companies Registration

The fees for the registration of companies, for Trade Marks, and Patents were increased in the 1980 budgetary proposals. On that occasion it was felt that the situation warranted increases larger than those proposed but it was decided to proceed in stages. Therefore, I now propose to increase all fees for Patents, Trade Marks and Companies registration by 25% with effect from April 1, 1981 and to increase the fees for the registration of Business Names as follows:

1. Any firm or person furnishing a statement of particulars required by Section 5 which fee shall cover the issue of one certificate of registration.....\$100
2. Registration of any particulars required by 1st Schedule when such particulars are not furnished with the statement of particulars required by Section 5.....\$100
3. Statement of change within the meaning of Section 8.....\$ 50
4. Notice under Section 15 that firm or person has ceased to carry on business.....\$ 50

5. Inspection under Section 17, for each inspection.....\$ 2
6. (a) Certificate of registration under Section 17.....\$ 40
- (b) Copy or extract of any registered statement to be certified by Registrar per folio of 90 words.....\$ 2
7. Application or appeal to judge under Sections 6, 10 or 16.....\$ 20

Mr. Speaker, the fees for the registration of Business Names were last changed in 1977, and these increases are therefore overdue. I think that neither the users of Business Names nor those who register Trade Marks, Patents or Companies will object to new charges. Details of the charges affecting Trade Marks, Patents and Companies Registration are given in Appendix II to this speech.

Insurance Fees

The current fees related to the insurance business have been in effect since 1975 in spite of the fact that the administrative costs of supervising the industry have increased significantly over the years. An increase in fees is therefore justified and I propose to make the following changes with effect from January 1, 1982:

(a)	<i>Application fees</i>								\$
	Insurance Companies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	500
	Associations of Underwriters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	500
	An individual, company or a firm of Brokers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	300
	A salesman	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
(b)	<i>Annual Registration Fees</i>								
	Insurance Companies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000
	Associations of Underwriters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000
	An individual, company, or a firm of Brokers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000
	An individual, company, or a firm of Agents or sub-Agents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,200
	Salesman	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60

The above changes are expected to yield additional revenue of \$100,000.

Property Transfer Tax

Land and property prices in Barbados continue to rise and by their rising, occasion expectations of further increases. This is one of the prime causes of land speculation and, in the absence of some restraining influence, leads both to unreasonable inflation in property values and to the realisation of windfall capital profits beyond what is reasonable in a society such as ours. In the absence of a capital gains tax, vendors often

enjoy fairly substantial tax free profits when these gains are realised. In addition, there is an undoubted pressure from persons resident outside Barbados to buy land and other real property within our Island. This pressure comes mainly from North America, from Britain and from Trinidad, and, notwithstanding the controls on land purchases by outsiders, adds considerably to demand especially for better properties. I would not wish to increase the severity of the controls, for I think that the purchase of land for development in tourism or manufacturing is an acceptable vehicle for development in our still capital-short economy. Nonetheless I consider that the foreigner should pay in effect a higher premium for land in Barbados where permission is granted for a purchase. I therefore feel that the time is ripe to effect changes in the current rates of Property Transfer Tax. I propose to increase the Transfer Tax payable by vendors who are citizens or permanent residents from 2½% to 3%. The small increase of less than 1% should not evoke any outcry. I also propose to introduce a distinction between local and foreign vendors and to introduce a new rate for *foreign vendors*. I therefore propose that vendors who are not citizens or permanent residents of Barbados will pay property transfer tax at a rate of 8%. In addition, I propose to increase the tax payable by *purchasers* who are not citizens or permanent residents from 15% to 17%.

In past years changes in Property Transfer Tax have taken immediate effect. Unfortunately this has almost inevitably been followed by numbers of applications for exemption from the increases because purchasers had entered into binding agreements for sale at existing rates of tax prior to the Budget. Some time ago I made arrangements for the Bar Association to be advised that the Ministry would in future take a more restrictive view of such applications. On this occasion I do not propose that the new rates will be of immediate effect, as I intend to give all concerned an opportunity to complete existing contracts in good time, since I do not intend to entertain exemption applications from the increases I have just announced unless circumstances are quite exceptional. They will therefore take effect from July 1, 1981. The rate increases are expected to bring in revenue of \$750,000.

Mr. Speaker, these modest proposals complete the new taxation for 1981–82. I turn next to a number of proposals, some of which will involve levies of one sort or another but all of which are related to the social welfare of the people of Barbados.

Training Contribution

It has often been said that the most valuable resources which we have at our disposal are our human resources. There is therefore general agreement that if this country is to continue to prosper and to progress, all members of the labour force — workers, supervisors, managers — must be adequately trained and equipped. This is especially important as Barbados moves into a more advanced stage of development based on the production of more sophisticated goods and services. As the level of incomes in Barbados rise it will be necessary to move our human and financial resources into activities with a higher value-added component. To be competitive with other industrial and commercial countries it will be necessary to raise our level of productivity. To do this in the time span required will require greatly expanded facilities for institutional and on-the-spot

training. It is considered that to be effective this should be a national effort to which not only the Government but all employers as well who have a direct vested interest in increased productivity would contribute. Consequently, in place of the Employment Levy, I propose to require all employers to make a contribution towards an expanded and more comprehensive *National Training Programme*. The contribution will be at the rate of 0.25% of the respective wage bills and will be collected by the National Insurance Board to be paid into a Training Fund for the following uses:

1. financing the skills training programme and other training organized by the National Training Board and other approved organisations;
2. financing of the non-military National Service Training Programme to be conducted by the Defence Force;
3. a revolving fund to be used by employers for various approved training programmes;
4. financing supervisory management and small business training programmes through the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity.

Unemployment Insurance

Mr. Speaker I turn next to a major social welfare project. While it is true that Government is committed to the reduction and eventual elimination of unemployment, it must be recognised that there will be occasions when certain members of the working population will be temporarily out of a job. It is felt that when such instances occur, there should be some source of funds to permit those unfortunate persons to meet essential expenses and so maintain their purchasing power and cushion their families against hardships. From time to time proposals have therefore been canvassed for a system of unemployment insurance for Barbados. I have myself in the House of Assembly stated Government's commitment to such a scheme and representatives of the Barbados Workers' Union have also joined in the call for insurance for this purpose. I therefore propose to introduce an *Unemployment Insurance Scheme* for Barbados with effect from July 6, 1981. It will be administered by the National Insurance Board and will be merged with the Severance Payments Fund.

Contributions to the joint Severance Payment and Unemployment Scheme will be at the rate of 2% of insurable earnings to be shared equally between employers and employees. I wish to emphasize that this is an insurance scheme and will not operate in the same way as the "dole" system which is found in a number of countries. It is designed to protect those members of the labour force who have already been working for some time and who find themselves temporarily unemployed. Benefits will be received only after the person making the claim has contributed for at least 26 weeks in the current year in which that person has become unemployed. The maximum benefit per week will be \$60 and will be drawn only for a limited period. A number of persons, including most Public Servants enjoy conditions of service which generally make unem-

ployment pay inappropriate. Such persons, who are therefore not in a position to benefit from the scheme, will not be expected to make any contributions.

Full details of the scheme will be announced in good time by the National Insurance Board.

Old Age Pensions

The next item in the Government's social welfare package, Mr. Speaker, relates to Old Age Pensions, both contributory and non-contributory.

I have always contended that our senior citizens should be properly cared for because it is they who laboured so hard to build this great country of ours. Therefore, it is fitting that, in their latter days, they should be able to enjoy some of the fruits of their labour. That is why non-contributory pensions were increased in 1977 from \$13 to \$16 and again in 1979 to \$20. As I promised last year, an increase will now be given to them as further evidence of our concern and determination that as the country prospers, they will share in the prosperity. I accordingly propose to increase the non-contributory old age pension with effect from April 2, 1981 by no less an amount than 40% to \$28 per week. As a result, during the tenure of office of the present Government Old Age Pensioners will have seen their weekly pensions rise by over 100% from \$13 to \$28, something totally without precedent in the history of this country and which fulfills a promise made to the senior citizens of Barbados in the 1976 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party.

At the same time the minimum National Insurance Old Age contributory pension will be increased from \$25 to \$33 per week, thus maintaining the \$5 differential to represent the contributory element. In addition almost all National Insurance benefits will be raised. Higher pensions generally will go up by 10% as will invalidity and sickness benefits. Maternity benefits will rise by 40% and the funeral grant will go up by 75% from \$200 to \$350.

The increase in National Insurance benefits, whose full details will be published by the Board, will be financed within the National Insurance Scheme. Additional expenditure of \$7.4m by Government will result from the increase of non-contributory Old Age Pensions.

Mr. Speaker, at present retired Sugar Workers who qualify under the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund Act receive a pension of \$5 per week and when such pensioners die a funeral grant of \$100 is paid. To complete our Social Welfare package, 1981, it is proposed, effective April 2nd, to increase these pensions by 50% to \$7.50 per week and the funeral grant by 100% to \$200. It is estimated that approximately 4,100 workers will benefit from these increases. When it is realised that these workers also qualify for non-contributory Old Age Pensions and other Welfare benefits it will be seen that Government is, within the limits of its resources, trying to ensure that these senior citizens who have laboured so long and hard to keep our main export crop viable are not neglected.

The cost of these increases which is approximately \$600,000 will be met from an increased levy on sugar production. This levy is being retained by the Government as part of its plan to reorganise the special sugar taxes which will eventually result in the Government becoming the largest shareholder in the Sugar Factories of Barbados and in many economic benefits being generated for smallholders. It can therefore be seen, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to the economic aspect of this reorganisation the Government has not neglected the Social needs of the Industry's labour force. The Barbados Sugar Producers' Association is aware of the Government's views on the need for an increased Provident Fund Benefit and has fully supported them.

Mobilisation of Savings

I turn next, Mr. Speaker, to concessions intended to lead to economic development. First mobilisation of domestic savings. As indicated earlier in my speech, it is felt that a country like Barbados, which has a reasonably high per capita income, almost US\$3000 in 1980, should have a fairly significant level of national savings. This has not, however, always been the case. In the whole year of 1975 financial savings, as evidenced by savings and time deposits in commercial banks rose by less than \$16m. In 1976 the increase was \$22m, but in 1977 was only \$18.5m. The Government's efforts to improve our savings effort began to bear fruit in 1978 and 1979. In 1979 savings and time deposits increased by \$67.7m and last year by no less than \$97m. I was very pleased when in the month of December, 1980 following public servant salary increases and during a PAYE free month, savings deposits by private individuals also increased by almost \$20m. This was nearly as much saving by private individuals in one *month*, as in any one *year* prior to 1978. The year of 1980 indeed ended with financial savings by Barbadians at the unprecedented level of \$578,326,000 in savings and time deposits at Banks, a formidable amount for the 250,000 inhabitants of our small developing country. In January of this year I approved the decision of the Central Bank to increase the minimum deposit rates at the commercial banks and this has led to more improvement of savings.

Further to enhance our savings efforts, and to ensure that financial savings are used to effect saving in the economic sense i.e. *investment* and not merely to facilitate consumption by Bank advances for consumption expenditure, I propose to introduce a number of measures to assist in this end. These will take their place alongside Central Bank controls designed to channel Bank advances, which are supported by the deposits, into the *productive* and not the consuming sectors.

First I propose an income tax concession of up to \$2000 of income on *new* shares purchased by an individual in a public company. This is intended to have the effect of stimulating new direct investment, of broadening ownership of public companies in Barbados and of giving an incentive to the issuing of shares, to coincide with the opening of the Barbados Stock Exchange expected for later in 1981. The Government considers the widest possible ownership of the wealth of the country to be a highly desirable social goal and hopes that full advantage will be taken of this concession, which will be effective from income year 1981.

I also propose that, after the initial qualifying 2 years given in earlier concessions to persons saving with a Credit Union, further income tax deductions will be allowed for additional sums saved on an annual basis. This change will also be effective from income year 1981.

The third and last savings measure which I propose is that of a check-off system to allow Public Servants to purchase National Development Bonds and bonds issued by the Barbados Development Bank by instalments. I hope that the private sector will follow our lead and offer similar facilities to their employees in the interest of encouraging an even wider sale for these Bonds.

Agriculture

Mr. Speaker, over the years various concessions have been granted to the agricultural sector. Only last year, a cash rebate was given on equipment and machinery purchased for non-sugar agricultural purposes. On this occasion, I propose to make further changes in the hope that greater effort will be made to increase agricultural output.

Firstly, I will deal with the Motor Tractor Cultivation Scheme. A viable small farmer sector is a policy priority of this Government. Thus, it is of considerable concern to me that some farmers are not able to secure adequate and timely tillage services. Since private contractors and estate owners now make only limited contribution in this area, the responsibility is left to the over-burdened Motor Tractor Cultivation Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture. If adequate tillage services are to be provided to small farmers, increased involvement of the private sector is essential. Therefore, the following reform in the system of subsidising tillage services is proposed.

all land in holdings less than 5 hectares, will be eligible for the following subsidies on tillage Operations:—

Rome harrowing	\$120 per hectare	(approx. \$ 50 per acre)
Ploughing	\$100 per hectare	(approx. \$ 40 per acre)
Rotavating	\$100 per hectare	(approx. \$ 40 per acre)
Furrowing	\$ 80 per hectare	(approx. \$ 33 per acre)

The above subsidies will be paid by the Ministry of Agriculture on proof of work completed, regardless of who did the work. Accordingly, the Ministry's Motor Tractor Cultivation Scheme will adjust its initial charges to reflect more closely its operating costs. The new rates that become effective immediately are:—

Rome harrowing	\$250 per hectare	(approx. \$100 per acre)
Ploughing	\$200 per hectare	(approx. \$ 80 per acre)
Rotavating	\$200 per hectare	(approx. \$ 80 per acre)
Furrowing	\$160 per hectare	(approx. \$ 65 per acre)

For those farmers who may have difficulty in meeting these higher initial charges, arrangements have been made at the Barbados National Bank to provide readily obtainable low-interest loans. Funds for this purpose will be part of the proceeds of the accumulated sugar levies that have been allocated for assistance to smallholders as part of the Government's plans to revitalise the entire agricultural sector.

It is also proposed further to assist small cultivators by granting a rebate of \$150 per hectare on land tax payable by land holders with less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a hectare if it can be shown that the gross value of crops or livestock produced on that land exceeded \$1000 per hectare for the preceding financial year.

The cost to Government of these measures is estimated at \$300,000.

Education

One of the great characteristics in the picture of Education in Barbados over the last 20 years, Mr. Speaker, has been the proliferation, followed more recently by the decline, in the number of independent non-Governmental Secondary Schools. Although the Government is increasingly able to accommodate all children that wish a secondary education in one or another of the various types of Government Secondary Schools, it continues to support the schemes under which for several years assistance has been given to approved Independent Secondary Schools. At the moment, a total of 2,900 bursaries is given in addition to grants for the teaching of certain subjects and as a contribution towards the salaries of a number of teachers.

There is no need now or in the foreseeable future to increase the number of bursaries because of the additional secondary school places which the Ministry of Education is making available. However, I consider that some improvement in the value of these bursaries, which enable parents to meet the cost of school fees, is desirable. I accordingly propose to increase the value of bursaries from \$75 per term to \$100 per term as from tomorrow April 1st, 1981. Further, the steady increases in the operating expenses of approved secondary schools make it necessary that grants to those schools should be increased so as to avoid the possibility of parents being faced with large increases in school fees.

The formula for contributing towards the salaries of teachers will be improved as follows over a 2 year period.

- (i) with effect from 1st September, 1981 the salary of one teacher will be paid for each 60 pupils between the ages of 11 & 18 years up to a total of 360 pupils. Thereafter, a teacher's salary will be paid for every 120 pupils or part thereof as long as that part is 60 or more;

with effect from 1st September, 1982 the ratio will be one salary for 50 pupils up to 300 of the relevant ages, and above 300 one salary for every 100 or part thereof of 50 or more;

- (ii) with effect from 1st September, 1981 all subject grants will be increased from \$1,000 or \$2,500 to a standard amount of \$4,000 per academic year;
- (iii) increased grants towards salaries in the graduate or special grade teachers' scale will be made, also with effect from 1st September, 1981.

Mr. Speaker, the above changes will result in additional expenditure of \$369,461. Also the sum of \$195,834 will be given as payment of arrears of salaries up to 31st March, 1981 in keeping with the general salary increase for public servants.

Direct Taxation

I turn next, Mr. Speaker to the situation of direct taxation and the first item with which I will deal is that of *Death Duties*. In 1977 I abolished the Succession Duty component of what were popularly known as the Death Duties. On that occasion I restructured the form of Estate Duties and retained them in force. I have made a careful study of the administration and impact of these duties, Mr. Speaker, and observe that 5 persons including an Assistant Commissioner of Inland Revenue are engaged full-time in assessing and collecting them. I also observe that the revenue collected from this source forms a smaller and smaller proportion of total Government revenue, and that the social situation in Barbados is now a far cry from that prevailing in 1941 when the duties were first introduced. Then, the distribution of income and wealth was many times more uneven than now and it was felt proper that heirs to large estates should give up some of their wealth to the public purse. There is a different story now companies or family trusts with much less liability to Estate Duty have taken over in many cases from wealthy individuals, and death duties bear hardest on relatively poor widows who inherit a house whose value has shot up as a result of these inflationary times. I therefore propose that Estate Duty will be abolished in respect of the estates of all persons dying from today's date onwards.

This is estimated to cost the revenue the sum of \$2.2 million.

Income Tax

I come now, still under Direct Taxation, to the area which seems to attract the greatest interest, attraction and expectancy, no doubt because in each of my Budgets so far, starting in 1977, I have made adjustments favourable to the taxpayer as I concentrated on ameliorating the burden of taxation and providing greater discretionary spending power for the individual. I refer of course to Income Tax.

As I indicated earlier, during the last four years some \$41 million has been returned into the hands of the taxpayers through the various adjustments made to the income tax structure in a careful programme of tax reductions, without reducing the quantity and quality of the services provided by the public sector.

I have been a little surprised in the last few weeks to hear attempts made to compromise the Government's tremendous record in reducing income tax. I wonder,

Mr. Speaker, how many of us are following the current controversy in the United States over whether that country's Government should or can carry out its planned programme of a 30% income tax reduction in *three* years. In Barbados we reduced Income Tax by 30% last year alone! That is what I understand by *massive* tax reduction, and shrill and empty cries to the contrary will merely waste their volume in the effort to produce yet another false impression.

Personal Income Taxation

On this occasion, Sir, it is my intention to proceed a step further with the task of reducing direct taxation. The difference between my approach this year and that of last year is that there will be no increases in Consumption Tax. There will be income tax concessions, pure and simple.

The various adjustments which I have made to the structure of personal income taxation over the years were necessary because the relatively high rates of inflation which we experienced during the early 1970's had unreasonably pushed up the liability to income tax and caused serious erosion of the purchasing power of taxpayers. In 1977 and again in 1979 I increased the *allowances* and the *tax credits*. In 1980, I extended the tax credit and revised the entire rate structure. On this occasion, Sir, I propose to grant further increases in allowances which will take effect from this Tax Year 1981, as follows:

The single person allowance will be increased by 50%, from \$1,600 annually to \$2,400.

The married allowance will also be increased by 50%, from \$3,000 to \$4,500.

In effect, Mr. Speaker, as part of the major overhaul of the system of direct taxation the allowance for a single person has been increased by 100% and that of a married couple by 125% in the past four years, a not inconsiderable achievement and one that easily beats inflation over the same period.

Last year I announced that the tax credit which I first introduced in 1977 would so be structured that no one earning \$90 weekly or less would have to pay income tax. The average level of wage increase over the past year has been quite considerable and I have therefore sought a tax credit structure which will allow the figure of \$90 to be raised to at least \$115 weekly. In pursuance of this aim I now propose tax credits as follows:

For persons earning a gross income of \$6,000 or less the credit will be increased from \$300 to \$360.

From \$6,001 to \$7,000, a new category, there will be a credit of \$240

For persons earning a gross income more than \$7,000 up to \$8,000 the credit will be increased to \$120.

In due course the Commissioner of Inland Revenue will issue directions as to new arrangements to ensure that PAYE is not deducted from incomes of less than the basic amount of \$115.

Salary Limits

In 1977 when the country was being asked to bear certain sacrifices, I proposed wage and price guidelines which involved, among other things, placing an upper limit on the salaries which corporations were allowed to pay their top executives and claim as an expense against taxation. It was also recognised that this was a form of double taxation since the company paid corporation tax on the excess portion of the salary it paid out, while the executive paid personal income tax on the same salary when he received it. I therefore propose to abolish the limit altogether and to permit corporations to allow in full all the salaries which they pay as expenses when computing their taxable profits.

Effect of Changes

The changes I have just made in the allowances and credit will be of greater proportionate benefit to persons of the lower income levels and will result in the elimination of approximately 18,000 persons from the tax roll. A few examples will illustrate the extent of the benefits that will be enjoyed as a result of my proposals. For example, a single person with an annual salary of \$6,000, personal allowance of \$1,600 and a tax credit of \$300 previously paid tax of \$140 but from today will pay no tax at all. A single person with annual income of \$7,000 previously paid tax of \$480 but will now pay tax of \$220 per year. A married person working for \$1,000 monthly and whose spouse is not working paid a maximum of \$1,300 annually after last year's deductions. This will now be further reduced to \$1,000.

It has become customary, Mr. Speaker, to grant tax adjustments from PAYE deductions up to a certain limit and to return tax already overpaid as a result of reductions granted in personal income tax. Last year, because of administrative difficulty and the size of the deductions there were two tax free months. On this occasion, the adjustments are more simple since the rates have not been changed. Therefore, it is possible to make immediate arrangements, starting in April.

First of all, employers should put the new allowances into instant effect as far as possible, following directions which will be issued by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, and reduce PAYE deductions to accord with the new scales. During the months of April, May and June employers should set off the new amount of PAYE against tax already overpaid this year, until the overpaid tax is back in the hands of the taxpayer.

Effectively the above arrangements, which will be fully explained in the Commissioner of Inland Revenue's circular, mean that for most people April alone will be the month in which their overpaid tax is rebated. In other cases where the April PAYE may be insufficient to absorb the whole over-payment in one month, it will be carried forward into May and June until fully rebated.

Effect of Proposals

Mr. Speaker, the budgetary proposals which I have outlined this evening will result in increased charges of \$3.1 million and revenue loss of \$18.7 million, made up as follows:

Revenue Increases

Court Fees	\$150,000
Companies Registrations etc.	140,000
Insurance Fees	100,000
Property Transfer Tax	750,000
Training Fund Levy	2,000,000
	\$ 3,140,000

Revenue Loss

Income tax concessions:

Purchase of Shares	\$ 150,000
Annual Savings with Credit Unions	36,000
New Allowances and tax Credits	16,000,000
Abolition of Death Duties	2,200,000
Rebate for Agricultural Production	300,000
	\$ 18,686,000

There has been a great deal of talk, Mr. Speaker, for some years now in fact, of the bad times ahead. Gloomy prognostications for Third World countries have abounded. Nonetheless I consider that these tax reductions proposed here today coupled with the increase in pensions are justified by the underlying financial strength of the Barbados economy even in this fragile world. In 1980, very substantial reductions in taxation were granted and a wage settlement of the order of \$60M was granted to public sector employees. Yet the current account surplus for the financial year has been \$25.4M, or more than was budgeted for, which clearly shows that the economy remains resilient. I have confidence that with continued sound economic management and the cooperation of the public the performance of Government finances in 1981/82 will be just as creditable.

Furthermore, the income tax adjustments will serve as an incentive to greater individual work effort and should also help to stimulate greater savings which will be available for investment purposes and increased employment opportunities.

Such development will lead to more natural growth of the economy and will have a beneficial effect on the public finances as improvements are made in the revenue collecting agencies to make them more efficient and the entire tax system more responsive to economic activity. Finally, continued efforts will be made to control the growth of expenditure so that no one needs to fear that the sound basis on which I have placed the public finances during the past 5 years will be undermined in the years ahead.

Summary

So Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, five years ago we took the reins of Government of a country whose management had lost its direction, its sense of purpose, its ability to see ahead and its capacity to control. We had suffered far and away the highest levels of inflation in the Caribbean or among the countries with which we do business. The end of the year 1975 has seen employment in our Island falling to less than 80,000 of our adult population. The foreign reserves were shrinking inexorably as we came to power and our most strenuous efforts could not prevent them sinking further in our first few months. The fatal path down which some of our Caricom brethren had wandered was looming all too large and the spectre of negative foreign reserves, more massive unemployment and a deflationary programme from the International Monetary Fund stared us in the face. All that has changed and Barbados has become a byword as an Island of economic success in an ocean of economic failure.

I think that the Government can fairly claim that in our time, sustained first by the sacrifice and then the support of the public we have achieved our stated objectives, or those of them that can be achieved by fiscal and monetary policy and proper budgeting in a small Island. We cannot eliminate inflation, because we take nearly all our prices from outside Barbados. We can and we have contained it. It is worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that under the impact of the much smaller oil price increases which we suffered before the present Government came to power, inflation ran at almost 40% in 1974, far and away the highest level we have ever known, almost three times current rates. It was over 20% the following year, 1975. Our record is 44.5% for the four years from 1977 to 1980, taken together or 11.1% annually. We cannot entirely eliminate *unemployment*, but we can and we have reduced it to negligible proportion among breadwinners — according to our statistics department there are only some 700 — 800 males between the ages of 25 and 50 currently out of work and looking for a job in Barbados. And for the first time in our history there are over 100,000 persons actually in jobs and working — 20,000 more than five years ago. We cannot eliminate *taxation*, but we can and we have reduced income tax. Let us not forget, Mr. Speaker, that in 1976 a single person started paying income tax at \$25 per week. He or she will not have to pay it now until \$115 per week. In 1976 if you earned \$1,000 per month you paid \$2,600 annually in income tax. Now you will pay \$1,420 a year. If you earned \$150 per week you paid \$1,180 per year in tax. Now you will pay \$340. If you earned only \$6,000 in a whole year you still paid \$700 in tax in 1976. Now you pay nothing.

And the figures I have quoted well illustrate how *everyone* has shared in the five years of economic growth. The Government's social welfare package has more than doubled old age pensions, has started our National Health Service and has now,

introduced unemployment benefits into Barbados. Wages have increased by more than prices in every year, by 66.9% since 1976 compared to price inflation of only 44.5% in the same 4-year period. Business activity has made Barbados the shopping paradise of the Eastern Caribbean and manufacturing industry has every year employed more people and exported more Barbadian goods. Housing, recreation, education – every aspect of modern life has been fostered, encouraged and advanced by the Barbados Labour Party Government since 1976. March 31st, Mr. Speaker, has a particular significance for the great Party to which we both belong and from which both parties of State are descended, for it was 43 years ago today that the Barbados Labour Party was founded.

Forgive me therefore, Mr. Speaker, if I am openly partisan at this delicate time in our parliamentary life and this happy anniversary in the life of our Party and end by saying “one good term deserves another”.

Appendix I

Summary of Budgetary Proposals – 1981

1. Increases in fees charged in the Supreme and Magistrates' Courts. Additional revenue of \$150,000 is expected.
2. Increases in fees for Trade Marks, Patents and Companies Registration by 25%. Also, fees for registration of Business Names have been increased. Additional revenue of \$140,000 is expected.
3. Property Transfer Tax payable by vendors who are citizens and permanent residents increased from 2½% to 3% and that payable by other persons from 2½ to 8%. Purchasers' tax increased from 15% to 17%. Additional revenue of \$750,000 is anticipated.
4. Old Age Pensions (Non-contributory) increased to \$28 per week and contributory National Insurance Pension to \$33. All other National Insurance benefits, except in cases of injury, increased by 10%. Maternity benefits increased by 40%.
5. Training Fund contribution of 0.25% introduced.
6. Unemployment Insurance Scheme introduced. Merged with the Severance Fund. Contributions of 2% to be shared equally by employers and employees.
7. Annual claim for savings with Credit Unions permitted for Income Tax purposes after the initial 2 years. Revenue loss of \$36,000 is anticipated.
8. Check-off system introduced to permit purchase of Barbados Development Bank Bonds by public servants on an instalment basis.

Appendix I – Cont'd

9. Income Tax deduction allowed for new shares purchased in public companies. Revenue loss of about \$150,000 is expected.
10. Reform in Motor Tractor Cultivation Scheme and tillage subsidies.
11. Rebate of Land Tax of \$150 per hectare to small holders with less than .75 hectare who produce evidence to the Commissioner of Valuations that the gross value of crops or livestock produced exceeded \$1,000 per hectare in the preceding financial year. Revenue loss of \$300,000 is expected.
12. Abolition of Death Duties. Revenue loss of \$2.2 million is anticipated.
13. Increases in Income Tax Allowances. Allowance for single person is now \$2,400 and that for a married person is \$4,500. Tax credits of \$360, \$240, and \$120 have been granted. These changes are estimated to result in Revenue loss of \$16.0 million. Approximately 18,000 persons will be eliminated from the tax roll.
14. Increases in grants to approved secondary schools. Value of bursaries also increased. Additional expenditure of \$369,461 involved. A payment of \$195,834 will be made in respect of arrears of salaries to March.
15. Increased pensions for retired Sugar Workers who receive payments from the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund. About 4,100 workers will benefit.

Appendix 1 (A)

MAGISTRATE'S COURT – CIVIL

1. Entering Plaintiff or Counterclaim or filing defence –

<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>			<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Under \$100	Under \$500	...	...	\$ 2.50	\$ 5.00
\$100 and \$500	between \$500				
	and \$1 500	...	...	5.00	10.00
\$500 and over	over \$1 500	...	...	10.00	20.00

2. Issuing summons or judgment summons including return of service

5.00	10.00
------	-------

3. Hearing fee –

Under \$100	Under \$500	...	...	1.25	5.00
\$100 and \$500	between \$500				
	and \$1 500	...	...	2.50	15.00
\$500 and over	over \$ 1 500	...	...	5.00	25.00

Appendix 1(A) – Cont'd

MAGISTRATE'S COURT – CIVIL

				<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
4.	Summoning each witness	...	...	2.50	5.00
5.	Issuing Warrant of execution				
	Under \$100	Under \$500	...	5.00	10.00
	\$100 and over	between \$500	...		
		and \$1 500	...	7.50	15.00
		over \$1 500	...		20.00
6.	Filing affidavit or any other document	...		2.50	5.00
7.	For any notice sent out by Clerk	...	...	2.50	5.00
8.	For all copies per folio of 90 words	...	...	.50	1.00
9.	Plaint for summary recovery of possession	...		5.00	10.00
10.	Issuing warrant of commitment	...	...	5.00	10.00
11.	For every bond	...	...	5.00	10.00
12.	For drawing formal order of judgment	...		5.00	10.00
	For copy thereof	...		2.50	5.00

FEES ON APPEAL

				<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
13.	Filing notice of appeal	...	...	2.50	5.00
14.	Filing grounds of appeal	...	...	2.50	5.00
15.	Taking recognizance	...	...	7.50	15.00
16.	Preparing and forwarding Record of Appeal	...		10.00	20.00

MARSHAL'S FEES ON EXECUTION

				<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
17. (1)	For the daily keep of any animal not exceeding			7.50	15.00
(2)	Cartage and portorage, as paid				
(3)	For lodging execution	...	...	2.50	5.00
(4)	For act of levy and execution	...	...	5.00	10.00
(5)	For taking inventory	...	...	5.00	10.00
(6)	For setting up notice of sale	...	...	2.50	5.00

Appendix 1(A) – Cont'd

MARSHAL'S FEES ON EXECUTION

			<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
(7)	Drawing advertisement for sale		2.50	5.00
(8)	Advertisement of sale, as paid			
(9)	Making return to execution		2.50	5.00
(10)	Summoning appraisers		2.50	5.00
(11)	Attending appraisers and making return		7.50	15.00
(12)	Commission on collection or sale and			
	(a) on the first \$2,500			4%
	(b) above \$2,500			3½%
(13)	Attending giving possession		7.50	15.00
18.	Executing warrant of commitment		10.00	20.00

Appendix 1 (B)

MAGISTRATE'S COURT – CRIMINAL
TABLE OF FEES

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
1.	Lodging information or complaint	.25	\$ 2.50
2.	Summoning each witness	.25	2.50
3.	For each warrant	.50	5.00
4.	For each recognizance	.50	5.00
5.	Lodging notice of appeal	.50	5.00
6.	Lodging grounds of appeal	.50	5.00
7.	Preparing and forwarding record of appeal	1.00	10.00
8.	Copy of any document (other than depositions) per folio of 90 words	.05	1.00

In Alimony and Bastardy the above fees need
not be prepaid

In case of juveniles fees shall be in the
discretion of the magistrate.

Appendix 1 (C)

REGISTRAR'S AND MARSHAL'S FEES

I. REGISTRY

ADVERTISEMENTS

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
1.	For preparing or settling advertisement of whatever nature and causing same to be printed in addition to the actual expense of printing	\$ 15.00	\$30.00
2.	For preparing or settling any notice for publication in the Gazette or Newspaper	10.00	20.00

BILLS OF COSTS

3.	On taxation of any bill of costs including certificate:		
	(i) where total of bill so taxed is under \$500	15.00	30.00
	(ii) where total of bill so taxed is \$500 and over	25.00	50.00

CERTIFICATES

4.	For any certificate signed by Registrar and sealed	10.00	20.00
5.	For certifying each copy of a document where no other provision is made	3.00	5.00
6.	For any certificate where no other provision is made	5.00	10.00

COPIES

7.	For sealed copies of any document		
	(i) where copies are provided, per folio		1.00
	(ii) where copies are not provided per folio		2.00

Appendix 1 (C) – Cont'd

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
8.	For office or plain copies of any document –		
	(i) where copies are provided, per folio	25¢	50¢
	(ii) where copies are not provided, per folio	50¢	1.00

ENTERING

9.	On entering any action, cause or matter (including fees for filing hearing and making order):–		
	(i) On hearing list	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00
	(ii) On Short Cause List	25.00	50.00
	(iii) Special case or issue for hearing	10.00	20.00
10.	On entering any judgment or order (including filing and drawing where necessary):–		
	(i) final judgment or order after trial	20.00	40.00
	(ii) final judgment or order in Special Court	15.00	30.00
	(iii) other judgments or orders	10.00	20.00
	(iv) entering and registering judgment by confession	20.00	40.00

EXAMINATIONS

11.	For taking the examination of witnesses de bene esse, for each day (or part of a day pro rata)	25.00	50.00
12.	For taking any other examination or conducting any enquiry for each day (or part thereof pro rata)	25.00	50.00
13.	For minuting the proceedings on any examination or enquiry, per folio	1.00	

FILING

14.	On filing an entry of appearance for each person	5.00	10.00
15.	On filing any pleading or other document	7.00	15.00

Appendix 1 (C) – Cont'd

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
HEARING			
16.	On hearing any ex parte application:		
	(i) before the Judge in Chambers	\$10.00	\$ 20.00
	(ii) before the Registrar	5.00	10.00
17.	On hearing any other application:		
	(i) before the Judge in Chambers	15.00	30.00
	(ii) before the Registrar	10.00	20.00
18.	On hearing any matter in the Special Court	15.00	30.00
19.	On hearing any petition other than marriage petition where no other provision is made	15.00	30.00
20.	On hearing any other matter where no other provision is made	15.00	30.00
21.	On issuing writs of summons, originating summonses, notices of motion, third party notices, citations, commissions, letters of request (including fees for filing, sealing and certifying and sealing one for service)	25.00	50.00
22.	On issuing summonses, notices, amended writs of summons or originating summonses (including fees for filing, sealing and certifying, and sealing one copy for service)	5.00	10.00
23.	On issuing any warrant of arrest	5.00	10.00
24.	On issuing a writ of habeas corpus ad subjiciendum	15.00	30.00
25.	On issuing any writ of execution (including fees for filing praecipe therefor, filing and sealing)	15.00	30.00
26.	On issuing any process where no other provision is made		10.00

Appendix 1 (C) – Cont'd

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES			
27.	Filing and issuing petition for nullity divorce, restitution and judicial separation including filing Marriage Certificate, affidavit in support and issuing and sealing copy of Notice to Appear	\$ 20.00	\$ 40.00
28.	Filing and issuing Answer cross Petition and all other pleadings and applications including affidavits in support	10.00	20.00
29.	On application for obtaining and filing certificate of non-appearance, including filing affidavit of search	10.00	20.00
30.	Filing any other document	5.00	10.00
31.	On application for, obtaining and filing Registrar's Certificate	5.00	10.00
32.	Entry on hearing list for decree nisi, hearing fee and Order	15.00	30.00
33.	Entry on hearing list in all other applications and matters including hearing fee and Order	5.00	10.00
34.	On applying for, and obtaining Decree Absolute including filing affidavit in support and entry of Order	10.00	20.00
Note:	Fees in cases not provided for to be charged on same scale as general Supreme Court scale.		
PAYMENT INTO COURT			
35.	For act or memorandum of deposit	3.00	5.00
36.	On every certificate relating to funds in court	3.00	5.00

Appendix 1 (C) – Cont'd

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
PETITIONS			
37.	On presentation of petition for consent to marry	10.00	20.00
38.	On presentation of petition to uplift money on behalf of an infant or person under disability	3.00	5.00
39.	On presentation of petition under Infants Act, Cap. 215	15.00	30.00
Note:	The foregoing fees for petitions are inclusive fees covering filing, sealing, hearing, making and entering order and copy thereof.		
40.	On presentation of any other petition (including fees for filing, sealing and certifying, and sealing one copy for service)	25.00	50.00
SEALING			
41.	On sealing any document where no other provision is made	3.00	5.00
SEARCHES			
42.	On inspecting or searching the file of proceedings in any action, cause or matter by a person not a party thereto	5.00	10.00
43.	On any other inspection or search	3.00	5.00
44.	For any search by the Registrar	3.00	5.00
SERVICES OF REGISTRAR			
45.	For any services rendered by the Registrar not herein provided for, such fee (if any) as the Court or Judge may determine.		

Appendix 1 (C) – Cont'd

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
SALE IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE			
46.	The following commuted fees shall be allowed the Registrar:-		
(1)	Where the value of the property does not exceed \$2,500		25.00
(2)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$2,500 but does not exceed \$5,000		50.00
(3)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$5,000 but does not exceed \$7,500		75.00
(4)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$7,500 but does not exceed \$10,000		100.00
(5)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$10,000 but does not exceed \$15,000		150.00
(6)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$15,000 but does not exceed \$20,000	200.00	
(7)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$20,000 but does not exceed \$25,000	250.00	
(8)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$25,000 but does not exceed \$30,000	300.00	
(9)	Where the value of the property exceeds \$30,000		\$100.00 for every \$10 000 or part thereof.

Where an appraisalment is necessary or ordered the fees chargeable under items 39 and 40 of this Appendix shall be payable in addition to the above commuted fees.

47.	Drawing and summoning appraisers	10.00	20.00
-----	----------------------------------	-------	-------

Appendix 1 (C) -Cont'd

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
48.	On appraisalment	15.00	30.00
49.	On the hearing of claims	20.00	40.00
50.	On preparing a Report of liens which includes more than two successful claims	20.00	40.00
II. MARSHAL			
51.	For serving every writ of summons, originating summons, petition or document unless otherwise provided for	10.00	20.00
52.	For serving subpoena	5.00	10.00
53.	Serving writ for Contempt, each person	15.00	30.00
54.	Serving every Injunction	5.00	10.00
55.	Serving Attachment, each person	15.00	30.00
56.	Making Return of Service	5.00	10.00
57.	Lodging every execution	5.00	10.00
58.	Levy Executions	10.00	20.00
59.	For making a return of the levy	15.00	30.00
60.	Making return to each Execution	5.00	10.00
61.	For summoning Appraisers	10.00	20.00
62.	Attending Appraisers and drawing their returns	15.00	30.00
63.	For levy fee and commissions on collection or sale:		
	(i) On the first \$2,500		4%
	(ii) above \$2,500		3½%

Appendix 1 (C) – Concl'd

		<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
64.	Car hire (as paid)		
65.	Warrants of appraisement, special writs, &c.	5.00	10.00
66.	Executing a Special Writ	20.00	40.00
67.	For levying Ne Exeat of attachment	30.00	60.00
68.	For giving possession of land or houses	25.00	50.00
69.	Drawing Advertisement	5.00	10.00
70.	Advertisement (as paid)		
71.	Setting up notices for sale	10.00	20.00
72.	Setting up notices of sale (chattels)	7.00	15.00
73.	Attending each outcry	5.00	10.00
74.	Copy of all documents per folio of 90 words	50¢	1.00
75.	Producing every Execution at Registration Office	3.00	5.00
76.	Searching for any writ, first year	1.00	2.00
77.	Each succeeding year	50¢	1.00
78.	Every Surety's Bond for chattels sold at Outcry	15.00	30.00
79.	Executing every order of Arrest	10.00	20.00
80.	Bail Bond on every order of Arrest	10.00	20.00

Appendix 11(A)

TRADE MARKS

<i>Matter or Proceeding</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Forms</i>
On application to register a trade mark	\$ 75.00	2
On notice of opposition under section 11 or on application to intervene in any proceedings	50.00	3
On lodging a counter-statement in answer to a notice of opposition	25.00	4
On the hearing of any opposition by applicant and by opponent respectively	50.00	
For registration of a trade mark	75.00	6
On application to register a registered trade user of Registered Trade Mark	50.00	25
On application to vary the entry of a registered user by the registered proprietor	50.00	28
On application by registered proprietor of trade mark for cancellation of entry of registered user	50.00	27
On application for directions by the Registrar for advertisement of assignment of trade mark in use without goodwill		
For one mark assigned	25.00	26
And for every other mark assigned with the same devolution of title	2.50	
On request to enter in the register a certificate of validity under Rule 60	25.00	24
On application to register a subsequent proprietor in case of assignment or transmission of a single trade mark	50.00	10 & 11
On application to change the name or description of a proprietor or a registered user when there has been no change in the proprietorship or in the identity of the registered user	25.00	14
For renewal of registration of a trade mark	50.00	8
For restoring a trade mark	50.00	9
(For restoration and renewal)	100.00	8 & 9
On application to add to or alter a registered trade mark	50.00	17
On application for rectification of the register or removal of trade mark from the register	75.00	18
On notice of opposition to application for leave to add to or alter a registered trade mark	50.00	19
For altering an entry of the trade or business address of a registered proprietor or registered user of a trade mark	25.00	12

Appendix 11(A) – Cont'd.

TRADE MARKS		
<i>Matter or Proceeding</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Forms</i>
For cancelling the entry or any part of the entry of a trade mark on the register on the application of the registered proprietor	\$ 25.00	15
On request, not otherwise charged for correction of clerical error or for permission to amend application	25.00	13
On request by registered proprietor of a trade mark for entry of disclaimer or memorandum to the register	25.00	16
On any application to the Court not otherwise charged	50.00	—
For a search under Rule 77	25.00	20
On request for Registrar's preliminary advice for each trade mark submitted	5.00	20A
For certificate of Registrar under 74	25.00	21
For entering, altering or submitting one or more entries of an address for service in the register	5.00	22
For office copy of documents	1.50	—
For photographic copy of documents	Cost according to agreement	
For certifying office copies MSS or photographic or printed matter	25.00	
For advertising	According to Advertisement rates	

Appendix 11(B)

PATENTS

	\$
For every application for a patent accompanied by a provisional specification only	100.00
Examiner's fee on reference of application with provisional specification, not exceeding	187.50
For every application for a patent accompanied by a complete specification	250.00
On filing complete specification after provisional specification	150.00
Examiner's fee on reference of complete specification, not exceeding	187.50
On extending the time for leaving complete specification	12.50
On extending the time for acceptance of complete specification	125.00
On every patent before the expiration of four years from its date	2,500.00
And further before the expiration of seven years	5,000.00
Or in lieu of the fees of \$1,000 and \$2,000 the following annual fees before the expiration of the fourth year from the date of the patent	500.00
fifth year from the date of the patent	500.00
sixth year from the date of the patent	500.00

Appendix 11(B) – Cont'd.**PATENTS**

	\$
seventh year from the date of the patent	500.00
eighth year from the date of the patent	750.00
ninth year from the date of the patent	750.00
tenth year from the date of the patent	1,000.00
eleventh year from the date of the patent	1,000.00
twelfth year from the date of the patent	1,000.00
thirteenth year from the date of the patent	1,000.00
On filing every amended or substituted specification	50.00
On notice of opposition to grant of patent	25.00
On every summons to witness	12.50
On hearing of every opposed application	50.00
On extension of patent	1,000.00
On filing every disclaimer or memorandum of alteration	75.00
For every office copy (including the seal) per folio of seventy-two words	.75
On filing every certificate voiding a patent	12.50
On deposit of any assignment, deed, licence, or other document affecting proprietorship of patent	100.00
On delivering triplicate patent after loss, etc.	100.00
On every search, including inspection	5.00
Annual fees for licence to patent agent	375.00
Certified copies of extracts under seal, per folio	1.50
For every matter or thing not above provided for	12.50

Appendix 11(C)**COMPANIES REGISTRATION****"1. For the registration of a company**

- (a) whose nominal share capital does not exceed \$200,000 ... \$625
- (b) whose nominal share capital exceeds \$200,000
but does not exceed \$500,000 ... \$1,250
- (c) whose nominal share capital exceeds \$500,000 ... $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%
of the share capital,
but in no case shall
the fee exceed
\$18,750

Appendix 11(C) – *Cont'd.*

COMPANIES REGISTRATION

2. For the registration of an increase in share capital, made after registration of the nominal share capital, the fee payable shall be determined *pari passu* in accordance with the fees specified in paragraph 1”; and

“1. For filing documents
required to be filed by
section 221 (1) and (3)

(a) where the share capital
does not
exceed
\$200,000 ... \$1,250

(b) where the share
capital exceeds
\$200,000 but does
not exceed
\$500,000 ... \$2,500

(c) where the share
capital exceeds
\$500,000 ... ½ of
1% of
the share
capital
but in
no case
shall the
fee exceed
\$37,500

(d) where the share
capital is not divided into
shares of a fixed value and
for which a fee cannot
otherwise be determined
under this Act .. \$37,500
in all
such
cases.”

Mr. Speaker, in order to found the debate which will commence tomorrow, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS during the last five years the Government has succeeded in restoring confidence and financial soundness to the country;

AND WHEREAS during that time there has been a substantial improvement in the standard of living of all members of the community;

AND WHEREAS the Government by its record in housing, health, education, social services, agriculture, industry, tourism and employment has demonstrated beyond doubt its ability competently and completely to manage the affairs of the country;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House acknowledge the achievements of the Government during the past five years and that the 1981 budgetary proposals are designed to consolidate the achievements of the recent past, and to pave the way for increasing prosperity in the years ahead;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House approve the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals delivered on March 31, 1981."

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the Resolution moved by the Minister of Finance and reserve my right to speak.
7.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this matter be now postponed.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for ten minutes so that the television cameras can be taken out of the Assembly. We are going to come back and go into Committee and finish the item which we had before the House earlier today. After that, I shall suspend the House until tomorrow. I am just giving the Opposition this indication.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: At this stage the Chair can only accept a motion that you suspend for ten minutes. When we return is an entirely different matter.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I can appreciate that but I know the Opposition may leave and knowing them as well as I do, I just want to indicate what we are going to do. So for ten minutes they can go if they want to go, but I want to treat them with the courtesy which they are deserving of.

The question that the sitting be suspended for ten minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day we were dealing with Item No. 4 on the Order Paper under Government Business and I had postponed consideration of it.

I beg to move that Item No. 4 be the instant Order of the Day.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. When the suspension was taken, Part III was under consideration.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in this Part III there is a very interesting requirement. If one looks at Clause 14(1)(b) it says "if its owner is unknown and 3 clear days have elapsed after its seizure" and then they proceed to indicate how the dog can be dealt with. I would like to suggest to the Minister that in all the circumstances in Barbados 3 clear days may not be enough for a dog that has been missing. The communications system in Barbados is not that efficient that 3 clear days are sufficient, and it seems to me that....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it seems that the indication that there will be no compensation for a dog that

has been collected suggests that there should be given a little more time than three clear days but if they feel that three clear days are enough, that is their privilege. You know, Sir, that people have lost dogs and have not found them sometimes for four, five, six or seven days. The point I am making is that they can give a little more time than three clear days. That is all.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member in this day in Barbados is saying that the communications system in Barbados is not that good and he wants to extend that period in the case of a lost dog, he raises certain implications, and I believe that if you are going to adopt that line, you should say one day for this basic reason. If a person owns a dog and registers that dog, you start with a presumption that the person cares for and loves that dog. The dog must be fed at least once a day. If a dog is in your compound and you do not see it after one day and you cared anything for the dog, you would set up a search; so therefore you are going to look in obvious places. You are going to ask somebody around the area if he has seen your dog; you are going to look in the wells in the area to see if the dog accidentally has fallen into a well, or you are going to ring the dog pound and ask if they have a dog with such and such a number. If a person stays three days without enquiring at the dog pound after having lost a dog for a few hours or overnight, then the dog should be destroyed. There is no question about that, and I do not know any place in Barbados even when the sewage contractors have damaged telephone lines in Barbados, these lines have been repaired within twenty-four hours. If the hon. member is saying that we should extend that period over three days, he is not really in reality; he is just raising something to prolong the debate. I know he is in agony; he would not be able to sleep tonight, so he wants company for as long as possible until tomorrow.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, contrary to the hon. member's beliefs, if he had looked at the Bill he would see that there is some inconsistency. I do not wish to detain the House, but since he has raised the question, section 13(2) says "where a dog seized under subsection (1) wears a collar or harness with a tag affixed, an authorised person employed at the Animal Control Centre shall serve on the owner of the dog a written notice....."
7.25 p.m.

Now later on it goes on in that same Clause to say "And all reasonable expenses incurred by reason of its seizure and detention are not paid within 7 days after the service of the notice," but in the next Clause, Sir, they restrict the period to three days. It is just a question of consistency.

Obviously, if the dog is registered, it must be registered to somebody. When the dog is captured, Sir,

and they are giving the authorised person 7 days notice which has to be in writing, now, Mr. Chairman, you know that if you have to serve notice in writing 3 days is a short time but let them do it how they want to do it. We will soon have another amendment to that. We have had so many. This is a repeal of the 1979 Act. As soon as they go and sit down with it it comes back with another one. Let it go the way they want it.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I will have to correct this matter. Section 13 (2) deals with dogs picked up with collars and tags. It says so, wearing a harness with a tag affixed. Section 14 (1) (b) talks about the owner being unknown. The feature there deals with dogs which are picked up without any collar or tag. It is as clear as it can be. I do not know how much clearer we can make it. (ASIDES) How do you mean it is not true? Is your Act any different from mine?

I beg to move that Part III stand part of the Bill.

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

Parts IV and V were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day, Sir, I could have moved the Suspension of certain Standing Orders so as to permit us to do Question Time. There are two questions which two of my colleagues gave notice of today, Sir, of which they have the replies and I would seek the leave of the House at this point in time to have Question Time be done, Sir, if there is no objection on the Other Side.

I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is seeking leave of the House. No objections. The hon. member may proceed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

QUESTION RE THE EXPLOSION OF A CHLORINE CYLINDER ON A LORRY OF THE WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Question No. 60. Mr. Speaker, I will like to point out to Your Honour that

on the Order Paper there is a Question 60 and Question 61. I do not see any Question 60A. I take it that the Reply will be to Question 60.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 60, then.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:-

To ask the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs: 1. Will the Minister state whether it is intended to hold a Coroners inquest into the deaths of two young persons formerly of Clifton Hall in the parish of Saint John which followed an explosion from a government owned vehicle parked in the vicinity of their residence? 2. Will the Minister state why no public enquiry has been held so far into the causes of and responsibility for this unusual occurrence? 3. Will the Minister give an assurance that a full investigation will be carried out without any further delay?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 60 is as follows:-

"1. The Right Honourable Member is fully aware that the Judiciary has exclusive control over the fixing of the business of the Courts, including the holding of inquests by Coroners, and there is, and should be, no ministerial interference in this aspect of public affairs. I have, however, been able to ascertain that the Coroner has made arrangements for an inquest to be held into the unfortunate deaths of the two persons at Clifton Hall, and the Chief Magistrate has advised that proceedings will commence on 2nd April 1981.

"2. A full investigation has been carried out by the Government which is now satisfied that the explosion of the cylinder was caused by a negligent system of adding chlorine to water. The Government is accordingly accepting full civil liability for the accident and has so informed Mr. Lionel Greenidge, the Legal representative acting on behalf of the two deceased persons referred to in the Right Honourable Member's question.

"3. As a result of the above-mentioned investigation, the system which led to the accident has been changed."

Mr. SPEAKER: The same hon. member, his Question No. 61.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 61. To the Hon. Minister of Agriculture.

To ask the appropriate Minister: 1. Is the Minister aware that captains and crews of the Shrimp Trawlers formerly owned by International Seafoods Ltd., offered to removed these vessels to places of safety on the approach of hurricane Allen in the year 1980? 2. Can the Minister state why the officer in charge refused this offer and whether this refusal was on his own initiative? 3. Will the Minister state why the officer in charge did not have the vessels turned around or removed prior to the onset of the hurricane? 4. Will the Minister state the estimated cost of the damage suffered by the trawlers during the hurricane and the actual cost of repairs of the damage? 5. Were the vessels insured against this loss? 6. Has any disciplinary action been taken against those persons whose negligence contributed to or caused the damaged suffered by the shrimp trawlers?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 61 is as follows:-

1. No, Sir. The Managing Director of International Seafoods Limited has been consulted on the matters raised in the Honourable Member's question and he has advised that no captain nor crew member made any offer to him or, to his knowledge, to any member of the staff of I.S.L. to remove the vessels to places of safety.

2. Does not arise.

3. The vessels are normally moored with their bows facing inland. Two vessels were moored with their bows facing out to sea and they were among the most badly damaged. The matter of removal of the vessels did not arise as the Careenage was considered to be the most appropriate location for the vessels.

4. The estimated cost of the damage to the trawlers is \$461 053.72. The cost of repairs in respect of six vessels is \$209 998.01.

5. Yes, Sir.

6. Does not apply.

7.35 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Supplementary Question, Sir. The Honourable Minister has said that the vessels were insured and he also said that Number six does not apply. I would like to ask the Honourable Minister if it is not a fact that subsequent to my asking these questions the officer was not removed from his post?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no observation here at number six.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, Sir. Disciplinary action against those persons whose negligence contributed to or caused the damage suffered by the shrimp trawlers.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr, Speaker, I am not aware that any officer has been removed, as a result of damage to the boats.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether the Government Officer who was seconded to this undertaking has not been removed.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, if the Rt. Hon. gentleman is talking about the Managing Director of International Seafood, my understanding is that he is requested to return to his substantive post in the Ministry of Lands.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I thank the Honourable Minister for telling me that he has not been removed, but he has been requested to remove himself.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Question Time.

SUSPENSION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move Sir, that this Sitting be suspended until 5.00 p.m. tomorrow, Sir. I am quite sure, Mr. Speaker, Sir that the regular facilities for the reply by one of the gentlemen on the Other Side, they have already been informed and you have already been informed, Sir, and I take it that everything should be in order for their reply or the attempted reply tomorrow, Sir.

I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 5.00 p.m. tomorrow evening.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER accordingly suspended the Sitting at 7.40 p.m.
7.40 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has caught my eye.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the honour is mine today, on behalf of a great political party, the Democratic

Labour Party to speak on the Resolution now before this Honourable House. For some time, it has been apparent to large numbers of people in this country that there has been a significant social and economic deterioration in its affairs. On such occasions, it is necessary for those of us who share common political views and who join and participate in the activities of political parties to take a stand in the interest of our nation. This Democratic Labour Party has decided to take a very firm stand in relation to the matters which they consider to be against the social and economic interest of all Barbadians.

Yesterday, in this Honourable Chamber, we heard what certainly would be the last Budgetary presentation by the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas, since the people of Barbados no doubt will be making their views well-known through the ballot box in the not too distant future. We have had a performance, which when analysed, when you strip it of the rhetoric, when you strip it of the verbiage, when you strip it of the antics and you ask yourself, what developmental processes, what developmental measures are contained in this Budget, you can find none. It is difficult to imagine that when a country is faced with the kind of economic and social crisis which Barbados is facing today, that we can have a Budget, a Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals where most of the time was concerned with analysing matters over the far parts of the globe. The other major section nothing but a recitation of the Economic Report which was laid before this Honourable House and which, as a matter of fact, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central and myself, we were able to read and anticipate what the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas was going to say simply by reading the Economic Report. Of course, there has been the politicizing of the factual elements of that Report which constitute the second component of the Financial Statement. Then, Sir, we are left with the Budgetary Proposals.

In summary, there are some 15 proposals. What do they amount to? Increases in fees charged in the Supreme and Magistrates Courts, increases in fees for trademarks, patents and companies' registration, Property Transfer Tax — modest increases in respect of vendors and purchasers who are non Barbadians and are not permanent residents of Barbados. This, Mr. Speaker, is simply dodging the issue. The issue Mr. Speaker is whether the Government is prepared to respond to those far-sighted voices in the community, whether they are prepared to respond to large numbers of their own Party who feel that the time has come when Barbados has to take a second look in relation to foreign ownership in Barbados. This is just begging the question. There is nothing developmental about it. It is purely a little fund raising exercise and nothing more.

Old age pensions and contributory pensions I will deal with that in some detail later. Training Fund contribution of 0.25%, Unemployment Insurance Scheme introduced. But, Mr. Speaker, I think it is most important that the public of Barbados should know, that the Barbados Workers' Union has been struggling for years for some kind of unemployment benefit for persons who have been employed, in the event that they should be off work for a while. It should also be known that in this Honourable House, a Resolution was brought by that tireless worker not only for his constituents in St. Lucy, but also on behalf of the workers of this country and that Resolution read as follows:

"WHEREAS the ILO Convention on social security makes provision for the payment of unemployment benefits and WHEREAS in Barbados unemployment benefits are not payable under the National Insurance Scheme which has been in operation since 1967,

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon Government to take prompt action to ensure that unemployment benefits are paid for a stipulated period to contributors to the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme."

Notice of this Resolution was given on 30th May, 1978 and the Resolution was defeated on 26th September, 1978. So, Mr. Speaker, you have a problem here which has its origins among the representatives of the workers of this country. You have it copied and presented here except with one major change and that major change is that the workers themselves will have to contribute one percent in order to benefit from it.

We have had the annual claim, another proposal, an annual claim for savings with Credit Unions. No major developmental matter. If it is a matter of finding a channel for savings and we hear about all the boast of the savings in Barbados, but what we never hear, Mr. Speaker is the distribution of those savings.
5.15 p.m.

It would be in my general experience that the vast majority of people in Barbados, faced with the hyper-inflation which prevails in this society, cannot have any significant savings.

The next proposal, Mr. Speaker, a check off system to permit purchase of Barbados Development Bonds by public servants and on an instalment basis. If there is all this money around, what do you want a check off system for on an instalment basis? If the general thrust of the Government's position that people are loaded with so much money, then they should not have any problems in finding the money for investment purposes.

The next proposal, Mr. Speaker, income tax deduction allowable for new shares purchased in public companies. We have no quarrel with that. All I would say is this, Barbadians generally speaking have not been exposed to that kind of investment, only a very small sector of this community, and it is my feeling that the anticipated amendments to the Companies Act, or the new Companies Act, should provide adequate legislation to make sure that there are far more disclosures in relation to public companies so that people will know that their investment is secure. The history in Barbados of small people investing in public companies has been fraught with disasters on many occasions and we have to be very careful as parliamentarians when we create this kind of environment. At the same time I think there is a duty on us as parliamentarians to make sure that there is an element of protection. Of course we cannot protect people against everything, but we have to make sure that the legal system within the country certainly gives them some effective protection against the risks.

Reform in motor tractor cultivation steam and tillage subsidies. This is nothing, Mr. Speaker, but an admission that the extension services which were made available to the small farmers in this country under the Democratic Labour Party have virtually completely broken down or have been substantially withdrawn, and consequently the Government is so embarrassed that they are bringing this minor matter in a matter of agriculture which should be one of the fundamental thrusts of any Government facing the eighties in this country.

Rebate on land tax if you produce more than \$1,000 on less than two acres or more than two acres. There are many people, Mr. Speaker, who produce far more than \$1,000 on a quarter acre of land. Why are they exempted? There are people who certainly produce more than \$1,000 on an eighth of an acre of land. Why the limitation? But again, Mr. Speaker, no fundamental understanding of the importance of agriculture to the economy of this country.

Abolition of death duties. I want to deal with this a bit. Now, Mr. Speaker, about two weeks ago in this Chamber I brought to the attention of parliamentarians that the way the present estate duties operated that they constituted a much greater burden to the small man than to the big man. I had done this, Mr. Speaker, because I knew that that problem was particularly created by budgetary proposals by the Hon. Minister of Finance. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to give you an example here. Prior to 1977, prior to that Budget, a person who left an estate of \$200,000, a widow and three children would have paid estate and succession duties to a total of \$22,700. With the increase in the estate duty and the changes in the succession duty they then had to pay \$30,000, an increase of some 32%, and the interest rate

on any payments outstanding was raised from 3 to 12%. Note that, 32% at the top.

When you take a situation where an estate valued at \$100,000 was involved, you would find that prior to that Budget the amount involved was \$7,410, but after that Budget \$9,250, 25%. Let us take a smaller estate, \$60,000. Because of those budgetary proposals you find that an estate which would normally pay total estate and succession duties of \$2,673 would then pay \$5,550, an increase of 107%. Shameful. An estate of \$30,000, \$932.25 before the change, \$2,160 after the change, an increase of 130%. An estate of \$12,000, poor people, normally prior to that Budget would have paid \$209, after \$864, an increase of over 300%.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we were told yesterday, consequential on a demand that I made in this House, that these duties would be abolished, but what I am saying is this. As a result of a gross error of judgement on the part of the Minister of Finance of this country, several people have been ruined between 1977 and yesterday, and I think that social justice should demand that that money should be refunded to them, because it breaks my heart, Mr. Speaker, when I know of situations where a police officer with no insurance and a three bedroom bungalow died prematurely. His wife and several children were left behind and that house had to be sold out in order to meet these demands as a consequence of the negligence of the Minister of Finance of this country. This is a budgetary measure, this is one of your budgetary proposals here and I am dealing with it, a specific budgetary proposal.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to move on to another area that is of grave concern to me. Yesterday we heard and saw members on the other side applauding, cheering when they heard that old age pensions would be increased, I think, to \$28.
5.25 p.m.

They were applauding. They ought to have been ashamed; they should not have been applauding, and I will tell you why they ought to have been ashamed. Mr. Speaker, over the last seven months or so I obtained a grant from a funding organisation overseas, and part of that grant was to do a study of people who were disabled for one reason or another within the constituency of St. Michael South Central. I extended that grant to include those economically disabled in the context of the Year of the Disabled which we are now in.

Now, Mr. Speaker, how can they boast about increasing old age pensions to that level when this party when it came into power in 1961, found old age pensioners in Barbados were getting \$2.50 under the Barbados Labour Party? We increased it by over 600% and we

have made a firm commitment to increase it to \$16 before we demitted office. However with the massive inflation that has overtaken this country, there are some shocking things that you will discover when you do a proper survey of the nutritional status of old age pensioners who live alone. Out of that study this has emerged. If you take what pensioners use on average for a week, obviously with a little left over from week to week, it includes two pounds of rice, one package of peas, two pounds of potatoes, half a pound of onions, half a pound of salt fish, half a pound of salted beef, a quarter of a pound of margarine, one roll of toilet paper, one small box of soap powder, one cake of toilet soap, one seven ounce tin of corned beef, one half package of macaroni, a quarter of a pound of cheese, a package of biscuits, one sandwich loaf — and they are soon going up after the Budget — two tins of sardines, two pounds of sugar, half a pound of salt, half a pound of flour, two soft drinks, two Banks Malts, one package of black pepper, two boxes of matches, one package of meal, one tin of condensed milk, a two ounce package of tea, a pint of cooking oil, a gallon of kerosene oil, two pounds of chicken backs and a mere four eggs. That alone adds up to \$30.32. As I have said before, obviously some of those items will be left over and rolled over, but I am giving some idea what it cost just for basic food and you cannot consider that kind of food of high nutritional value. We in the Democratic Labour Party intend when we are returned to power to increase these pensions substantially. We not only intend to increase them substantially, but we intend to index them against the rate of inflation, because we feel that it is most important that people at that kind of level who clearly cannot stand any rises in the cost of living should be protected far more regularly than on a biannual basis on which is has operated before. That, Sir, has only brought to attention the fate of many other pensioners in this country. They have been ruined by the inflation that this Government has encouraged in this country, and indeed some of them by the twin effects of inflation and taxation and we will be looking once again at the pensions of public officers and would be encouraging the private sector wherever possible, and if they can afford it to have a look and see what is happening to those people who are receiving pensions from them.

Mr. Speaker, we have to be humane in our approach to social and economic matters, and that is the hallmark of the Democratic Labour Party. We will be looking at matters like food, clothing, shelter, transport and electricity, the cost of water and a reasonable amount of leisure, and trying to come to a reasonable level where we think people should not fall below. But that says nothing about the problem of housing of old age pensioners; it says nothing, Sir, of the diversion of funds voted by this parliament for the repair of old age pensioners' homes and those funds being used for political purposes. It says nothing about the promise made by the Barbados Labour Party to pay the electricity and water bills for old age

pensioners, a promise which they have reneged on. They never qualified the promise they made in their manifesto and now they come and tell you that only in certain circumstances they can get it. If that is what they meant, then they should have put that in their manifesto. We shall make sure, Mr. Speaker, that apart from free medical care that also we will have a community service which is oriented towards the elderly in our community.

An interesting thing has emerged from the study which I have done and that is that the elderly persons themselves can participate in that community study. We shall also, Mr. Speaker, restore to them the right to travel on public transport at any time of the day, and we shall give them back the pension cards that were brutally taken away from them. Mr. Speaker, we shall make sure that every senior citizen will be re-absorbed into the social life of this community, and where possible into the economic life of the community without displacing opportunities for employment by younger people of course.

Now, Sir, characteristic of the cynicism and the addiction to straightforward tomfoolery, the people of this country read the budgetary proposals today on All Fools' Day. No wonder it was deliberately contrived believing that the people of Barbados are fools. Today is a day when people out of fun play tricks on each other, but there are no tricks left for us to play, because all of the tricks were played yesterday.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said, when you strip that budget of the travail that we took around the world, the recitation of the Economic Report, the few paltry proposals that have nothing to do whatever with any major developmental process in the economic or social life of Barbados, you are left then with an overwhelming impression that the people of Barbados never had it so good before.

5.35 p.m.

However, Mr. Speaker, I would not be surprised if the people in St. Thomas shared that view. I would not be surprised if the people of Christ Church South Central shared that view because their representative, the hon. member who represents that area, managed to say in six words what it took the hon. member for St. Thomas yesterday to say in two hours and five minutes.

I know that the people in Hindsbury Road, Bridge Road, Carrington's Village, Martindale's Road, Hall's Road, Bannister Land, Delaware Land, Belleville, The Pine, Highgates, Brittons Hill, and Collymore Rock, they do not share that view and they would be very surprised if I were to come inside here and associate myself with that type of view.

Mr. Speaker, I am also sure that the taxi drivers in this country would not share that view when they have to

sit around all day, from 5 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night and probably get two fares.

I am sure, Sir, that the Duty Free Shop owners in this country whose sales are down by 50% and in some cases by 75% would not share that view. I am sure that the hotel workers will not share that view because now for the first time in the history of the Tourist Industry in Barbados hotel workers are working on and working off during the months of January and March.

I am sure, Sir, that the housewives of every social standing in Barbados, black, white, any colour in Barbados could not possibly share that view that they have never had it so good. I am sure that the domestics in Barbados could not possibly share that view. I am sure that the masses of the unemployed in Barbados could not possibly share that view. I am sure that the young people sitting at home and despite strenuous efforts for years and who could not get a job in this country would not share that view.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the sick people who cannot buy their medicines or get access to reasonable medical care would not share that view. I am sure that the artisans involved in the most extensive crash programme in the history of Barbados, financed exclusively by borrowings in order to give the impression of full employment in an Election year, would not share that view because they are not even able to use their own skills to help build their homes because they have no cash.

I am sure that the motorists in Barbados, driven by the large taxes that they have to pay, by the price of petrol and by the price of almost everything to keep their vehicles on the road, which have doubled over the past five years, would not share that view.

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. members really believe what they are trying to say in this an election year, let us forget all the campaigning, let us forget all the sleepless nights, let us forget all the money that we will have to spend campaigning and just invite the people in Barbados, let those who have never had it so good vote for one side and those who feel they are worst off vote for the other side. I have no doubt in my mind what the result would be but, Sir, Mr. Big Prime Minister, big Expert on Finance, never qualified in Economics anywhere or Finance anywhere, I can only say that what he has brought on this country in the past four years is tantamount to a great strain robbery, a drain on the economy and robbery of the poor people of this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is really conscious of what he is saying. I must invite him without any ado to withdraw those offending remarks, please.

Dr. HAYNES: Which remarks?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please do not waste time; the remarks accusing the Prime Minister of a robbery. The Great Strain Robbery.

Dr. HAYNES: I withdraw the remarks, and a great strain.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Withdraw, withdraw, fullstop, and continue your debate.

Dr. HAYNES: I withdraw the remarks. The economy of this country has been put under a considerable amount of strain over the past four years by the hon. member for St. Thomas and despite trying to create the impression that he has given massive tax reductions in this country, if you look at the tax base in 1966/67 he has actually undertaken and taking into account the Estimates for 1981/82, he would have amassed over \$750 million in taxes on this community apart from over a quarter million dollars in borrowings.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is an incredible performance in getting money out of the pockets of the people of Barbados — 1976/77, that is the base line I am using. Now, Mr. Speaker, we on this side believe that a Budget should be an instrument of social engineering. We believe that it should be a major instrument whereby all those critical variances in a society can be brought together and then harnessed in such a way to entrench a permanent change for the good of the total community. Nothing in this Budget suggests that.

On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen is an act of political gerrymandering in order to complement the physical gerrymandering that has already taken place within this country for electoral purposes. A Budget, in my view, Mr. Speaker, in 1981 should address itself firstly to the high cost-of-living. Secondly, to the question of employment and under-employment in Barbados, and it should address itself to maintaining the value, Sir, of the Barbados dollar and it should certainly address itself to preventing or trying to avoid the impending balance of payments crisis which is hovering over Barbados as witnessed by the extensive turn of foreign exchange expenditure by the reduction in the number of tourists coming to this country by the stated reliance by the Central Bank that they would expect a deficit of our balance of payments this year unless there is a significant increase in the productivity from the manufacturing sector and above all, Mr. Speaker, the staggering increase in the public debt of Barbados.

It should address itself to those social problems in this society which are undermining the productivity, which are undermining the growth in various sectors of

Barbados and I refer, Sir, to the escalation of gambling, the trafficking of illicit drugs in this country because they both have serious foreign exchange implications and are fit topics for discussion in any debate.
5.45 p.m.

It should Sir, address itself to the consequences of the regressive form of taxation that has been introduced into this country by the imposition of massive amounts of taxation and particularly through the medium of Consumption Taxes. It certainly must address itself to the impact which crime is having, the increase in crime is having on the tourist industry, on the security that our citizens feel in their homes and to the question of your allocation of expenditure to those agents for the enforcement of law and order which give a sense of peace and security to our citizens, or if you are going to take up and spend \$31 million on a Defence Force.

Above all, Sir, our approach to all these matters should be humane. We cannot continue to look at gross figures, on a very weak statistical base and say that all is well, when we know perfectly well that that is not the case. Mr. Speaker, no Budget in 1981 could be relevant without containing proposals to deal with the question of energy, the cost of utilities, electricity, gas and water, *et cetera* in Barbados whether it be the homes of people, or whether it be the commercial, industrial or manufacturing sectors.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I said, that one of the main things that a Budget should be addressing itself to is the question of the cost of living. We have heard all kinds of bizarre figures quoted here so far during the debate. We have heard all sorts of bias presentations about the rate of inflation before this present Government took office. All I can say, Sir is that if you took the Quarterly Report of the Central Bank of Barbados, it is already a document of the Honourable House and look at page one 1976 it says this:

"The rate of inflation slowed to a standstill marking the end of three years of rapid price increases."
That was June, this is the Central Bank of Barbados Quarterly Report Volume Three, Number Two.

If you take the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals of the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas which he made in this Honourable House on 15th April, 1977, his own words:

"The annual average increase in the index of retailed prices in 1976 was five percent."
They are his own words, I do not know how he is going to eat them.

If you take Sir, on the other hand, the Quarterly Report of the Central Bank Volume Seven, Number Three, what do you see here?

"The rate of inflation....."

Mr. SPEAKER: At what page?

Dr. HAYNES: Page one.

"The rate of inflation continued to rise during the period bringing the annual average increase for the period ended June 1980 to 21.2%."

Then, Sir, changes in the Statistical Department, I presume, changes in the methods of calculating the cost of living index and the rate of inflation and we end up here with a very non committal statement in the Quarterly Report Volume Seven, Number Four of December, 1980 where under prices; a very bland statement:

"The increase in prices from March to September was measured by the new retail index as five percent".

I understand the position of the Central Bank, but I also know, Sir, that in a speech delivered by the Governor of the Central Bank to the Life Underwriters Association of Barbados at Norman Centre, Bridgetown on 16th January, 1981, this is what he had to say and I quote:

"However, my 'execution' did not avert the inflationary pressures in the construction sector. The introduction of a new consumer index has rather blurred the picture of inflation, but prices appeared to have risen somewhat faster in 1980, than in 1979."

I have great confidence in the Governor of the Central Bank.

I have heard the Rt. Honourable Member for St. Thomas describe the changes he made in the Statistical Department of this country in considerable detail and I would say this, that I would be much happier if that department had the same independent status as the Central Bank in this country. I will say no more.

I do not believe Sir that the rates of inflation banded around Barbados are as low as they are. However, for the purposes of argument, let us accept it:

1976	5%
1977	8.3%
1978	9.5%
1979	13.9%
1980	14.5%

The last report I saw so far this year over 15.6%, over 300% increase in the rate of inflation. I am prepared at all times, Sir, to fly in the face of statistical facts when they do not make sense. When anyone can say that only 700 males between the ages of 25 and 65 are unemployed, I am prepared to fly in the face of those kinds

of facts because they do not accord with my experience as a man who functions among people, from the moment I wake until the moment I go to bed.

Sir, if you were to take the increases in prices in Barbados between 1976 and 1981:

Bread	over	57.64%
Sardines	over	110%
Biscuits		31.7%
Eggs		75%
Tea		262%
Coffee		124%
Milk		33%
Matches		87%
Black Pepper		250%
Breeze		102%
Toilet Soap		140%
Toilet Paper		83.67%
Luncheon Meat		82.92%
Orange Juice		170.83%
Ovaltine		209.37%

You go right down the line:

Rice	43.9%
Straw sugar	41%
Salt	66.6%
Onions	50%
Flour	103%
Potatoes	105%
Clod Beef	150%
Cheese	105%
Pork	100%
Mutton	120%
Chicken	38.46%
Salt beef	60%
Salt fish	30%
Cooking oil	45.66%
Butter	101%
Table Butter	88%
Glow Spread Margarine	60%
Macaroni	60%
Corned Beef	117.94%

depending on which size tin you are using, the others are: 185%.

Soft Drinks	60%
Beer	80%
Malt	100%
Rum	70%

You go right down the line. Mr. Speaker, I cannot read out the whole lot, but you will see that on food alone, that the average increase must be over 100%.
5.55 p.m.

If you were to look at the construction industry, Mr. Speaker, concrete stones up by 217%, sand 150%, cement 134%, concrete blocks 84%, 79% and 77% according to the size, BRC 160%, steel 92%, louvre windows 106%, interior doors 54%, tentest 157%, hardboard 242%, galvanize sheets 150%, nails 93%, wash basins with one tap 215%, kitchen sinks 97%, toilets 168%, pitch pine 97%, siding 142%, plywood 102%.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the implications of this are just incredible. You hear about this big major thrust in housing. The facts are that if you were to take an artisan today, that man would have to work for 37% longer of his life time to buy the same house — I think they are called Pine Haven Houses — than five years ago. If you were to take an Administrative Assistant to buy a Pine Court House the ratio is even worst, and you have a situation where ordinary houses in this country, even if you drop the deposits, the down payment to 10%, when you drop it to 10% persons cannot get a mortgage for one or two reasons. One is that they cannot afford the down payment, or alternatively the mortgage interest and principal repayments on an amortised basis are so high that they cannot qualify on the basis on their own salaries, so that you have in most instances husband and wife having to go in with serious compromise to any other available disposable income as a consequence of the situation.

I need not go through the prices of cars, they are doubled; bus fares, virtually doubled. Wherever you look the prices of goods have gone up by almost 250%, and now you have a bogus proposal voiced around this country where you will reduce the price of drugs by 40% where you have allowed it to go up by 250%. Sir, if I may be permitted to quote from this document, which I will make a document of the House, the Advocate-News of Monday, January 1st, the only statement that I have heard from the Hon. Minister of Finance on the question of the cost of living in Barbados was as follows: "We must understand that everything pertaining to economic development has a price. As the saying goes, what you see is what you get and what you get is what you are prepared to pay for." That is the callousness of this administration summed up in that statement.

But, Sir, inflation is not merely a matter of recitation of the cost of items. Unlike unemployment which primarily affects the unemployed and the families of the unemployed with obvious adverse social consequences, every single person in Barbados irrespective of their economic grouping is affected by inflation and the total stability of this society will be destroyed unless it is controlled.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am the first person to accept that there is an external component to inflation in Barbados because of the type of economy that we have, but,

Sir, there is also a domestic component and this Government has failed miserably not only in the little that it can do such as using the BMC effectively to assist in bulk purchasing for essential products and proper use of its trade missions abroad rather than going poking you nose in everybody's business to get them more involved in trying to assist the merchants in this country in getting goods to Barbados at a reasonable price. There is much that can be done. We have had four Budgets here in Barbados that have been highly inflationary. We have done that to ourselves. This Budget you cannot say is inflationary, deflationary or anything else, because it contains nothing. I can only accuse the hon. member of bring in four inflationary Budgets before.

They are addicted, Sir, to the conservative philosophy that price controls must necessarily give rise to shortage of commodities. You know, Sir, I thought that Mrs. Thatcher was probably the arch conservative on this globe, but some time ago I accused the Government of following Mrs. Thatcher in some of their economic policies and the Deputy Prime Minister who I regret, is not in his place today, got up and reminded me that they could not be following Mrs. Thatcher, that Mrs. Thatcher would have to be following them because they were in power before her.

Governments, Mr. Speaker, can influence the rate of inflation in any country. I can only remind the people of Barbados that about 1973 or 1974 this country was faced with a 400% increase in oil prices. We were faced, Sir, with heavy inflation. The hon. member for St. Thomas says it was 40%. It may well be, I do not have to quarrel with that figure, but what I quarrel about is when you start averaging out inflation over a four year period. I cannot think of any greater economic nonsense. Inflation is what it is today, you cannot say it was 40% in 1973 and 5% in 1976 and the average period for the four years and the average period since 1976 was so and so. It does not make any sense.

If I walk into a country tomorrow with a thousand dollars in my pocket to go and put on a bank, I want to know what the rate of inflation is in that particular country. If I am getting 10% and the rate of inflation is 20%, I am not going to put it in the bank, I would go and look for some other means to invest those particular dollars. what did we do, Sir? We introduced price controls in Barbados and we will reintroduce them when we are elected back to power later this year. We introduced modest measures to control consumer demand, Mr. Speaker, in the form of a sales tax, which we have no intention of reimposing. That has been substituted, the six to eight million dollars that the people of Barbados were not prepared to pay for was substituted by consumption tax that yielded \$50 million last year, if the out-turn figures are right, because at this time of the year we have no final out-turn figures, we are talking about estimates and a

Budget on estimates, the total of which adds up to nothing, guestimates as far as I am concerned.

Restraint on borrowing is very important. We made sure that we controlled the introduction of new money into the economy in Barbados. Levels of borrowings from the Central Bank, if my memory serves me right, were well within 15 to 17 million dollars during that period. They are running now, the last figure I saw which I think was for December last year was somewhere around \$89 million or so, most of it short term. The part that he did not include when he told the country what the National Debt was was that, he just said "and borrowings from the Central Bank," he did not say what the borrowings were at the end of February. 6.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we also used fiscal measures like tying the Barbados dollar to the United States dollar which made a tremendous difference to the cost of our goods from the United Kingdom and other CARICOM countries. It was a policy mix that worked, and before we demitted office, we made sure — and before I go ahead with one point I want to deal with here, and it is that the hon. member for Christ Church West, I don't know where he was trained as an economist, talked about growth and negative growth during that period. That will always be a matter for argument. If you wanted to do like Guyana and go ahead on a massive capital expansion in a situation in which you found yourself or the Government would prefer to hold strain for a couple of years until you built up your foreign reserves to over \$100 million as it was in June of 1975 and carry on these projects which were intended to launch this country into and which has served this administration for five years, then when you look at the Estimates for 1981–82 you would see that these same projects would carry this administration if it is the next administration in Barbados through another five years.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we owe a debt of gratitude to the wisdom of the Rt. Hon. member for St. John. The choice was there. I accept there was a diminution of votes but I say this: it gave this country an opportunity for take-off with a healthy balance of payments surplus of some \$35 million in 1976 when they came into power. We gave a massive increase to the civil servants just before we left. They removed the sales tax, there was a change of Government, massive euphoria in the country, a country linked very closely to the merchants of this country, and what did they do between September and December? They allowed a spending spree in Barbados, and by the end of the year, Sir, that carefully nurtured surplus in our balance of payments in 1975 was plunged to the greatest deficit that this country has ever had, some \$39 million, and from there on during the following six months, despite the drawing down of \$20 million from Trinidad and despite for the first time admitting that he received balance of payments support in 1977 from the International Monetary Fund when challenged inside

here, and he said it was just our own money we were borrowing down or something like that. Now for the first time in a budget you see that he went to the IMF and got balance of payments support in 1977. That is what happens. We were lending money to Jamaica, Sir, at the end of the oil crisis. Soon after they came into power, they were borrowing money from Trinidad, they went to the IMF and do you know, Sir, that that was the crisis the hon. member is talking about. Is that what he is talking about when he said he rescued the country? He precipitated the crisis and I am saying, Sir, that the factor of inflation not only external but part of the package policy which they have to implement is in order to meet the demands of the International Monetary Fund; wage restraint, a four-day week, severe restrictions on consumer credit. Stoves, fridges and easy down payments are things of the past; reduction in Government spending; in relation to inflation it would increase with the consequential damage to all our social services in Barbados.

We know, Sir, that the hon. member for St. Joseph is completely incompetent and has demonstrated this in every Ministry he has gone to, but it was not entirely his fault and when he tried to resign in December, 1979, I think it was because he was deprived of money because of IMF directions which your Minister of Finance had to follow.

Another aspect of that policy was maximisation of taxation effort within the society. \$41 million in income tax he has given us when in point of fact if you take 1975–76, and I am not looking at the figures now, but my memory is that it was \$44 million in 1975–76, about \$55 million in 1976–77 and in the Estimates of this year \$107 million. It means that in one year he would get the \$41 million back. That is what he means by tax relief. That is not what the people of Barbados want. Mr. Speaker, part of that package has been the massive borrowings, massive increases in the public debt, and it is of great concern to me when we see that every year we run up massive overall deficits on capital and current account financed exclusively by capital inflows from heavy borrowings and year after year they get wider and wider, even in those years 1977, 1978 and 1979 when there was little capital developing going on in Barbados, and when indeed it was being held back until the last minute, you found that you were in a serious overall deficit situation. Part of that price, Sir, was the transfer of the economic burden of recovery to those in this society who can least afford it. This has been the governing policy of this administration on a stop go basis ever since June, 1977. They have gone full circle.

As a matter of fact, if I can find that document by the Central Bank Governor, it would be very revealing. I did not know he used to speak French. I cannot remember my French now and I had better not go on the country's television with it, so I will use the translation. He said "the more things change, the more they remain

the same." So in fact, Sir, from 1977 with a balance of payments deficit which went into the following year back to heading for one this year, and the curbs will come on again, and I challenge the hon. member ever to attempt to spend the \$180 million which he has calculated will be the overall deficit this year. No way. All these crash jobs that you have created will be coming to an end pretty rapidly after the elections have taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I borrowed these notes before I came in here, I hope I do not have to make them documents of the House. This, Sir, is a \$1.00 bill. This was printed partially because what this used to buy you had to use this \$2.00 bill to buy. This is a \$100 bill. I believe in my nation, Sir. The photograph on this \$100 bill is a photograph of Sir Grantley Adams, a great patriot of Barbados. The hon. member for St. John decreed that his photograph should appear on this \$100 bill, the largest of the denominations because he felt that the strength of our currency would be symbolised by the presence of this great man on it. Mr. Speaker, is it not ironic that the value of this currency should be halved by the hon. member for St. Thomas? Mr. Speaker, I dedicate myself and this party of which I am a member, the Democratic Labour Party, dedicate ourselves to the restoration of the value of what it held when we were in power.

6.15 p.m.

Now Mr. Speaker, it is not enough to just criticise, Sir. We, Sir, will take a positive position. We intend to deal with the problem of inflation in Barbados by reducing the temptation for introducing new money into the economy, by controlling prices by the introduction of Price Controls. We are going to launch a massive five year programme in Agriculture including Fisheries in order to reduce our dependence on imported products.

As part of that programme we intend to make sure that the farmers in this country have a guaranteed price for their products in order to give proper stimulus to production. We shall be moving into the massive area of agro-industrial development, Sir, and we will be creating inducements for people to direct their savings away from sterile Concrete blocks, like apartment buildings into the production area like Agriculture to feed the nation of this country, to help protect our balance of payments, to help reduce the rate of inflation and indeed, Sir, in the area to make sure that we provide that vital interlinkage between the various sectors which we have created so far. That is the position of the Democratic Labour Party.

That is why, Sir, the kind of tinkering that you get with Budgets - I appreciate, Sir, that you cannot use a Budget to cure the problems of Agriculture but when you introduce a tax rebate of 18% on machinery bought for harvesting and so on last year which indeed could only be of any use to people who are making a profit to start off with and the vast majority of people would like to have the money up front, not after they have brought the stuff in

here and many of whom would have preferred the investment allowance rather than the rebate.

When you come with these silly proposals here now, not silly, but useful proposals but it would be much better if they would go and till the people's land and get the tractors back in order because for you to find the money to go and till the land and then hope for the refund from the Ministry of Agriculture some years later is a difficult job. They might not have the money. A far more fundamental approach and a philosophical understanding of the significance of Agriculture to the economy of Barbados is needed and the vital role that it can play in the developmental process of this country.

I would say this. Despite all the talk that you have heard on the other side about Agriculture, you know the hon. member for St. Thomas said on the Floor of this House that I said that the only thing in the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto that I agreed with, Sir, was Off-Shore Banking. That was not true. What I said was that if they really meant what they said about Agriculture that there was a possibility that all would not be lost. That is a completely different thing.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do not think I need to go into Agriculture except for one thing. One would have thought that if they understood what was going on in Barbados today, the Barbados Workers' Union had to fight a battle mainly against the Minister of Finance to get \$10 million for the sugar workers but there is a gap. There is a serious gap here in that the small farmers are getting something like \$3.00 and \$3.42 per ton from the factories for the canes that they sent in last year and they have to pay out about \$4.84 per ton. How is that gap going to be closed? How are people going to find money to pay sugar workers, the number of small people, for last year and find money to reap their present crop now? I do not know how they are going to do this. It is a major problem.

Mr. Speaker, continuing along the lines of Agriculture. We know, Sir, of the massive breakdown in the extension Services. I have referred to some of the problems involved. The question of the rebates apart from the fact that it might not be helpful to every person, there is a significant aspect of that that needs to be looked at because it contains a fundamental anti-labour bias where you are substituting imported capital that has foreign currency implications forevermore, you are substituting that for labour and in a situation where you have an energy crisis throughout the World it is something that you should look at very carefully when you get into that area.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked about food production. I have talked about certain anti-labour positions. I have spoken, Sir, about our recognition of the vital role that Agriculture has to play and remember this, Sir, you always hear criticisms of the Democratic Labour Party in relation to Agriculture but the fact is this. This economy

was able to grow during the 1960's and grow significantly without any massive escalation of the public debt, some \$220 million in 15 years.

Food prices were relatively stable. Food did not assume the same position in the economies in the World that it assumes today. In short, you did not even have the same potential as was witnessed in your foreign affairs as you have today so that the urgency for Agricultural Development is far more vital now and we have had five wasted years. Everything has gone to a state of chaos and a review, Sir, of the index of Agricultural production in this country would show that apart from poultry, I think eggs and so on, there are very few instances where you have seen any significant improvement over the long term.

In fact, Sir, I have it here with me. I forgot I had it here. If you take, Sir, 1972 as the base year, sugar cane.....

Mr. SPEAKER: For the benefit of the Hansard Reporter, what are you reading.

Dr. HAYNES: Sorry about that. The Central Bank of Barbados Annual Statistics, 1979, page 107. Sugar cane — gradual decline; Onions — gradual decline; Cotton, up to 1979 — significant decline; Peanuts — decline; Yams — decline; Sweet Potatoes — decline; Beets — decline; Pumpkins — decline; Carrots — decline; String Beans — 1972-79: Cucumbers — that decline; Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Cabbage, Figs, Poultry, Eggs and Milk; otherwise, generally speaking that has been the pattern. In other words, we have a diminishing agricultural base despite all we talk about agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I now turn to Tourism. As I have said before never in the history of this country have hotel workers been laid off on a one week on and one week off basis.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is now repeating himself.

Dr. HAYNES: I said, what I have said before.

Mr. SPEAKER: Standing Orders do not permit this.

Dr. HAYNES: To continue, Sir, why is this happening? The fact is that there are other Caribbean destinations like Puerto Rico and the Cayman Islands which this summer are seeing substantial growth. I think that one of the problems in Barbados that despite the fact that Tourism is so vital as a foreign exchange earner; we need a Minister of Tourism who can pay some attention to the problems of Tourism, not added on to a whole stream of Ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I think that crimes against visitors again is a matter affecting the Tourist Industry.
6.25 p.m.

I think, Sir that the question of garbage all over the place is something that tourists react adversely to. I think Sir that the question of confusion regarding the rights of Barbadians on beach lands in this country has been contributory. Mr. Speaker, I think also bad planning because what I think has been happening in Barbados is that you have been getting into a vicious circle where you are pumping investments for an extension of hotel plant, thereby Sir reducing the occupancy rates of those plants already in existence and that is putting upward pressure on prices, apart from energy factors and consequently, when you get upward prices, the higher the prices go the fewer the visitors. But, if you make that statement, you hear the foolish response that it is the most expensive hotels that are the first to be filled.

There are not that many people who can afford to go into US\$300 a day accommodation and they would be full whether the prices in the other hotels were low, or high. But, the fact is that for the majority of tourists coming here, I think that the prices are far too high. Mr. Speaker, I think that the policy of this Government to withdraw cheap financing to small hotels is self-defeating. It Sir prevents further localisation of the industry and when you think, Sir of building a twenty room hotel in Barbados today, you are talking about a \$1.6 million to \$2 million investment. I ask you Sir how many Barbadians can find the equity for that kind of investment? Not many Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure of that.

I believe that the time has come when that policy must be reviewed. The Democratic Labour Party, when we are returned to power will make sure that financial incentives are once again available to small hoteliers in Barbados even to the point Sir — but this needs adequate control — where you can involve people of Barbados to extend their homes and probably provide family accommodation for some of our visitors, Sir. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is an industry which employs something like 13% it is difficult to get up-to-date figures because you get all sorts of different figures every day coming from different places about the work force. Its gross receipts for 1980 something like \$500 million and its total revenue to Government about 15% of the total Government Revenue. Therefore, Sir our policy must be an orderly, physical development of hotel plant in Barbados. We have to maximise the retention of the tourist dollar, we have to charge reasonable prices to our visitors, we have to redirect our fiscal incentives to those sub-sectors within the hotel industry which are the greatest generators of employment and the greatest earners of foreign exchange. I do not think that the amount of money spent, the amount of Barbados Development Bank

money put into apartments in this country serves those purposes, Sir.

We have Sir to minimise the social disruption of this whole society. We will put a ceiling on the number of tourists coming to Barbados and we will redirect our promotion Sir to make sure that the type of tourist coming to Barbados is one, who through expenditures and through various other attitudinal positions would contribute to the social and environmental development of this country and try to keep as many racketeers out of the business. In particular, Sir, we will put a stop to any further Mafia involvement of the ownership of the industry in this country.

But Sir, earlier on, I said that this country owed a great debt to the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John. Caribbean Airways, Sir; I remember the position of the other Side when they were in the Opposition. They were able Sir to pioneer a reduction of fares on the European routes and indeed, Sir because of the strength of the pound sterling at present, we have been able Sir to increase the number of tourists coming from that area because the fare structure has been reduced because of the influence of a Barbados carrier on the particular route. So, Sir, that relationship between aviation and tourism is one that has to be carefully borne in mind and has to be intimately restored and Sir, I go further, controls on prices should be voluntary at first, but if the hoteliers will not comply, I believe that other forms of persuasion should be used, as far as possible.

Sir, I would like to say this, these are integrated areas, I pointed out before that one major way of maximising your tourist earnings is to push your agricultural development, Sir. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think Sir that we also have to pursue a foreign policy which does not damage the image of this country. We must never have Prime Ministers cursing themselves across the Caribbean. We must never Sir have a situation where all sorts of criminals come to our shores and that kind of publicity is on the airwaves of the world from day to day. When a member of the Royal family comes here, when Frank Sinatra comes here, people feel happy coming afterwards. When certain persons come, it frightens people. So, I think that it is most important Sir that the image of our country should be protected at all times, if we are to have a viable tourist industry.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn my attention now to taxation. For some time now, I have called again and again on the Floor of this Honourable House for a reduction in taxation. We have had some measures introduced here yesterday and there are many people who believe that there is considerable substance in those measures. There are many people in Barbados Sir, who believe that the tax free month was a month in which you did not pay any tax from last year.

Yesterday, I read the Budget and I could not find it. I heard the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas say, a PAYE free month and I am going to ask him now to let the people in Barbados know whether they were misled into believing that they got one or more tax free months last year, or whether they will be called upon to pay taxes, because Sir, if they were misled, that would be a very irresponsible position to be taken by any Honourable Minister of Finance.

Those measures yesterday, Sir, if you were to take a married man, whose wife has no income with two children seven and thirteen years old, let me tell you what it means, Sir. A man Sir with income of \$135 a week is saving now Sir \$3.63 a week, it cannot buy a tin of corned beef. Two hundred and thirty dollars a week, what he has got is \$5.77 a week.
6.35 p.m.

If his income was \$385 a week, he got \$10 a week. If it were a single man at an income of \$100, his savings would be 82 cents, if it were a single man at \$150 a week, his savings would be \$3.65 a week. A single man at \$250 a week, his savings would be \$3.07 a week. That is the great gift, but the consumption tax scheduled remains the same. Inflation rates in Britain, Canada and the United States will not significantly alter over the next 12 months. Those consumption taxes are charged on c.i.f. plus duty and in consumption taxes alone they will pay far more than any kind of rebate that they got in terms of income tax. Sir, you can see the sales tax but you cannot see the consumption tax. You might drink milk, Sir, as far as I know there is no consumption tax on milk, but if you look at the number of items involved from that factory in various stages of its production, all of this will be costed in the final product called milk, you will find out how widespread the range of consumption tax is in this country. When you consider, Sir, that the amount of consumption tax under the Democratic Labour Party – I think it is about eleven to twelve million dollars, but I will get the exact figure, I would not like to be held to that, Sir, – it is now \$50 million and it will be more than \$50 million, that is in the Estimates. It is predicted that it will be \$62 million and the inflation alone will make it more like seventy-three to seventy-four million dollars in the income year 1981–82. These gimmicks, Sir, have been nothing but rubbing the brine into the wounds of this nation, battered and buffeted by inflation, battered and buffeted by the kind of insecurity generated by an administration that is prepared to play tricks with the fortunes of the vast majority of our people.

Income tax, Mr. Speaker, gone up over 100% since 1976–77, this is in relation to income year 1981–82 as projected. Corporation tax more than doubled, taxes on goods and services gone up from \$32 million to \$129 million projected for 1981–82, and within that heading

lies the consumption tax. Taxes on international trade, more than doubled. Mr. Speaker, this could not be due to any growth when you look at the growth rates recorded in this kind of economy, this is due more to inflation than to any significant growth in this economy.

Property taxes, you see the same pattern, but Sir, this consumption taxes I would think by themselves have been responsible for a large measure of the inflation in this country. But there has been utter indirect taxation and imposition, because if you were to take those Budgets together you will find that for the poor man, the average man, the rich man there is increase in National Insurance contributions, imposition on cigarettes, gasoline, liquor, varnishes, imitation jewellery, bicycles, motor cycles, films, clocks, watches, cosmetics, kerosene, overseas calls, private beds in the Q.E.H., bedding, walking sticks, shoes, handkerchiefs, baptismal certificates, police character certificates, lubricants, batteries, water rates, natural gas, road taxes, drivers' licences, you go right down the line, Sir.

I have worked it out that there is no way you can go to bed at 6.00 o'clock one evening and go back to bed at 6.00 o'clock the following evening without having to give something to the Minister of Finance. The only way you can do it is if you walk around naked, bare-footed and hungry, and that may be the reason why you are getting an increase in nudism in Barbados.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you look at these various income tax adjustments. They have not even begun to deal with the basic problems relating to taxation. All these tax credits and these kind of things, you are just fooling around with the income tax system, you are not really facing the basic problem, and this Democratic Labour Party is setting up a task force consisting of tax experts, economists, nutritionists, social workers, two medical practitioners, two accountants, one agronomist, one teacher and a builder, and we put three questions to them. What are the basic needs of an individual living in Barbados today at today's prices and what would it cost to satisfy those needs? What levels of tax incentives are required to stimulate productivity in this country? How can we protect vulnerable groups from the twin effects of taxation and hyper-inflation? Consideration was given to such matters as adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, the cost of utilities, the levels of the social services, leisure, levels of indirect taxation and inflation.

Now it was on that basis, on the basis of a proper scientific study, that we have come to the firm conclusion that anyone earning \$150 or less a week should not pay income tax in Barbados. No gimmickery, it was based on a proper analysis of the situation, and we went further, Sir, but I think I have to move away from taxation because of the time.

Now, Sir, there is a move abroad in this society that this economy has been managed well, that all is rosy, that there is a great manager of the economy. I would ask him to tell the people of Barbados what new sector has he introduced into Barbados apart from a flourishing gambling situation, an increase in drug trafficking and probably, Sir, a situation of off-shore banking, and nobody is sure whether it has got off the ground or otherwise.

Now he talks about the GDP at factor cost \$1.46 billion at current prices, per capita income \$5869. Just deflate that, Sir, and see what it is, compare it at today's prices with what it was at 1976 prices, and there is hardly any substantial change. He comes in here and he boasts about GDP and per capita income, he gets on a plane and goes to Washington to lending agencies, and the first thing they say, your GDP is so and so and your per capita is so and so. He says, do you know that it does not speak to distribution, it does not speak to structural weaknesses within the community, it does not speak to the question of repatriations and profits, it is not a realistic figure that tells the story about human resources development within our society, but he does not tell us, Sir. He will not tell us what is the true national income at 1981 prices. What was the national income in 1976? In what way has that changed and how is it distributed in Barbados? That is the type of information that we would like, Sir.

He talks about the National Debt and he relates to debt service. He relates in this kind of trading economy, Sir, he relates the debt service ratio to our exports. You know, Sir, that is how other Caribbean and developing countries got into the debt trap.

6.45 p.m.

Already we have a situation this year where it is anticipated that in the absence of further borrowings in the absence of a strong out turn by the manufacturing sector we will have a balance of payments deficit. Overnight your exports whether it be in tourism, other services or anything else can be run down in a short period of time, two or three years, you will have a massive debt service to face and you can be in a lot of trouble. I am not saying that you cannot accelerate the pace of development in a country by judicious borrowings, but what I am saying is that we should not be in a situation where we have increased the national debt of this country from somewhere about \$230 million in March, 1976, to \$472 million exclusive of borrowings from the Central Bank which we have not been told about but which I said was \$87.4 million at the end of December last year. You know when it was \$230 million they were walking around telling the people in St. Lucy and elsewhere that the Democratic Labour Party has got this country in a situation where people are going to come for their cows and their sheep. I would not be so irresponsible, but it is a situation for caution, to be careful in this kind of trading

economy to adopt the criteria of countries with far more sophisticated, technological and industrial base in respect of your borrowings. That is what I would advise the hon. member. He would not be able to borrow much more because the people of Barbados will take care of that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this business of balance of payments. This is linked to the man who has managed this economy so well; two years' balance of payments in a negative position. I have already referred to all the strictures in the economy which he has had to apply in order to cope with a chronic balance of payments problem and the fact that one is looming on the horizon again.

Sir, there are other aspects of this. How can any reasonable person produce any reasoned argument to any other reasonable person to say that our economy is healthy when that economy at the moment is characterised by a rapidly increasing rate of inflation, that there is no firm evidence of any drop in unemployment in Barbados? There are a lot of people working at the moment, but I am not so sure whether they are going to be permanently employed or otherwise, and I will get on and question the statistical data made available to us. When you have all your social services in this country run down, when your agricultural sector is in disarray, where your tourist industry is in recession, when your manufacturing sector is not performing to its height particularly in the garment area, where over 340 machines I understand are lying idle and where half of the work force is laid off, where public utilities, electricity, gas and water the people of Barbados, cannot afford to pay for, how can one take these statistics seriously?

Sir, when you take all these things into consideration, when you realise that the average lower and middle income man in Barbados cannot afford to buy a house, when you realise that the interest rates in Barbados today are almost usurious, 17% you have to pay on certain kinds of bank loans in Barbados, how can you talk about high liquidity in the banking system? You pushed the deposit rates up, and just look around and see what has happened to bank rates since then. You have all this money in the banks and yet if you try to get certain types of loans from the banks you will see what you have to pay. There have been all sorts of curbs on your foreign exchange, there are impending bankruptcies in the hotel industry and in the manufacturing industry; a climate of deterioration of law and order in Barbados and massive increases in the public debt. These are the characteristics of this economy and an impending balance of payments deficit this year. If we are going to carry on the programme as projected in the Estimates this year, it would mean even larger deficits on overall capital and current accounts.

You have a situation where from 1976 until now you have been having an increasing deficit. I indicated earlier that I would come to these figures. In 1976-77 you had an overall deficit on capital and current account of \$61 million; in 1977-78 it was \$83 million, in 1978-79 when they obviously cut back on capital expenditure waiting for elections \$31 million, in 1979-80 it was \$46 million, in 1980-81 it was \$95 million and a projected one now of \$181 million to be financed by borrowings because the little surpluses that were realised on current account, I believe it is \$14 million or \$15 million this year, 1981-82, will be financed largely from borrowing, and you tell me that you have a healthy economy. You have the people in Barbados in shackles in order to protect the meagre foreign reserves and an impending crisis in relation to balance of payments. You have escalated the public debt of this country, and you walk around and create the impression, you write letters to the Washington Post and to the New York Times, these letters are then reported here that the Barbados economy is doing this and that and you expect reasonable persons to sit down and analyse these figures and not realise that you are creating problems. I use the word "you" in a generic sense, I am not talking about any specific person. One does that. It is a question of when you analyse what is happening, the story is very different from what the public of Barbados and what the newspapers in this country instead of even picking up the Central Bank Report and looking to see what the Central Bank is saying that would give them some idea of the kind of structural problems facing this country, instead of doing that, what do you get?

Now, Sir, it would be embarrassing to talk about the capital projects programme in this country, because there is not a single capital project that they have embarked upon which was not conceptualised by the Democratic Labour Party apart from CARIFESTA and the underground bridge in Bay Street. Those as far as I know are the two capital projects that they can say are theirs, and even the hon. member for St. Thomas when he was introducing the Estimates particularly avoided referring to any of the projects listed in the Estimates because he said he wanted to concentrate only on those projects that they could call their projects, and I think one included fish ponds somewhere in St. Joseph.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will not deal with the question of health because there are serious problems. One of my colleagues will deal with this. On the question of transport, there are serious problems. In the manufacturing area, apart from the Gambling Industry, there are serious problems, but I should like to look before I take my seat at this question of the unemployment statistics in Barbados. Now, Sir, these are the most amazing statistics that I have ever seen. In

1975 the hon. member for St. Thomas when he was Leader of the Opposition over here said again and again that the unemployment rate in Barbados was 28%. When he became Prime Minister of Barbados, in his first budget he said it was 15.3% having been reduced from 22.5% due to refinements in the statistical methods removing from the ranks of the genuinely unemployed persons classified as the voluntary idle. Now two weeks ago during the Estimates debate he gave a very erudite discussion on his approach to statistics.
6.55 p.m.

He said that he generally felt that unemployment in Barbados was never at anytime above 13% or 14%. That is what he said during the Estimates but in the following year, Sir, in his Budget of 1978 he gave the rate of 15.6% for 1977 but he decreased the amount from 1976 to 15.7% showing a drop of 0.1%.

In 1979 you got corresponding periods but not a full year situation. In 1980 you got a figure of 7.8% and if you take the overall, Sir, from 1976 until now, you end up with a drop of 2.5% in a situation where at least 20,000 people would have entered the work force in this country and another interesting thing about these statistics, Sir, if you take the reported growth rates in Barbados you will find that there is an apparent relationship between reported drops in employment in Barbados and indeed with the growth in the economy of this country.

I would say that those statistics, Sir, have no greater value than the statistics that you heard that in the whole of Barbados there are 700 males between the ages of 25 and 65 who are out of work, Sir. They have been and there still is and if you take the question of Immigration, we have had massive immigration out of Barbados, people wanting to escape from the Barbados Labour Party government, Sir.

Indeed, Sir, we have a situation where I think in the Economic Report there is a slight drop in the population, if my memory serves me right. What we have had in Barbados, Sir, is a lot of job substitutions like at the BMC, the Parks and Beaches Commission, the Ministry of Communications and Works, at the Transport Board and indeed, Sir, in the private sector under the influence of certain persons. Even, Sir, suggesting to the Board of Directors that certain positions should not work for them. Now, this is the kind of thing that happens in this country from time to time but it will not continue for a very long time from now.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member can talk as much as he likes but he cannot conceal the fact of inflation, massive increases in the cost-of-living, the tax burdens of this community, the serious effects of the one armed bandits and the fact that people cannot pay for their

utilities. Sir, he cannot get away from the charge that by failing to introduce price controls in this country that that has contributed considerably to the cost-of-living, Sir.

Sir, we as a Party, I have indicated and I have not only been critical of the Government but I have sought, Sir, during this discourse to indicate certain positive areas which we as a Party, areas of policy, which we would adopt when we are returned to power. We do not wish, Sir, to see a situation going in this country where people in order to cope with the oppression of inflation they are now bursting into song, a song which we know has been withdrawn from CBC, "Bills, bills, everywhere, Tom, Tom, we cannot pay." That is what the people in Barbados are saying today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in view of the situation which I have outlined, which you have had before and which I have described and in view, Sir, of the Resolution before this House, I believe that we in the Opposition have come to a firm conclusion that we should seek to move an amendment to that Resolution.

The amendments Sir, to the Resolution which was moved on March 31st, 1981, by the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas are as follows:—

Paragraph 5, delete the word "further" in line one and the word "approve" between 'House' and 'the' and insert the words "takes note of" in its place.

Put a comma instead of a full stop after '1981', and add the following words:—

"and the failure of the Government to take effective measures to control the sharp increases in the rate of inflation from less than 5% in 1976 to the present level".

Renumber paragraph 5, as paragraph 1. Add new paragraph 2 and 3 as follows:—

2. Be it further resolved that this House strongly condemns the policy of the Government in the excessive imposition of consumption taxes, thereby impoverishing the entire nation and reducing the standard of living of the broad masses of people.
3. Be it further resolved that this House has no confidence in the Government and calls upon the Government to hold an election immediately.

The Resolution Sir, now reads as follows:—

"Be it resolved that this House takes note of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals delivered on March 31, 1981 and the failure of the Government to take effective measures to control the sharp increases in

the rate of inflation from less than 5% in 1976 to the present level.

2. Be it further resolved that this House strongly condemns the policy of the Government in the excessive imposition of consumption taxes, thereby impoverishing the entire nation and reducing the standard of living of the broad masses of people.
3. Be it further resolved that this House has no confidence in the Government and calls upon the Government to hold an election immediately.

I beg to move that that Resolution stand part.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that amendment to the Resolution and reserve my right to speak.

7.05 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, last year when the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John replied to the Budgetary Proposals of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, he began by saying that even the devil can quote Scriptures and perhaps Mr. Speaker, it is an appropriate occasion on which to refer to another trite saying and it is this, *nihil admirandum* is the devil's fair and only text because anyone who has listened to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central could well be satisfied that there has been in his presentation this afternoon not one word of praise for any aspect of the Government's policy over the last five years. I believe it may be appropriate on this occasion to recall for him the words of Alexander Pope:

"But you who seek to give and merit fame,
And justly bear a critic's noble name,
Be sure yourself and your own reach to know,
How far your genius taste and learning go.
Launch not beyond your depth, but be discreet,
And mark that point where sense and dullness meet."

It is an extract from Pope's well-known writing and essay on criticism because I think that we can be satisfied here this afternoon that the Honourable Member launched well beyond his depth, he lacked the art of discretion and he failed to recognise the point where sense and dullness met.

I will take but one illustration having regard to the limitation of time, Mr. Speaker to deal with this and I take the illustration of Foreign Policy. The Foreign Policy as enunciated by the Honourable Member which he hopes will launch his Party into the next five years and this is the summary of his foreign Policy. It will be a Foreign Policy that sees that Prime Ministers will not curse each other and that there will never be any criminals coming

to our shores. I have never heard in anywhere at all not even in those countries who have never had a glimpse of the understanding of Foreign Policy, such nonsense, such lack of analysis, such misunderstanding of the functions of Foreign Policy and I am sure that anyone who listened to the enunciation of the policy of his Party this afternoon will well be satisfied that sense deserted him and dullness was his hallmark.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concerned that in a principal reply to the Budget, we have been treated with a discursive rambling story lacking in economic analysis, lacking in a true appreciation of the factual economic indicators of this country's real progress, lacking in understanding of the basic concepts of the Budgetary exercise and certainly, not that it is expected from the Honourable Member lacking in even the grace of humility and charity.

But, there are a few misconceptions that I should hasten to clear up and I want to deal firstly with one of the areas of greatest concern to the people of this country and that is the area of taxation. The Honourable Member said that the Government's policy had been characterised by massive taxation and that the concessions given to the people were no true concessions. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recite for the benefit of the country a summary of the tax relief granted by this Government between 1977 and 1981. In 1977, we gave a tax credit of \$60 to persons whose salary was \$500 per month, or less, we gave an allowance for children's school fees up to \$350 for those persons whose children, were going to secondary schools which were non governmental, we increased children's allowances from \$300 to \$400 for children at Secondary schools between the ages of 11 and 16 and we lowered the threshold from 12 to 11 for the qualifying age. For children over 16 at secondary schools, we increased the amount of the allowance from \$500 to \$600 and in respect of children studying overseas, we increased the allowance from \$800 to \$1 000.

In 1978, we gave a tax credit to persons with gross incomes of \$6 000 or less, we allowed an allowance of wages paid to a gardener up to \$500, we allowed insurance premiums paid by working wives, who opted for separate assessment up to \$1 3000. In 1979, we allowed a deduction of \$1,200 saved continuously at \$600 per annum for two for co-operative societies, or credit unions within an amount up to \$1,000 to be treated as tax free in respect of the conversion of one half of the annual bonus paid to workers. We separated the tax of wives and husbands, separate assessment of tax and we adjusted the tax bands on all incomes above \$3,000. We increased the tax credit from \$60 to \$100.

We changed and increased the personal allowances from \$1,200 in 1975 under the Democratic Labour Party to \$1,600, married persons from \$2,000 to \$3,000

allowances for children under eleven from \$300 to \$400, allowances for children between 11 and 16 from \$400 to \$500, allowances to dependant relatives and housekeepers from \$240 to \$500, we increased the amount in annual life insurance premium from \$1,300 to \$1,500, we introduced the children's life insurance premiums up to \$500 per child and we raised the limits of contribution to registered retirement plan from \$1,000 to \$1,500, we gave an increase in dividend credit from one third to one half of cash dividend up to \$1,000 and individuals whose gross income is not over \$6,000 became entitled to the dividend credit in respect of the amount of cash dividend received, we abolished taxation on the rateable value of owner occupied houses. Chattel house owners for the first time became entitled to claim interest on money borrowed to purchase, or construct their houses and in 1980 we allowed a deduction of full cost of installation of solar water heaters and we allowed an introduction of a repair allowance of \$1,000 for chattel house owners.

We adjusted the rates of the bands of taxable income and gave tax relief to the extent of \$17.8 million, we increased the tax credit from \$100 to \$300 of gross incomes of individuals \$6,000 and under, we introduced a tax credit for gross incomes of \$6,000 to \$8,000 and gave tax relief of \$6.2 million. We gave a special allowance for senior citizens over 65 years of \$4,000 that is a single person and a married person \$5,000, we allowed employers' gifts to employees shares on retirement up to a value of \$5,000 to be exempted from income tax.

Mr. Speaker, the 1981 tax relief figures are already current in the minds of persons, but I wish very briefly and perhaps in a graphic way for the benefit of the listening public to show the difference in the taxation rate between the last full year of Democratic Labour Party Government and this year of the Barbados Labour Party Government. In 1975, if you took a married person, if they had two children over 12 years, but under 16 years who were attending not a Government secondary school but a fee paying school this would be their position, Mr. Speaker. If the person was earning \$6,000 in 1975, he had to pay tax of \$340, today that person pays no tax at all.

7.15 p.m.

If he had a salary of \$10,000 he had to pay tax of \$1,360, today he pays \$380. If he had a salary of \$12,000 under the Democratic Labour Party he paid tax of \$2,020, today he pays \$660. If he had a salary of \$15,000 in 1975 under the Democratic Labour Party he paid tax of \$3,200, today he pays \$1,260. If he had a salary of \$18,000 in 1975 under the Democratic Labour Party he paid tax of \$4,700, today that same person pays tax of \$2,040. If he had a salary of \$25,000 in 1975 under the Democratic Labour Party he paid tax of \$8,820, today that same person pays tax of \$4,520.

Mr. Speaker, if you take a single person, the example taken by the hon. member, with two children over 12 and under 16 years attending an approved secondary school, in 1975 under the Democratic Labour Party that person paid tax of \$500, no tax today. If his salary was \$10,000 per annum, he paid tax of \$1,600, \$680 today. If it was \$12,000 under the Democratic Labour Party in 1975, he paid \$2,300, today he pays \$1,080. If he had a salary of \$15,000 under the Democratic Labour Party in 1975 he paid tax of \$3,600, today he pays tax of \$1,770, and if he had a salary of \$18,000 he paid tax of \$5,100, today he pays tax of \$2,670. If he had a salary of \$25,000, Sir, he paid tax of \$9,300, today he pays tax of \$5,450.

Mr. Speaker, those are figures that cannot be gainsaid, and the only logical conclusion one can draw from them is not their rhetorical and pejorative language in which the hon. member spoke, but the conclusion that there has been a massive reduction in taxation in this country between 1975 under the Democratic Labour Party Government and 1981 under the Government of the Barbados Labour Party. This has been achieved, Mr. Speaker, because of the brilliant manner in which the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas, the Prime Minister, has led the economy of this country, the direction that he has given the economy, the erudition that he has brought and the training and the analysis which he has brought to his task, the courage which he has shown, the support of the workers of this country, the support of the manufacturing and tourist sectors, and the agricultural sector. It has been achieved by our sacrifices, by our work, by our devotion, by the resilience of the Barbadian people, but it has been achieved under the guidance of a great combination in Government party and as well in the people of this country. That is why it is not difficult for me to support this Resolution.

I want to deal with a few other aspects adverted to by the hon. member without any deep analysis. The hon. member dealt with the question of inflation and he sought to show that Barbados was in a position of hyper-inflation, and therefore his argument and conclusion is that the standards of living of people had fallen tremendously. Now, I think that any objective person must begin, Mr. Speaker, by admitting that inflation is not a creation of this Government, inflation preceded this Government and I am sure inflation will continue in many cases, in the Latin Americas and the Caribbean, worldwide for some time, but I submit that Barbados has done better than almost all countries in Latin America in controlling inflation. It has done better than our regional partners in many instances, and it has done better than the extra-regional partners as well, and in any analysis of inflation on the Barbados economy, one has to look at the figures which the hon. member decries for certain purposes and takes for other purposes.

I wish very briefly, Mr. Speaker, to give the average figures for inflation between the years 1971 and 1980. The average rate percentage of inflation annual increase in 1971 was 10.1%, in 1972 it was 11.8%, in 1973 it was 16.9%, in 1974 it was 38.9%, in 1975 it was 20.3%, in 1976 it was 5%, in 1977 it was 8.4%, in 1978 it was 9.5%, in 1979 it was 13.1% and in 1980, 14.4%. In short, Mr. Speaker, a comparison of the four year period between 1971 and 1975, and between 1976 and 1980, shows that under both Governments there was an inflation situation, but the annual average rate of inflation over that period under the Barbados Labour Party has been significantly lower than the average annual rate under the Democratic Labour Party, and their wages were significantly lower at that time. It is reasonable to assume that the standard of living of the average man between the period 1971 and 1975 was considerably more undermined than it possibly could have been at this time under the Barbados Labour Party, and if one takes selected CARICOM countries one will find that Barbados as compared, for instance, with Jamaica — in 1980 Jamaica had a rate of 26%, Trinidad 18.7%, Guyana 22%, Barbados 14.4% — and if you take countries like Argentina you get a rate like 88.9%, Costa Rica 18.2, Columbia 27%, Brazil 87%, and I believe Israel 159%.

Mr. Speaker, I think that anyone who is objective can be well satisfied that under this Government every effort has been made, as the right hon. member said in his opening, to contain inflation, but there are persons no matter how obvious the facts are, for purely short term political partisan reasons will try to misrepresent those facts to the public of Barbados.

I want to say this too, Sir. During the time of our leadership of this country wage increases have been higher than the inflationary rates, and what does this mean to the average man? It means simply that he is getting more money than he normally has to pay out, having regard to the rise in prices that is going on, and therefore the average Barbadian is better off than he was before, despite the inflationary trends. It would be a serious criticism of the Barbados Workers' Union and the other public sector Unions in this country to say that they have negotiated in situations where they have failed to take into account inflationary trends and have been making settlements over a five year period lower than at the inflationary rate which prevailed in the community.

7.25 p.m.

I do not believe that Frank Walcott, that outstanding Trade Unionist, would ever at all plead guilty to such an indictment at any time, and despite whatever may be his political stance on issues, he is hardly likely to misrepresent his own, as the hon. member would say, fundamental position on this basic question of the rights of the workers.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member fails in his argument to recognise that throughout the period there has been a real increase in gross domestic product not only to the overall country's position, of which we heard yesterday from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, but on the average for every man per capita, and so today Barbadians are almost 100% better in real terms per capita than they were in 1975. The truth is that the Democratic Labour Party may not like it, the hon. member may not like it, but the truth is that the country has never had it so good. The World Bank recognises it, the IMF recognises it, the Wall Street Journal recognises it, the people from overseas who write objectively recognise it, the hon. member, and I would be charitable to him, recognises it, but he is too ashamed to admit it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member dealt with the national debt and he made a point of saying that the national debt of Barbados has reached phenomenal heights and is unmanageable. Mr. Speaker, a country like Barbados needs significant substantial inflows of foreign capital to finance the gap between its domestic resources and its domestic demand for goods and services regardless of whether these goods and services are for consumption purposes, for those goods and services are for investment purposes to create productive capacity and to promote growth in the economy. Unless we can generate our foreign exchange and therefore accumulate savings, we have to borrow overseas. This is obvious to everyone, unless there is a sufficient inflow of private capital. Even countries with substantial reserves like Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago find it necessary to increase their national debt provided the terms of the national debt are reasonable.

Now it is mere economic nonsense to complain about the movement in the total external debt and merely cite a movement in absolute terms and say it has increased from \$279 million to \$474 million. That by itself in economic sense means nothing because where the national debt is raised to a level that you may consider reasonable and where it is raised on appropriate terms and where you raise it for productive purposes and to increase productive capacity, then any economist with a basic understanding of economics would say it is a proper use of the national debt. Now the total nominal foreign debt for almost all developing countries has doubled between 1974 and 1978. It has moved on a figure for approximately \$US142 billion to \$US315 billion, and the average net distribution for middle income countries such as Barbados as a percentage of export earnings is something in the region of 17.1%. In the case of Barbados however it is 2.6%. In short, Mr. Speaker, Barbados has the capacity to manage its foreign debt, it is in the situation of being a low debt ratio country, and it has structured its national debt in such a way

that its maturity does not bunch and it can repay the national debt out of its increased earnings of foreign exchange and obviously the buoyancy of the economy. Therefore it cannot be said that Barbados has a debt service problem in any way. Barbados is far from being in the position of other countries that one can cite either in Latin America or extra-regionally who have the same problem. Let me look at a few countries, Mr. Speaker, very quickly to show you what I mean, and let me look at their debt problem as a ratio of the external debt to gross domestic product at factor cost, if the hon. member understands the jargon of the economist. I think he queried who taught me my economics. The point is not who taught me, it is how you learn it. Perhaps the hon. member might have been taught, but he certainly does not understand.

Mr. Speaker, in 1975 Barbados had a percentage of 6.4%, Trinidad and Tobago 16.4%, Jamaica 32.7%, Guyana 89.8%, Bolivia 63.3%, Costa Rica 40.2%, and in 1978 Barbados had 12.3%, Costa Rica 61.6%, Bolivia 91.2%, Guyana 127.9%, Jamaica 50.4%, Trinidad 22.7%. Mr. Speaker, if I looked at it as another way of judging whether the national debt foreign component is reasonable or not, in Barbados in 1979 its component as a ratio of servicing the external debt to exports is 2.9%; the other countries are much higher. I have the figures for 1978: Barbados 1.7%, Jamaica 27.2%, Guyana 19.3%, Bolivia 48.5%, Costa Rica 23.4%, Mexico 59.5%, Chili 31.3%, Peru 43%. These statistics, Mr. Speaker, appear in the Statistical Bulletin of the OAS for the year January to June 1980 and are available for the hon. member to check.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the national debt is of such a nature, such a component and is so covered that it is more than manageable and it has been managed adequately by this country. And for what purpose have we borrowed, Sir? We have borrowed basically for infrastructural projects, for other developmental projects, in some cases for general budgetary support and sometimes for balance of payments support. Let me give the hon. member a statistic that he will do well to remember. In 1975 under that Government of the national debt component 29.2% was for infrastructure, 18.4% for other projects and 52.4% as budgetary support and financing for the Democratic Labour Party Government. In other words, more than half of the borrowing went into paying salaries and being spent on current account rather than on true developmental projects under the Democratic Labour Party, and if the hon. member has any understanding of it he would read the very scholarly report in the admirable article written by Miss Mary Zephirin, an economist who was properly trained and who understood what she was being taught.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1979 under this Government the mix is as follows: 36.7% for infrastructural develop-

ment, 30.6% for projects of a developmental nature, 6.5% for budgetary measures and 26.2% for balance of payments. In short, over 67.3% of the national debt is being used on projects with a real productive capacity which in the long run will not only bring true social developmental measures, but will return a proper rate of return to create real growth in the economy. And what are they, Mr. Speaker? Is the hon. member complaining that we have a new airport? Is the hon. member complaining about the expansion of the Deep Water Harbour facilities? Is the hon. member complaining about the Bridgetown sewage scheme? Is the hon. member complaining about the capital programme for education, the new schools? Is the hon. member complaining about the expansion of the industrial estates? The Barbados Development Bank has loaned a higher figure than has ever been lent before in the history of this country, and has created not only in tourism but in manufacture as well direct job opportunities that were never reached under Mr. Bernstein who led the Barbados Development Bank under the Democratic Labour Party and who saw fit that he lost money on the operation every year that he was Chairman of the Board. For two consecutive years the Barbados Development Bank has been able to show that it is earning profits and not only generating productive capacity and employment opportunities in the country.

7.35 p.m.

We find in the National Debt that we have had an expansion in export earnings and this is significant and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister who is unfortunately away promoting further the exports in this country, promoting further the industrial capacity of this country, should be congratulated for the contribution which he has made to the improvement of the manufacturing sector in this country — (*Applause*) — and the promotion of industry that has taken place under him and that, when joined with the obvious buoyancy of the Tourism sector, combines to give this Government the capacity to manage, contain and to use skillfully the National Debt of Barbados to the benefit and true benefit of all Barbadians and, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to brush aside rather lightly the flippant remarks made by the hon. member about the tourist sector.

Not even a blind man, not even one with cursory knowledge of economics or finance will contend that the Tourist sector in Barbados has suffered between the years 1976 — 1981 in this country. We have moved tourist arrivals from 221,000 people to over 370,000. We have moved bed capacity for the first period of time. We have moved the period of time during which long-staying visitors remained in this country to an increase in bed time and we have moved as well the earnings of the industry to record heights in the Caribbean and in Barbados and, at the same time, we have moved the

retention proportion of those earnings in Barbados to a significant growth rate that was never achieved under the Democratic Labour Party.

Now, the hon. member could only be flippant, could only be lacking in economic analysis. I cannot accuse the hon. member of misleading this House unless he is completely lacking in understanding for not appreciating that not only people in the Tourist Industry but people outside as well are satisfied on the true growth of Tourism during the last few years.

I want to deal very quickly with his reference to crime.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister has three minutes in which to wind up his debate.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, his reference to crime. Mr. Speaker, between 1969 and 1976, the Barbados Police Force was asking the past Government to increase the Force to keep up with the increasing number of tourists that were projected to come to Barbados, to give them equipment to deal with problems in this country, to give them a duty allowance, and to deal with the problems of training. I accused the Democratic Labour Party for more than seven years of not accepting the advice of successive Commissioners of Police and dealing with the problem of proper training programmes and reform of the Police Force in this country.

It takes some time to correct the mistakes of that Government. Let us not fool ourselves. Despite that, the Royal Barbados Police Force was able to contain crime at lower levels than were achieved under the Democratic Labour Party in 1975 and, Mr. Speaker, they may talk all they like about statistics but we have now a position of merely 136 offences reported last year committed against visitors where the number of visitors have increased to 370,000 people and if you divide that you would see how negligible, not that we condone it, but how negligible the problem is and of that amount, the 136 cases, 65% occurred on hotel premises.

There are people like the hon. member who by his lack of understanding of economic facts, who by his lack of appreciation of the correct conclusions which should be drawn, do more to undermine the basic sectorial sections of our economy than people who may be errant in their ways from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say truly something of value was made in the speech of the hon. member. Let me, perhaps, make one remark. I would say that he showed courage. I would say that he showed his usual characteristic of ambition. I would say that he showed his real characteristic of arrogance but I can hardly say

that he showed understanding, humility, wisdom and appreciation and I end to him as was said in Proverbs Chapter 18, "The man who holds aloof seeks every pretext to bare his teeth in scorn at competent people."

Let us say tonight as Barbadians. Thank God we have a competent Prime Minister and a competent and abled Government. *(Applause)*.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, at this time I beg to move, Sir, that this Sitting be now suspended until 8.30 p.m. tonight, Sir.

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 Sitting accordingly.

7.45 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a saying "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread" and the archangel on that Side, the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John, the archangel used his powers of discretion and today and chose to let a relative neophyte in socio political analysis rush in to attempt to deal with the Budgetary Proposals put forward by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

He, Sir in seeking to do the impossible, dealt at some great length with a number of issues all of which bore little, or no relationship to the Budgetary Proposals put forward in yesterday's Budget. Would you believe Sir that he asked us in his presentation to be ashamed that we in this political Party have demonstrated a sense of feeling and understanding of the social needs of our people. He asked us to be ashamed that we elected over the last five years to deal comprehensively with the lot of the poorest amongst us and I am referring particularly Sir to old age pensioners in Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central asked us to be ashamed of the record of the Barbados Labour Party because when we came into power in 1976, and found old age pensioners at \$13 per week, we raised them now to \$28 per week. He has told us Sir that it represents economic and social disaster and we ought to hang our heads in shame. He is asking us to be ashamed of the fact that when we came to power in 1976, we saw a situation where if there were two old aged people in the same house that still only one of those

was eligible to receive old age pensions. The Barbados Labour Party under its progressive, social policy introduced a programme making it possible for those old age persons to receive pensions regardless of whether, or not somebody else in the house was already receiving pensions. He is asking us to be ashamed of the fact, Sir, that when we came to power in 1976, the requirement was an age of 68 in order to obtain old age pension and he is asking us to hang our heads in shame because we have now made it possible for old age pensioners to receive their pensions at age 65. It is a classic example of the lack of understanding of the needs of our people that it would be possible for any Honourable Member in this Honourable House to stand up and ask us to be ashamed of such a programme.

I am sure Sir that wherever you go in Barbados tonight, old people who have long laid down their tools of labour are going to be exulted because this Barbados Labour Party Government which pioneered social emancipation in this society have now made it possible for them in one single year to receive an increase of 40% on their old age pension.

This Honourable Member is speaking of our national debt. He said that we ought to be ashamed because the national debt is at the level at which it is today. He speaks of the need for us to examine more cogently matters of employment. He says that we ought to be concerned about unemployment and therefore, we ought to be certain that we were managing the national debt in such a fashion that we would not be overburdened with the need to repay exorbitant rates and taxes. Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central truly understood what he was saying, he would have recognised that the national debt in Barbados relates principally to this Government's policy of engaging in significant social works and that these works are geared principally towards the provision of lasting assets for the people of Barbados to enjoy for many, many more years to come and that in the provision of these assets, it has been possible for us to generate employment for large numbers of people, who were hitherto unemployed and to call for a reduction in the national debt, he is asking us therefore to go back to the days when the construction industry in Barbados was in a state of stagnation because bearing in mind Sir, that the national debt of Barbados, as the Honourable Member for St. George South enunciated in his speech in this Honourable House only a few short weeks ago, the national debt is in the main going towards the construction of schools, sewerage plant, extension of the harbour and those projects which in the main are responsible for the tremendous boom in construction that we are enjoying today.

He did not recognise Sir that to call for a reduction of the national debt would be to create at the same time

a further need for taxation because if you do not have the capital inflows represented by that debt, it is obvious that the Honourable Minister responsible for Finance would have to find ways of generating that revenue and the only way a Government has of generating revenue is to resort to taxation.

Sir, the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John, when he was responsible for the financing of Barbados, whenever he came to the point where he would look at the raising of revenue, he was fond of making statements like, "Fasten your seat belts, we are ready to take off" and he would then proceed to put on the shoulders of Barbadians some of the most onerous taxation that this country has ever witnessed. He used to be famous for saying, "If you have tears to shed, shed them now" and then he would proceed to break the backs of Barbadians with onerous taxation and among those whose backs were broken in those days were these very old people of Barbados, who were then earning \$13 a week in old age pension and who would have to carry the burden of a five percent sales tax whenever they went into the stores of Barbados, but he did not mind, Sir. He was also famous for saying, "When I want a million dollars, I raise a million dollars". The full import of that statement is that I could not care less where these taxes came from, or who they hurt in the process, I am only interested in replenishing the coffers of Barbados.

8.40 p.m.

This Government of which I have the honour to be a part came into office in 1976 recognising that this inequitous burden had to be lifted, and, Sir, when in 1976 he was singing the song of let those who have tears to shed, shed them now, in 1981 this Barbados Labour Government is saying those that sowed in tears shall reap in joy, and the old age pensioners and the thousands of people who no longer have to worry about paying taxes, all those thousands of people who work in the industrial estates in Barbados, all those domestics out there who have to work for wages less than \$115 a week, can now sing their songs of rejoicing because they no longer have to shed tears, because this Government is a Government that has a heart and that feels the pain that is part of all of us, Sir, because no man is an island entirely unto himself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main, every man's death diminishes me, and every man's burden is my burden.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has a style of coming into this House and engaging in all sorts of antics. Tonight was no different. A few weeks ago I had the privilege of hearing him say in this House that he does not believe the national statistics put out by the Government, and corroborated by the International Monetary Fund and other agencies from abroad. He mentioned that the International Monetary

Fund officials consult with him afterwards and say that they are ashamed of the figures that the Government puts out. He did all of that, Sir, to demonstrate that he has no confidence in the figures that state that the inflation rate of Barbados is now at 14.5% or thereabouts. So when you cannot deal with figures, all you have to do is to engage in irresponsible behaviour by coming in and saying you do not believe them. But, Sir, there is a strange thing about truth, nobody has to believe it if it is true, and it still continues to be true, and these figures here, no matter how uncomfortable they make them feel, are the figures that are put out by the Statistical Service in Barbados, the same Statistical Service upon which they relied when they were in power. These figures are the same figures corroborated by the Central Bank, the Central Bank that they established, they would be happy to say, and corroborated and substantiated by the International Monetary Fund and other objective agencies that have no axes to grind in Barbados.

I would like you, Sir, to listen to the hon. member for St. John, and, Sir, I am reading from the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for 1974 of 5th April, and I am reading at page 4. It is already a document of the House. This is what he said then: "The rate of inflation, as measured by the Retail Price Index, accelerated over the already high levels of 1971 and 1972 and reached its highest December-to-December level ever of 26.0%."

Sir, the right hon. member for St. John, the Leader of the Opposition and former Minister of Finance, is here in his own budgetary proposals of 1974 stating that the inflation rate in Barbados in 1974, in a single year, was a record, a record which I hope will never be broken by the present Government, because we are talking of 1974 when in a single year it soared to 26%, one year. As to be expected, the period of most pronounced increase was the last quarter. Now listen to him, Sir. You heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central come in here tonight and read a set of prices. I do not know where he has got them from, because he read off some figures which are entirely alien to me, and I would have been concerned about them, except for the fact that I know that out there thousands of consumers in Barbados know what the real prices of commodities are in this country, and even if he comes in here and reads out numbers, they know whether those numbers are true or false. Listen to the hon. member for St. John speaking: "Increases in the retail price of Food and Beverages accounted for more than 50% of the recorded price increase." That is the former Minister responsible for Finance, the Leader of the Opposition.

Now, Sir, let me examine, and I can tell you, Sir, that these prices are current prices. I heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central mention an increase in onions. Now, Sir, I do not know which period

he was referring to, the only thing I know is that in 1974 onions in this country were selling at \$1.20 per pound. (ASIDE). The hon. member for St. Michael West is crying 'shame' 'shame', and I am referring to the new St. Michael West, but he was responsible at that time, price controls or no price controls, and onions were \$1.20 per pound. Now, consumers in Barbados tonight know that onions are no way near the price, and far from registering an increase, Sir, the price has come down by 50% under this Government. Far from increasing, it has decreased.

Now, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central held up a dollar, a two dollar and a hundred dollar bill. I am not nearly as affluent as he is, so I can only hold up a dollar, but, Sir, I know this, that my dollar — I do not know what kind of currency he has and I do not know who prints it for him — but my dollar signed by the Central Bank's Governor, a dollar of Barbados — I cannot make this a document of the House because I will be a dollar poorer — but this dollar, Sir, can buy a pound of onions and a pound of sweet potatoes and I will still have money in my pocket. In 1974 this dollar could not have bought one pound of onions. I do not know, Sir, what kind of currency he spends when he can tell me that his hundred dollar bill can only buy \$50 worth of merchandise. I do not know what currency he uses or what it is he is purchasing, but when you are talking about food, my dollar is buying items it could not have bought in 1974. That is why when we tell you the inflation rate of 1981 is lower than the one in 1976 and in 1974, every housewife in Barbados understands what we are saying, because they spend a dollar every day. The hon. member for Christ Church West has already pointed out that not that not only have prices of certain important staples fallen, but generally salaries have kept very comfortably in front of the rise in prices.

8.50 p.m.

I want to read for you, Sir. I really do not believe that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central eats corned beef but I do not know which brand he buys. I would like to say that I have here the prices for Hereford, Fray Bentos and Lancaster. I will not mention Bravo because every consumer in Barbados knows that Bravo had the ban because it came closer to being animal food than human food, so we will not mention that at all, but they used to bring it in. It was brought in under the Democratic Labour Party and you will never see the likes of Bravo in Barbados again as long as this Government remains in power.

Sir, in 1973 a twelve-ounce tin of corned beef was selling at \$1.25. It went up to \$1.30 in 1974 and between 1974 and 1975 that product, price controlled and all, jumped by 88 cents and was sold at \$2.18 per tin, and when we came to power these products were selling at \$2.65 and today a tin of corned beef, five

years after, can still be bought for less than \$3.00. (*Asides*) I am not allowed to call the name of the various supermarkets. I am hearing members telling me to call J.Bs because it can be bought at J.Bs for that price.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have a little order, please.

Mr. JOHNSON: Sir, it does not suit for anybody to come in here and try to make out that this Government has been callous about prices. I have heard them making pleas of all sorts for better use of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, but need we remind them that under their administration the Barbados Marketing corporation used to drop \$2 million a year into the ocean? \$2 million a year in losses they had and they are asking us to take advice from them on how to administer the Barbados Marketing Corporation. There was no creditor in Bridgetown who would give the Barbados Marketing Corporation one cent of credit. All that has changed and the Corporation has now become an important instrument of Government policy in the regulation of prices.

Sir Arthur Lewis, eminent distinguished economist has warned that wherever you see price controls of any significance, wherever you see large scale price controls, look for corruption, because when you control and when you restrict the importation of items, they find their way into the country by black market means. I had the experience of going to one of our neighbouring countries in 1975 and discovering that onions were being sold at \$12 per pound on the black market and that was the only way you could get them. They were price controlled at 45 cents per pound but selling at \$12 at black market because that is the only way they could find their way into the country, and this Government has taken the conscious position to create a climate of prosperity, a climate of strong, economic activity so that all sectors of our economy are in a booming position and it is now possible without price controls to go down at the Marketing Corporation or at any supermarket in Barbados and buy these products that I have just listed at prices cheaper than they were in 1974.

The hon. member does not like me to talk about chicken parts coming into this island from time to time, but let them make noises, let them laugh. Those old pensioners up there have to have protein in their diet and day after day I hear them asking where is that staple. That staple to which I refer in 1976 was selling at 67 cents a pound and in 1981, five years after, it is now selling at 58 cents a pound. It still have not reached the point it was at between 1974 and 1976.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has asked us to worry about unemployment. I am fully convinced that he was not in this Honourable Chamber yesterday when he heard the boldest and most imaginative statement yet expressed in this Chamber in all its long history, the most

imaginative social development concept put forward of a National Training Board coupled with a levy for the purpose of generating training opportunities for all our youths for the significant purpose of eliminating in the near future the high incidence of unemployment among certain sectors in Barbados. He did not hear us say that our young people will now have the opportunity to be trained, because for the first time we are checking off as a portion of the Wage Bill for Corporations 0.25% for the purpose of creating training opportunities for the young people in this society. So, Sir, the budget of which we are asked to be ashamed is one that puts action above words, that breaks the bold frontiers and charts road through the desolate waste lands created by the Democratic Labour Party in their 15 years of power. This era is an era of initiative, it is an era of social and economic engineering of a sorts unknown on that side, and I have great faith and confidence in the people of Barbados that never again are they going to consciously return to a situation to which they were bound from 1971 to 1976; never again are they going to consciously go and choose a Government that for the last five years has been crying shame on us for eliminating the 5% sales tax. I did not hear them say it in here yet today, but I believe it is worth repeating that we have been castigated time and time again by the Opposition party because we took the 5% sales tax off the people of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has two minutes in which to wind up his debate.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I do not have to shed tears. If Government does not have to shed tears, this Government does not have to be ashamed because it has done what everybody thought was impossible. A distinguished gentleman yesterday asked me "Mr. Johnson, did you all strike gold or did you find oil? Where have you been able to find the resources with which to provide such a neat package of social services for the people of Barbados?"

9.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know we found those resources deep down in the bowels of good management and the financial management of the Prime Minister, a man who realizes that squandermania does not form part of good and responsible management and decreed when he stepped into office that no longer will the resources of Barbados be squandered recklessly for the gratification of a limited few but together, if we are called to sacrifice together, we will all in the final analysis be able to sit down together, and drink from the labour of our hands and be satisfied.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government is a Government of sharing. This Government is a Government of caring, that takes seriously the charge, look after the windows and the fatherless and let the oppressed go free. This

Government is a Government that says "those that withholdest from the meek extendeth the poverty."

There are, Mr. Speaker, those who believes that by holding back you can serve, taxing the people to death, \$32 million in 1974 in tax levies alone on sugar and these hon. gentlemen walking up and down the length and breadth of Barbados telling the people of Barbados not to cut any canes. I want to know, Sir, what they are going to tell them when the people open their hands and receive the treasures and the blessings from Heaven.

Mr. SPEAKER: They would not have time and you do not have any more time either. *(Laughter)*.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I will speak again on another occasion. Thank you very much Sir, for your indulgence. *(Applause)*.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, one of the interesting features of this Budget debate is the absence of the concern or interest shown by the public at large in comparison to what might have occurred say in the earlier years of this Government.

Sir, the arrival of the Honourable Prime Minister to these Chambers was remarkable by the fact that there was silence in the applause that has accompanied his arrival in previous years. One wonders if that is due to the fact that something more important such as the Biggs Affair is holding the attention of this country or maybe, the people of the country are already aware that this is an Election Year and in an Election Year you will have an Election Budget designed specifically for the purpose of bringing them along to support the views of the particular party in power. It is also true that the people might very well be aware that anything in connection with these types of budgets should be first swallowed, then regurgitated, chewed and spat out.

Over the years, between 1976 and 1981, the people of this country have been concerned with two problems, (1) inflation and (2) taxation and these twin evils of inflation and taxation have gone a far way to cause a lot of uneasiness, sometimes discomfort among many people of this society. It is very easy for politicians to come here or in other areas and argue figures but, as you are aware, Sir, there is always that good adage which states that there are two types of lies and one of those lies is statistics. Sir, when you are arguing figures of this year when compared with any previous year, they are of little comfort to the people. What people are concerned with and will always be concerned with are the figures on the conditions in which they exist and the problems which they have to face on a day to day basis.

Sir, let us examine very closely some of the conditions prevailing in the Barbadian society. There are over 18,000 people in this country who work and receive less than \$100 a week. Those 18,000 people are found in the garment industry, Agriculture, and in other sectors of the economy of this country. Those 18,000 people also have dependants and therefore we are thinking in terms of the people who work and their dependants of approximately one-fifth of the total population of this country. The wages may be as high as \$100 or in many cases there are people in this country working for \$70 or less.

In passing reference I will draw your attention to this Economic Report, 1980, and I turn to page 59 in which it is stated, "in the Manufacturing sector wages increased by 33.8% in 1980 compared to 24% in 1979" and it states specifically "the Garment Industry A-Class workers rose from \$14.40 per day to \$18.72 per day" which, if you have a week of five days you can calculate how much money that worker has at the end of the week. Obviously, workers who are not Grade "A" will be receiving far less than that. How does that wage, whether it be \$70, or \$100 or maybe taking in the concession made by the Prime Minister yesterday, \$115, how does that wage help people to overcome these conditions which presently beset them.

People have to spend their money on a number of services or goods and foremost among these is food and I am aware that the single person earning that type of money spends as much as \$45 out of that for food and what do they buy. If you have to analyse the diets of these people in strict medical terms, you will find that it is an inadequate diet. Certainly it is not providing the basic constituent parts of nutrition in quantitative proportions and adjust it to the demands of age, work, pregnancy and other conditional stress.

People eat a lot of rice in this country and more recently people have been shifting to a diet of macaroni and cheese. If you go a step further, you will find that the people in that bracket, and we are talking about one-fifth of the population of this country, nearly 50,000 about whom they all say they are concerned, they find it extremely difficult to have a good protein diet so they consume large quantities of carbohydrates. The result of this is that there is evidence in this society of obesity to a large extent and also diabetes melitus to a larger extent and the general impression that one is getting is that these are always on the increase.

Sir, when you look at the question of meat, which is a staple source of protein, you find that in the area of beef, people in that category cannot buy beef because of the high price. A pound of beef is over \$3.00 and when you think in terms of the other

sources of protein, you find that people have to rely heavily on the poultry for their source of protein.

Chicken is over \$2.00 a pound and when you think in terms of the wonderful stale item that the hon. member for St. Michael West referred to, that is, chicken backs, people now-a-days find that chicken backs have to adorn their special diet on Sundays and when you think in terms of vegetables it is a great difficulty that these people can afford to buy vegetables with that kind of salary, and vegetables, may I remind you, Sir, if they are fresh, are a good source of minerals and vitamins.

9.10 p.m.

When you go a step further, Sir, you have to look at other factors and you look at the question of house rent that takes up a portion of their wage. If they are lucky to be living in some of the Government estates, they may pay as little as \$15 per week, but in Barbados you find that the tendency is for house rent to be always on the increase and many of these people find great difficulty in obtaining the house at a rent which allows them to make good use of the type of wage that they make. Light and power carry away approximately \$6.50 per week, water approximately \$1.50 per week, fuel \$2.50 or \$5.00 per week. When it comes down to the question of entertainment for these people which consists chiefly in terms of cigarettes, liquor, and cinema, that is becoming increasingly difficult. Nowadays, you find people are resorting once again to trumpeters and bristols, whereas previously they used to smoke the more refined brands of cigarettes. I am not advocating smoking because I know the hazards of smoking, but, I am stating what is going on in the society.

Sir, when you come down to the question of clothing that is an entirely different matter. In this economic survey, they have pointed out quite clearly that the cost of clothing in this country has gone up significantly in price for these people over the last year. Sir, the point that I am trying to bring to you is that it is alright to get in here and talk in terms of figures in one year and figures in another year. We are not dealing with another year. We are not dealing with inanimate objects, we are dealing with human beings whose ambitions change and may even become greater as time goes by, the conditions under which they live change from time to time and if we are serious about dealing with these people, we have to be concerned about the conditions under which they find themselves.

It has to be pointed out Sir that during this Regime, there has been a shift from Direct Taxation to Indirect Taxation and the burden in taxation is being placed more and more on the people in this society, who really cannot afford to shoulder that burden. So, let us examine what is going on. There has been an increase in the Consumption

Tax of this country. What is not often appreciated in Barbados and maybe by some politicians is that as a result of the increase in the Consumption Taxes, the prices of many commodities to the consumer have increased. But, may I remind you that the Honourable Minister of Finance pointed out that in the new combination of the Consumption Tax, it would be calculated on the aggregate of cost, insurance, freight plus customs duty then, you add the Consumption Tax on top of that. Then when you go on to the merchant, he adds his mark-up on top of all of that. So, as a result of the tax, the final price to the consumer has increased.

It is alright for people to comment about a Sales Tax which the Barbadian people of this country disapproved of, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to complain about the concealed taxation which this Government has been placing on the people of this country. I say concealed in the sense that it was not obvious and many people who go to buy items are not well aware of the fact that one of the reasons for the increase in the price of such items is the continued Consumption Tax of which they are unaware. I am saying that when you look at this large segment of the Barbadian population, whose wages are inadequate to meet the day to day demands by the conditions which they find themselves, you are adding insult to injury when you set about to add a Consumption Tax, however concealed it may be, which in the final analysis only increased the price of the individual commodity to that person.

The Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance is well aware that the Consumption Tax has brought in more than he stated last year that it would bring in. It brought in far in excess of the \$21 million that he stated last year that it would bring in. When he comes this year and tells us about the concessions in Direct Taxation which he is about to give to the people we are only to be minded that he has taken more from them by way of Indirect Taxation. We are finding ourselves in a position where for instance Antigua and the Bahamas where their revenue is raised principally by way of Indirect Taxation, but in Barbados we are having both Indirect Taxation and Direct Taxation and we find that although concessions are being made to some extent in Direct Taxation, the burden is being shifted to Indirect Taxation which falls on everybody, especially on those who can least afford to bear it. Let me consider this a socially undesirable. Maybe on that Side they will want to tell us that it is socially desirable. But, when you go and you talk to the people out there who are handicapped by this measure, they will tell you a different story and they are not going to be impressed when we get in here and argue about figures in 1980 and 1981 and compare and contrast them with figures five years ago. We are not going back, they will tell you that, they are not interested in the past, they are interested now in what is going on now and it is no consolation to tell

them that when they complain about difficulties of meeting ends, when they complain about the straightened circumstances in which they now find themselves, you harp back and tell them that in 1976, or in 1974 it was this and this is how you found it, that is no consolation to them.

Sir, I will turn to this question of wage and what it takes for individuals in that bracket to meet the day to day life conditions and let us look at housing because this is an important factor in those people's lives. Sir on page 36 of the same report, it is stated here that:

"During 1980 the National Housing Corporation contributed 280 units to the housing stock 66 more than in 1979."

We were led to believe going by their Manifesto that they would have done a lot more than this. They would have produced the 800 houses per year and help reduce quickly the large backlog of applicants waiting for houses from the National Housing Corporation. But what do you find? Rather than gearing themselves to produce this amount of houses, they look for a way of coming to convince you that this amount of houses is being produced and let us examine what they tell you, we go back to the preceding paragraph:

"Based on the indices as well as the return from the Town and Country Planning and registered contractors, the Ministry of Housing and Lands have estimated that approximately 1 000 to 1 100 units were constructed in 1980."

Certainly, when you are boasting about being able to create, or build 800 units, in one year, nobody, not in this country, not even your own self for one moment thought that you would be able to look to the contribution made by the private sector in this country. Many of these people firmly believed that that would be in addition to what is already going on in the private sector. The prices of houses in this country are going up. The building costs today are roughly \$80 per square foot and that is excluding of fittings, tiles and other accessories, galvanised sheets in this country are now \$27 average per sheet, cement is just up to \$11.47 per bag, the 6" block is \$1.32 each. When you think in terms of wages for carpenters and masons they go between \$30 and \$40 per day. When you look at the question of mortgage interest, the rate has jumped due to a directive of the Central Bank sent out to banks this year relating to the charges of the rate on loans and that rate has jumped up to 12%. Therefore, you have to ask yourself the question who can really afford to build a house nowadays?

The Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance put a ceiling of \$6 000 on the amount of interest that you could claim

against your income tax deductions. Today, because of the heavy amount of money that you have to borrow, the amount of interest is far in excess of \$6 000.
9.20 p.m.

One has to ask, is that fair to the people who set about to build themselves houses. We have heard a lot about the rateable value of the house being removed from owner occupied houses. That is true, that was done last year, but what has not been told is that by the removal of the rateable value the Minister of Finance has now given himself the authority to fix the amount of money which will be allowable as expenses for repairs to houses, and that has been fixed at 4% of the improved value. Whereas under the old system, whatever a person spent on the repairs of their houses they could claim as expenses when submitting income tax returns. That is now no longer so, so that people are not better off in that regard. You go and ask them if they are better off.

I heard the Hon. Minister of Housing shouting about houses down in West Terrace. Let him tell us what is the price. So far you have built one unit and have it on show. What is the price of that unit? Is it \$82,000 or more? And that is what Government is building at, and one will have to concede that Government is building at a cheaper rate than the private contractors in this country, so you will find that the price of a three bedroom house outside of Government's activities is well in excess of \$82,000.

Another factor affecting housing in this country is the high rents. Rents have gone up very high in this country and will continue to go up because of the heavy interest which people have to pay on the loans, also the heavy cost in building a house. The outcome of this will be that the Government must find it necessary to build more and more houses, and at the rate that they are building houses, 280 units in a year, you will find that it will be a very long time for you all to satisfy the needs of the people of this country.

When you look at the question of food, once again I have sat here and heard the hon. member for St. Michael West trotting out some prices. All I would like to say is that the people outside, as he has stated quite well, know for themselves what they are paying for the various commodities in this country. In passing, I will point out to him that if he is talking about corned beef, there are two sizes, a 12 ounce tin and a 7 ounce tin, and while it is true that the 7 ounce tin is less than \$3.00 the 12 ounce tin is well over \$3.00. There is a whole list of items, but there is no need to go through them, because as I say, the public outside is well aware of the prices of those commodities. They have to buy them and they know whether or not they can afford to buy them and how often they can buy them.

What we are concerned about here is the remark made by the Minister of Finance during the Estimates quoting one of the outstanding German Ministers of World War II, when he stated that guns will make you strong and butter will make you fat. Is this his way of showing that he is not particularly concerned with the nutrition of the people of this country? Is this his way of showing that he is giving the people of this country very little choice between.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I really do hesitate to interrupt in a budget debate, but the hon. member is most unfair. He knows perfectly well that I quoted that remark to deplore it, and he is now suggesting that I quoted that remark to approve it, and this is a very serious breach of the rules of the House in my respectful submission, to misquote an hon. member entirely to pervert his meaning.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry if I have disturbed the Hon. Minister of Finance, but I am just quoting what he said, and he has not denied that he said it, and I am asking him a question. Is that the way he is showing his concern for the nutrition of the people of this country? It is only for him to get up and say how he is showing his concern. We have to be concerned, because when you get this type of remark being made, and we seek to draw to your attention the problems of the people of this country, you cannot excuse yourself by getting up and saying that an hon. member is trying to misquote you when he is just quoting what you stated. I do not know what meaning you have in your mind, I cannot read your mind, and many other people cannot read your mind either.

The important point that I am making is this, that there are a train of conditions which are hitting the people of this country and they are manifesting themselves in various ways, and the Government seems more prepared to turn their eye away from them rather than dealing with them and trying to make excuses for their performance by belittling the Opposition, or the Democratic Labour Party Government of five years ago. If you feel that the people of this country are satisfied with that type of performance, that is entirely up to you.

Sir, we heard a lot about concessions being made to private schools, but I think the Hon. Minister is well aware of the fact that a number of children of certain social and economic brackets going to that type of school is decreasing, and with good cause, because the Government is providing better education in secondary schools than is provided in these private secondary schools. This is nothing new, because the educational facilities provided by Government in Government secondary schools has always been superior to that provided in private

secondary schools. That has always been so, but what you are observing in the country nowadays, because of certain pressures many of these schools are closing down or are about to close down, therefore when you talk about concessions we have to examine very closely who will be the recipients of these concessions. Will it be Mapps, Presentation, St. Winifred's and those types of schools who will now be the principal recipients of these types of concessions? Certainly it does appear so. (*Asides*).

Mr. SPEAKER: We must have some order, and the hon. member must not be heckled either by the Opposition or by the Government party.

Dr. CADDLE: I thank you for your protection, Mr. Speaker. We have to look very closely at that, because what we are concerned with now is should not Government increase the rate at which it is making adequate provision for all the children of the school rather than looking at that item. Maybe they are throwing it out to certain people in this community because these people may be expecting it on the grounds of being able to vote for them.

When, Sir, you go a step further and look at some of the other proposals in this Budget, the question again comes to the simple fact. How do these concessions relate to the basic needs of the people of this country? Do they help them to meet the basic needs more effectively than in the past, or do they do nothing of that sort? It is open to question whether the concessions offered this year, or even last year, have gone as far as the Hon. Minister of Finance would have liked in helping people to meet their basic needs, and no amount of tax grants, no amount of removing people from the tax net by certain concessions is going to make them improve their ability to meet the day to day demands, because what you are primarily concerned with is that the cost of everything in Barbados is going up.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has two minutes in which to wind up.

Dr. CADDLE: The cost of everything in Barbados is going up, and there are reasons to support why it is going up. We are not trying to blame the Government for the increase in the cost of everything. There are reasons why they are going up — and this is an important point — not only in housing and food but in other areas.
9.30 p.m.

Prices are going up not only in housing and food, but in many other areas and what people are concerned with is not telling them that they are being removed from the tax net which in reality does not mean any more money in their pockets, because it does not make

the employer pay them more money, but they are concerned with helping them either by way of grants or other facilities such as price controls or better, buying in bulk to reduce the prices and enable them to meet certain of these costs, or by the removal of taxation in certain areas which has contributed to the increase in the cost of these commodities, or better still to ensure that they are getting better wages whereby they can meet these demands. If that is not done, we can come in here and argue from day one to day 100 about figures what they were five years ago, what they are now, we can come in here and argue about how many concessions we have given, the crux of the test is how people have been able to meet their basic needs, and I contend that the problem of meeting the basic needs of a certain section of this community which takes in approximately 50,000 people continues to be great and until something drastically is done to enable these people to improve their basic needs, there is no point shouting about anything on that side.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Health and National Insurance made a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill, commonly called the Estimates Debate in this Honourable Chamber just a few weeks ago, and we made our contribution particularly with the announcement of the start of the Special Benefit Service of the Drug Service on the 15th of this month. Further details of that, I am told, are coming in the Press on the 6th, 7th and 8th which would be next week. Now that was in respect of the portfolio of health.

Regarding the portfolio of National Insurance which I share with the Minister of Finance, I wish to make my contribution to this 1981 Budget Debate. Mr. Speaker, I do feel that the Minister of Finance must be congratulated on what has already been described as the *piece de resistance* of the budget, and I refer to the introduction of the unemployment benefit into the National Insurance Scheme as of July of this year. Now it is very important for me to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister who is Minister of Finance first made reference to the Government's policy on unemployment benefit during a Press Conference on the 26th August, 1977. Almost a year later the hon. member for St. Lucy brought a Resolution to this Honourable House which was debated. The debate began on 1st August, 1978. He tabled a Private Members' Resolution calling upon this Government to consider an introduction of unemployment benefit.

Now as I have just said, Mr. Speaker, this Government's policy on unemployment benefit had already been very clearly enunciated by the Prime Minister a year before, and although unemployment had risen dramatically, and I do not think I am overstating the case, particularly during the last years of the Democratic

Labour Party administration, we did not find anywhere in their 1976 manifesto any reference to the introduction of unemployment benefit. I can only come to the conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that it is something which they failed to address. It is a very important matter which had not even been considered for their 1976 manifesto after 15 years as a Government. The Resolution needs to be spoken about just a little bit, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit not only of hon. members in this Chamber tonight, but for the public who is viewing this debate, and this is where we come to the sad fact of half truths, sometimes known as white lies or false impressions.

Now during his address the hon. member for St. Michael South Central said that the Resolution brought here in 1978 by the hon. member for St. Lucy was defeated in this House. I am not sure if those were the exact words that he used, but he used words to the effect that the Resolution died in this Chamber. Now that would give the impression, Sir, to anybody listening only tonight that a Resolution was brought here asking the Government to consider the matter of unemployment benefit, and that the Government, which is the majority party in this Chamber, threw the Resolution out. The truth is that that is far from what truly occurred. It is not the whole truth. It is only a false impression coming from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. The fact is, Mr. Speaker,.....

Dr. HAYNES: I rise on a point of order. To the best of my knowledge, the Resolution brought by the hon. member for St. Lucy was defeated. I think that an amendment to that Resolution was passed, and therefore my statement was correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What truly happened, and I have a record of this House now in my hand is that I moved an amendment to the Resolution brought by the hon. member for St. Lucy, and it is important that I should remind this Hon. Chamber what the context of the amendment was. It was an amendment suggesting that an actuarial study should first be done so that we could be satisfied that the National Insurance Scheme could afford unemployment benefit and when it could afford it, and that was really the amendment which I introduced and that amendment passed this House. It reads as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED that this House accepts the principle that unemployment benefit be payable to contributors of the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme, but urge the Government to undertake an actuarial investigation into the feasibility of extending the scheme to provide for the payment of such benefit."

Now that is the truth of what happened and that is what passed this Honourable House, and it is necessary

that that should be said to correct a false impression. Further to this, Mr. Speaker, this amended Resolution not only passed this House, but the actuarial study has been done and the fact of unemployment benefit was revealed to us yesterday in the Budget from the Minister of Finance. The truth is that the Opposition has nothing on which to congratulate themselves on the matter of unemployment benefit. Now, Mr. Speaker, as soon as this Barbados Labour Party administration could properly assess the situation in respect of unemployment benefit, certain decisions were made. We recognised in the Government that the long term answer to unemployment is not crash programmes, but is in fact a healthy economy in which jobs and training for jobs become available. The result of that kind of policy, Mr. Speaker, is to be seen all around us.

I can hear tonight in this Honourable Chamber about how people cannot afford this and they cannot afford that. I want to know, Mr. Speaker, who is building all the houses that I see going up at every street corner. I want to know who is buying all the refrigerators out of the shops; who is buying the stoves; I want to know, Mr. Speaker, who is buying all the motor cars. If people cannot afford these things, perhaps somebody from the Opposition bench can tell us who is buying all these goods in Barbados' shops.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are also very strongly of the opinion that there is no magical cure for unemployment to be found in unemployment benefit, and I must stress this because an unemployment benefit is not a dole; it is not designed for people who have never worked and who do not wish to work, who wish to be voluntarily idle.

9.40 p.m.

Unemployment benefits, Mr. Speaker, Sir, are designed for people who have been employed and who from time to time will find themselves unemployed and I can state here, as Minister of National Insurance, now, that persons are going to have to be employed in the first place before they can become eligible for the unemployment benefit and the unemployment benefit as announced yesterday by the Minister of Finance of \$60.00 a week will be payable to any person who becomes eligible but for no more than 13 weeks in any one year.

Now, all of this was discussed at the time the Resolution was debated in 1978 and both sides of the House were agreed that these were the underlying benefits of unemployment benefits for the whole of Barbados, that we were not interested in the dole and I wish to disassociate any idea of the dole out of the minds of Barbadians who think that they can run up to the National Insurance Office and get in a queue as Andy Capp does

and draw money from week to week and never have to work.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is something which has to do with the workers of Barbados. Unemployment benefit is a benefit to workers like all of the other National Insurance benefits. For all the scrap that I have heard in here this afternoon, I do not know how it is that people would expect the general public to believe that this Government in the past four to five years has done nothing for the workers of this country.

I have seen strikes. I have seen go-slows. I have seen sick-outs and walk-outs. All of these things slow down productivity, Mr. Speaker, Sir, but I have seen, too, new Headquarters built for Sanitation Service Authority workers. I see a new General Post Office going up for new improved conditions for Postal workers. I see a new Central Bank going up in Bridgetown. I see improved conditions for workers at the Transport Board depot. I see, Mr. Speaker, Sir, even invested out of the National Insurance Fund, housing for workers. I see all of that.

We hear a lot of talk, Mr. Speaker, Sir, about the cost of living shooting up but all of these facilities for workers, all of these improvements for workers cost money too and the Government has not overlooked the welfare of the workers. The unemployment benefit is an important component of that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I can turn generally to the increases which have been given under the National Insurance Scheme. You know, Sir, senior citizens have been very high on the list of beneficiaries under this Government especially those who are on fixed pensions and fixed incomes. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this Budget, even the death duties have been abolished so that inheritances may now pass untouched.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central declare here this evening that he was paid by some overseas Foundation to do a survey on his own constituents in St. Michael South Central to find out what is the nutritional status and other status of old age pensioners in 1981.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not in his place and I think he was misquoted. He never said that he was paid. He said that a grant was given. This does not mean that the hon. member was paid.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will rephrase it. He received a grant of money. I will rephrase it again, Mr. Speaker, a grant of money was received from an Overseas Foundation to finance a study, some kind of research, some kind of survey on the constituents of the

hon. member for St. Michael South Central so that he only knows about the status and the circumstances of old age pensioners in 1981.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give a detailed breakdown of the increased benefits under the National Insurance Scheme. The first thing I have to say is that all benefits under the National Insurance Scheme have been increased under this 1981 Budget. The National Insurance Old Age Pension which is a contributory pension has moved from \$25 per week to \$33 per week but what I want to stress, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that this is only the minimum. The National Insurance Old Age Pension is not a fixed figure like the non-contributory Old Age Pension, Sir. It ranges over quite a large scale, depending on what one would have earned during the time when he was working so it must be stressed that the minimum, the least that can be paid as pension to old aged people under the National Insurance Scheme has moved from \$25 to \$33 but overall, there has been an increase of 10% on the National Insurance Old Age Pension so that there are increases all the way up the scale because the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that well over half of the people who are National Insurance Old Aged Pensioners received well above the minimum.

Sickness benefit, Mr. Speaker, Sir, has been increased by 10%. Maternity benefit has increased from the rate of 60% of average insurable weekly earnings to 100% which represents a 40% increase in maternity benefit. The Funeral Grant is a fixed grant and that has been increased, as the Minister of Finance said yesterday, from \$200 to \$350 which represents a 75% increase. Invalidity Pension has been increased by 10%. Survivors' Pension has also been increased and I need to point out too, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that both Survivors and Invalidity Pensions have been increased twice in the last four years. Employment Injury Benefit rates, Mr. Speaker, have also been increased from 75% of average insurance weekly earnings to 80%.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in addition to all of these things, we heard the Prime Minister said yesterday that he has given increased pensions and increased Funeral Grants to retired sugar workers under the Sugar Workers Provident Fund. This is in addition, Mr. Speaker, to any other pensions or benefits that these sugar workers may be receiving.

Now, separate and apart from all that I have said already this evening Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are over 17,000 non-contributory Old Aged Pensioners in this country. They are the ones that have been talked about most in this Chamber this afternoon. Over 17,000 non-contributory Old Aged Pensioners in this country have just received an increase of 40% moving from \$20 to \$28 per week from tomorrow. Whatever may have

been said about that increase, I know that the Old Aged Pensioners from the City, Sir, and in fact, all non-contributory Old Aged Pensioners in Barbados are going to be very happy tomorrow when they go and get their pensions and discover that it is not \$20.00 but \$28.00 in the packet.

Regardless of what these people say in here, I do not care how many shopping lists they read out, because I do not believe that many of the men in this Honourable Chamber, Mr. Speaker, Sir, go to the Supermarket. I am a woman and I go so I do not care how many shopping lists they read out. I do not care how much inflation they talk about. The difference between \$20 and \$28 means a great deal to old age pensioners and it cannot be rubbed out and it cannot be denied. It is going to be in their pay packets and it will be a fact in their pay packets from tomorrow.

9.50 p.m.

Now, Sir, this Government has not only more than doubled the \$13 non-contributory old aged pension which it came and found in 1976, but this Government has also added many benefits and services to senior citizens and it is important that we should try and count and quantify in dollars Mr. Speaker, some of these services. If I can go very quickly; free bus services. Now, a lot of talk is made about the fact that the bus service is free to old age pensioners only at special hours of the day and we heard in here today, from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central how when they got in again, they were going to have it free at all times of the day. What does that mean, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that old age pensioners are going to rush out at peak hours to fight with school children and working people to get on the bus. What more would they be giving to old age pensioners by saying that they can travel at any hour of the day? The scheduling for free rides for old age pensioners was specially designed by the Transport Board to make it possible for old age pensioners to be travelling at those times of the day when it was most suitable for them. Their welfare is being taken to heart. I do not know that old age pensioners want to be in the bus stands at 4.30 p.m. rushing with the school children and workers to get a bus. I do not know what content there is in a promise like that but that is a service and a benefit given old age pensioners over and above old age pension.

We have heard about the electric and water bills being paid and this is only for those old age pensioners who can qualify and I need to explain, Mr. Speaker, Sir. A lot of old age pensioners live in households with children and grandchildren. Sometimes they are living in a household where there may be two, sometimes three, Mr. Speaker, I even know of a household where they are living with old age pensioners and four income earners. All that the Ministry of Community Services

has said is that if an old age pensioner is living in a household where there are wage earners that it would not be fair to pay the water bills and electricity bills for that old age pensioner because you cannot quantify what electricity is used by the old age pensioner, as opposed to the other people in the household, or what water is used. It is as simple as that. If that were so, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that three quarters of the households in Barbados could find themselves making application at the Ministry of Community Services and that is not the purpose for which this benefit was intended. Electricity and water bills are paid for those who are truly in need and who live alone or with another old age pensioner.

From the 15th April, this is another benefit to old age pensioners over and above the old age pension, drugs are going to be free of cost to everybody in this country over 65. There is not going to be any means test, there is not going to be any welfare ticket, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only qualification is to attain the age of 65. I have said already that I do not care who you are, whether you be of high, low or poor status once you are over 65 and you can prove by your ID card that you are over 65, you will get free drugs in this country as from the 15th April this month.

Now, while I am making that point, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central made a remark about the cost of drugs and said that this Government sat by and allowed the cost of drugs to go up by 250% over the past four and a half years and have now come with what he calls a little fund raising exercise. Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a gross misinterpretation of the true facts about drugs. The fact is Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the cost of drugs has gone up everywhere in the world, even in the countries where the raw materials for drugs are produced. There are just a few — you can count them on two hands, Mr. Speaker — reputable drug manufacturing companies and concerns in the world, just a few and the fact is this. What the Barbados Drug Service is doing in respect of this 40% deduction is that every single time that the cost of drugs goes up in the world, Barbados is 40% behind. We cannot stop the cost of drugs going up, or any other commodity for that matter, Mr. Speaker, from going up, but the design of a Drug Service in Barbados, the mechanism of a Drug Service in Barbados facilitates a 40% decrease no matter what happens, we will be 40% cheaper 40% less for drugs than any other country in this region and some developed countries outside of this region Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Another benefit which is coming to old age pensioners and in fact all people over the age of 65 over and above the old age pension which has to be quantified in dollars is the health care, people over 65 are going to be the first people to be empaneled in the National Health

Service, a little later this year. Housing repairs free of cost for those who qualify. Again, the Ministry of Community Services is not going to make it its business to be repairing houses where there are two and three people wage earning in that house, but for those who truly qualify housing repairs are done free of cost.

The Home Help service instituted some months ago by the Ministry of Community Services is another benefit, another service over and above the old age pensions which can be quantified in dollars Mr. Speaker, Sir.

All of these things together go to show the kind of priority that this Government has attached to senior citizens, senior citizens who the last Government will tell you that they had a free health service. If they had a free health service before 1976, I do not know how it is that tonight I am hearing that you are going to get one the next time they come around again. If old age pensioners were so well off until we came and did this dirty thing to them in 1976, I really do not know, Mr. Speaker how everybody's figures can be wrong and the only right figures are the figures quoted by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that the United Nations is going to designate one of the years in the decade of the eighties as the International Year of the Aged and it is clear to all that Barbados is going to have a very impressive record whenever that year comes. Over and above all of this Mr. Speaker, there have been increases in Government pensions irrespective of what has been said on the Other Side, there have been increases in national assistance, Mr. Speaker, Sir, those beneficiaries within this last year have had substantial increases. The fact is Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyone has had a piece of the national cake.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one last point. All of these measures, particularly these measures in respect of senior citizens have had another positive effect. We have in fact been helping to ease the burden on the people who look after, or take care of senior citizens, like children, grandchildren, God children, nephews, nieces, those people who have senior citizens living with them. When the Government pays for these services, when the Government pays for these benefits, they do not have to go into their pockets directly and that is a benefit to them. You see, Mr. Speaker, there are many ways of looking at coins. People look at both sides and often forget that each coin has three sides, they forget the edge and that is one of the edges.

Now, Mr. Speaker social welfare of the people of Barbados costs money. It cannot even be said in Barbados that the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance increased taxes to pay for all of these developmental sides of social welfare because in fact taxes have been reduced, taxes have been

cut. We have had tremendous tax relief between 1976 and 1981. Taxes are going down and buildings are going up, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I see pavilions, I see playing fields, there is one at Murphy pasture in the City, Sir, I see polyclinics, I see schools, I see Skills Training Centres. I see social care centres, I see highly subsidized low rental houses, there are some being built at St. Cecilia in Passage Road. (APPLAUSE) I see all of those buildings going up and I see taxes coming down, I see salaries going up and I see the Opposition going down.

10.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, if I were not in fact out of my time, I would take this opportunity to deal with the Government's record in social services — health, education, welfare, housing and the environment — but I wish to say in closing, Mr. Speaker, that the secret of the tremendous development which we have seen in Barbados lies very largely in the management of the economy of Barbados, in the political will of the Government of Barbados and in the co-operation of the people of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister has only one minute in which to wind up.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Thank you, Sir. In that one minute I will say, Sir, that for holding these three reins together I congratulate the Minister of Finance, who is the Prime Minister, and I take the greatest possible pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the amendment to the Resolution proposed by the Opposition. Last evening the Prime Minister presented this House with the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, and indeed, Sir, it is in the view, I believe, of most thinking Barbadians a success story. It is a story of success in the management of the affairs of this country at such a very high level that we can see the benefits which are accruing to the vast majority of people, and especially to the people in the lower brackets and in the lower income groups. (ASIDE).

Mr. Speaker, I must thank the hon. member for his advice. He can give me advice, Sir, on clothes but not on economics. What I thought remarkable, Mr. Speaker, was the fact that the Prime Minister did not claim for himself and for the Government alone the successes which he was able to report. He said to us that it was due in large measure to the co-operation of the people of this country, the workers of this country, black, white, pink, blue, whatever you wish, the teachers, the carpenters, all across the country the people responded to his call and big business, small business, all responded, and as a result we are able to see an economy that is strong.

I mentioned small business. I remember about four years ago myself and the hon. member for St. Philip North made a call on the Government to give all necessary support to small businesses in this country, because we realised the importance which they have played in structuring the economy and in providing work for people. In my own constituency, Mr. Speaker, I have seen the rise of mini marts, I have seen small businessmen now producing from pepper sauce to bus bodies. Any number of small businesses, and they are all producing, they are all making their contribution to the economy of this country. If I may just spend a minute on small businesses, I remember when I returned to St. George to live where I now live. It was not possible to buy — and this is since 1976, although I had been living there before — it was not possible to buy half a pound of table butter, one had to journey to the larger supermarkets in Bridgetown, but today I am sure the hon. member for St. Michael South Central will agree with me, there are thriving mini marts throughout the parish which I have the honour to represent. These mini marts are well stocked, they contain all the items you can find in the bigger supermarkets, and the quality of the food is good, and what is also important is that the people are buying these things.

Is it therefore, Mr. Speaker, not a credit to the leadership of this country to make it possible for poor people, people who are from the agricultural belt, to be able to buy the goods within their own village that everyone else can buy in any other part of the island?

I noticed also, Sir, much talk about prices, the high cost of living. I have had occasion to talk to many people who come to these shores from time to time, and time and again they remark on the fact that the prices are comparable to the prices in the larger countries from which they come, and more important, they agree that the quality of the food they buy is equal to the quality of the food they buy in their countries. Is it not then, Mr. Speaker, a situation in which despite the high rise in prices of which there is complaint, are people still not eating better now than they did many years ago? It is there for everyone to see, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt about it, it cannot be disputed, it is therefore a credit to the leadership of this country and to all those who contribute to bring about this change in our society.

The question, Mr. Speaker, of unemployment. We have been able to provide the means and the avenues where people can find work where they could not find work before. In my constituency, and I believe it is fairly widespread, we have however many women who are married, some not married but with children old enough to work with experience, who wish very much to work on a part-time basis, not necessarily for a whole

day or a whole week, and I would certainly like to ask the Prime Minister when the Home Care Plan expands and develops that some room would be found for these people, because in those homes there is probably only one wage earner and the womenfolk have the time and the expertise, and I would suggest, Sir, that wherever possible they draw from that sector in filling the places for the Home Aid Scheme.

10.10 p.m.

I noticed however, Sir, that the Prime Minister was very careful to point out what was the main problem with unemployment with respect to women and this refers to the unemployed among young school leavers who have not worked before. This, Sir, is indeed a very serious problem we have in this country. I am glad to see that an attempt has been made, a very serious attempt, to have them trained and to bring them into the work force. I would urge that this be done with all the speed and with all the haste that is possible, and I would also urge the Prime Minister and indeed the Government to make use of the tremendous potential and resources of the YWCA. Look into that, put an eye at that and if possible put money into it because I believe they are well poised to assist in this programme of training our young girls and making them eligible for work and saving them from potential villany.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, when I mention the contribution of people all over this country, I certainly have to pay the people themselves a great tribute for their determination to go forward, their determination to better themselves, their determination to advance, a word which I know and recall was very dear to the heart of my friend and colleague the Rt. Hon. and learned member for St. John, a word nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, which if I had to take seriously the mouthings and the antics of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, that word has lost its currency or the currency may well have been debased or indeed, Mr. Speaker, the words of other members of the Opposition who said that they will return to the wages and emoluments of 1976. The people of this country cannot be stopped, they will move on and they will move on with all the strength and conviction that they have. They are aware of course that they have in this parliament men of goodwill, men and women of integrity who hold the reins of Government and who are prepared to carry on in their interest.

I also noticed that the Prime Minister warned of being complacent and he said we should not be complacent, and I hope that this will be responded to. The people must understand that this is no time to be complacent; we must be watchful of what is happening around us. We must understand that there is dignity in work, dignity in labour. The people of this country, Mr. Speaker, have shown tremendous regard for the

achievements of this Government and this party and I do not want to be political, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that when the time comes they will know what to do. In the meantime we will see to it that nothing is left undone that cannot be done by anyone to further the progress and the economic growth of our country.

I would have wished, Mr. Speaker, to hear from the Prime Minister a bit on the question of energy. I notice that some success has been reported, but I would certainly wish that we could have had some further details.

In the field of agriculture, Mr. Speaker, the tractor scheme which has been proposed is one which will be welcomed and well received by the small holders in the country, and I believe that wherever possible some assistance should be given to private individuals to buy more tractors so that there will be more available for the lands of small people.

I recall hearing from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central an attempt to decry a statement in the Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement concerning the spread of savings in the community. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recall an incident that happened last year, and it relates to this question of savings and what can be done. It was the first Friday's pay cheque that a young man had received, a man who was working in agriculture; the first pay after the crop had started, and I happened to be passing and stopped by a shop and saw this young man, and they were celebrating. I called him aside and I said to him "my friend, if I were you I would certainly consider saving some of my earnings". The next day I saw the young man again and he said to me "would you please hold this money for me?" It was a small amount, but what is important is that he continually brought money to me and then we organised it into a bank account, and he is now a regular saver. I cannot call his name, but there are hon. members who would know him; but I can say tonight that that same young man about 22 years old has a savings account on a bank in Barbados with a modest sum of \$1,600. He works in agriculture, but he has also two heifers in calf. The hon. Deputy Prime Minister would know the value of that sort of property. But the point is that by creating the habits necessary, good husbandry, this is the position of a young man who is on the road to success.

Only last night I had occasion to meet with a very good friend of another member of the Opposition who is in the business of chicken rearing and from what he tells me and how he is operating, he too with a little advice will be doing very well and will become successful. This Government has done a fantastic job in making available

to small people small business loans and facilities to improve themselves to the extent that it has never been done before in this community.

We have much work being done in housing, Mr. Speaker, and I must commend the Government for their efforts in trying to provide housing for people. It is expensive we all know to build a house and more and more people are demanding of Government and expecting the Government to build houses for them. It is not possible to build all the houses that all the people need, but nonetheless a good job is being done and if we continue in this vein, more help will be brought to more people, but there is a very great need to make available spots of land for those who want to help themselves, and I would sincerely ask the Government to step up whatever plans it has in this direction.

10.20. p.m.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the benefits to the pensioners, to the old aged, the tax relief granted is welcomed by all people, all sectors of this community because it demonstrates beyond any doubt that in this Government we have a Government that cares for the people, a Government who will stand by them, and who will be with them.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, in spite of all the difficulties which we have had to overcome, we have been able to do that and I can only say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that Divine Providence was surely on our side. *(Applause)*.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that this Sitting be suspended until noon tomorrow.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until noon, the 2nd April, 1981, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

10.25 p.m.

On Resumption:—

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. The hon. member for St. Philip South.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, Sir, I have been receiving treatment for my throat and was hospitalised for a short period. Consequently, I am forced to be very brief in speaking on the budgetary proposals.

Mr. Speaker, I have already intimated to you and to my colleagues in this Hon. House that I will retire as a

member of Parliament when it suits the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to call an election. I crave your indulgence to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the people of St. Philip for having returned me as their representative for four consecutive terms. Especially I want to thank all the electorate in that parish, because I had the opportunity of serving them under the system of double member constituencies. I also served in the Vestry and Council, and subsequently I am here now as a member of Parliament, and I could almost say, Sir, that I may be singing my swan song in this Parliament. I may be, and I said almost.

I do hope, Sir, that the good people of St. Philip will select a candidate who will represent them well and take on the mantle which I am about to lay down. It is my fervent prayer that they will understand, or that he will understand after he is elected that he is not the master of the constituents but the servant of the constituents.

Having made those remarks, Sir, I express my thanks to you for having allowed me to do so. I am not going into the ramifications of the budgetary proposals, but I intend to speak on a few subjects briefly. I think, Sir, that I should speak firstly on the loans which we have been borrowing from time to time and for which this House had to give approval.

It is known, Mr. Speaker, that in all developing countries if they are to go forward and make progress in the interest of the masses, that they must seek loans, and especially those who do not have the resources, but what I am watching carefully, Mr. Speaker, is the amount of money we are borrowing at a very fast rate. We must remember, Sir, that we have to repay the interest and we have to pay the instalments. While it is true that posterity will have to carry part of the burden, I am still giving a warning that we have to be very carefully, and especially when we consider the speed with which we are borrowing.

Mr. Speaker, it is my opinion that we will not be able to continue to borrow for ever, and if you consider the amount of money we have approved to be borrowed in this House for the past five years, I sometimes ask myself one question, and if we continue to borrow can we borrow similar amounts every five year term. The point is, where would we end. While we have a stable economy, and that has been so for several decades, I am still saying that we must give that careful consideration in obtaining the loans, especially those from overseas.

Mr. Speaker, you are fully aware of the amount which we have borrowed this term, and if this is or will be the custom, we would know in approximately 20 years what would be the loans of this country. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that all countries must borrow money, even the developed ones, because I have even noticed that the

Government of Trinidad with all the resources did borrow money, but with our economy, sugar and tourism, which our economy depends on, those are the two industries, and therefore we have got to ask ourselves if they can be fragile. I remember several years ago we had a drought in this country in which the canes were cut by holes and the gangs took them up in baskets.

12.15 p.m.

Let us hope that this will never happen again in this country. I am just pointing out to you, Sir, the problems which we face. Tourism has been doing well for several years, but we also have to keep a close look at that because, Sir, in case of an epidemic we are also in trouble. I am not against borrowing to improve the condition of the people of this country and especially the poor people, what I say is that we have to give it a good look; because we realise that every loan which we approve in this House means higher taxation. Therefore when we consider that almost everything in this country has already been taxed, you have to ask yourself what will happen if things go wrong with the two main staple industries.

Mr. Speaker, I wish now to deal with the old age pensions. I would not say for one moment that I am unhappy about the increase which has been given to them, but I want to draw to the attention of the Government and especially the Minister of Finance that I think the time has come when the Minister of Finance should give careful consideration to agricultural labourers who have contributed and are contributing to the main industry in this country. There is a case which I can vouch for, I prefer not to call the man's name because he lives next door to me, but I will say that he has a small home, he worked all his days as an agricultural labourer, he has not even got a toilet and what has happened is that that man was receiving a pension from the National Insurance and an old age pension, but, Sir, he came to me on numerous occasions telling me that the old age pension card was taken away from him.

I feel that the time has come that if people who have not contributed to the national insurance scheme are entitled to old age pension, these poor agricultural labourers have contributed to the economy of this country and I feel that they too, regardless of the few cents they are getting from the National Insurance, should also be given old age pension. Mr. Speaker, when you consider the cost of living and that a man who is around 75 years worked from the time he was a child in the third gang in those days and now he has reached old age without a toilet, it is wrong that that card on which he was paid his old age pension should be taken away from him. I can only appeal to both sides to give that matter careful consideration. I also feel the time should come when there should be no means test for old age pension. I know that it is a colossal task, I have an idea of the

amount of money it would take to pay most people in this country old age pensions, but when you consider a man perhaps receiving, say, \$150 to \$200 a month as a pension in these days and he cannot be given old age pension, you can understand the financial burden he carries on his shoulder.

Mr. Speaker, I am not attacking the Minister or any employee at the Transport Board, but I want to let this Honourable House know that it is chaos and confusion for people to get to work on mornings and there are all kinds of problems for them to get home on evenings, even my daughter who travels daily. The position is that I am drawing the matter to the attention of this House, and I would suggest to the members of this House to go over there on evenings and see how children, women, men fight to get into the buses. Are we going to wait until somebody is killed? The time has come when, Mr. Speaker, Government should consider having a number of minibuses. They should also consider increasing the number of minibuses to the private concessionaires. This is a serious matter. The people in my constituency have asked me if they are being victimised on Route 12.

12.25 p.m.

I have told them in no uncertain terms that nobody would victimize them, but we need more buses. The Minister should give careful consideration to demand that some of the mini-buses which he has travelling all around on these routes be given direction to assist with those long distant routes on mornings and evenings.

People who leave work at 4.30 p.m. who cannot push and do all sorts of things to get into a bus, some of them wait until 9.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m. to get home. On mornings the buses leave them and everybody almost all employees are getting to work late daily. Check at the Government Departments and you will find out that with the exception of those who have cars, all of the employees are coming to work late and you cannot even discipline them because they are not responsible for the problem.

The Acting Manager, I can state that he is doing his best but can he make blood out of stone, with people criticizing him. I sometimes become worried because he has not got the tools and therefore he cannot do the job.

Housing, Mr. Speaker. Twelve years ago I built a house with assistance from the bank and I have been checking back on those paysheets. You would be surprised to know that I paid a foreman, 90 cents an hour, 12 years ago, \$7.20 per day. Mr. Speaker, do you know what artisans have to be paid in these days for one day is equivalent to the amount that I paid an artisan, who was a foreman, I paid for repairs. That amount

that I paid which is equivalent to the amount I paid for a whole week's work. Therefore, you can see that for five days that the artisan's day's pay has gone up over 100% from 12 years ago.

Cement at that time was \$2.00 approximately per bag. Today, it is nearly five times the amount, if it is not that and therefore, you can see, Mr. Speaker, that with inflation which to a certain extent we have no control over, and by that I should clear the air by stating that certain commodities which come from overseas they bring on inflation but we get more inflation being added here now with the various mark-ups and so on and so forth, and, therefore, for anyone to criticize and to say that it is misleading to state that one dollar five years ago is equivalent to one dollar today, that statement, Sir, would be misleading.

When you go to the supermarkets on many occasions, I have seen people call for items, essential items, items which they cannot do without and they did not have sufficient money to pay the supermarket and a certain amount of goods had to be taken back.

Mr. Speaker, we have given the old aged pensioners a 40% increase but we also have to understand that the price of commodities and the amount money it takes to maintain those old people. I am not one who thinks you can give them \$100 a week but I hope that the time will come when we will be able to give them a bigger increase and we will be able to give them a bigger increase and we will be able not only to repair.....

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

Mr. WEEKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only to repair a few old people's houses, but to be able to set aside a fund, Sir, allocate money, a reasonable amount of money, to deal with repairs to old people's homes.

Mr. Speaker, this is no vote catching for me, because I am on my way out, but I think, Sir, that if I did not take this opportunity to express myself and to let my constituents hear my voice, I would be failing in my duty. God bless the people of St. Philip. (APPLAUSE)

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, just about four and a half years ago, the electorate of this country gave a firm mandate that the Barbados Labour Party be the Government of this country. After that period of time of almost just over 4½ years, we have been privileged to have part in this Government and who realise that

within a few months there will be an election, have good cause to go to the electorate with confidence.
12.35 p.m.

The affairs of this country, Mr. Speaker, have been very well handled, we have not completed everything that we would like to have done, but in fact, what Government can ever complete everything that it would like to do for the people? As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, you only have to read the press, day after day to see that for all economic countries, it is from the economy, it is from the economic conditions of the country that everything flows. The people have expectations and if the economy is bad, they are the first to know it and if it is good, they are also the first to know it. It is the most debated subject in the world today of any country. Great countries like the United States of America, Great Britain, Jamaica, Guyana, Venezuela, you will always find there tremendous debate in relation to the economy because it is from there that all good flows, or all bad flows.

We in the Barbados Labour Party are extremely proud of the way the economy has been handled by our Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Mr. Speaker, it is no easy job to have to handle the economy of a country at this time in particular because we, as a small independent country are in a turbulent sea of economic problems. Big countries have economic problems, in Europe and North America, in the Caribbean some of the small countries like ourselves are in deep trouble, as far as our economy is concerned. Not only does the Government of Barbados get praise from people in Barbados as to the success of running the economy, but from countries far away, who you would think would hardly have time of mentioning Barbados, single out Barbados as one of the countries, which is riding these turbulent seas in a very attractive manner, Mr. Speaker.

Do not mind the stupid remarks about Barbadians writing letters to overseas newspapers praising ourselves. The New York Times is not going to accept any letter praising Barbados from a Barbadian. They are the economists and they have signed their names to the article and have praised Barbados. The newspapers in Washington, the newspapers in London have praised the handling of the economic matters of this country. So, all this nonsense of trying to throw a red herring across the trail that Barbadians are writing letters to major newspapers praising themselves only shows the level of thought of the speaker.

On the one hand, Mr. Speaker, the Rt. Honourable Minister of Finance has to keep the international image of the economic conditions up in the way of balance of payments and dollar reserves. After all, Mr.

Speaker, I think that most Barbadians realise that if you took \$10 000 in Barbados money to Tokyo, you could not buy a car with it. They are not interested in our currency as such, they want to be paid in an international currency, maybe they would accept Marks or Pound Sterling, but I think that the currency that is most used in international trade is the American dollar and therefore, it is normal that the Rt. Honourable Minister would refer to our dollar reserves in American currency, it is the international currency for exchange and purchasing of goods between one country and another.

This is what the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance has to do. He has to make sure that at all times we can pay for goods which are ordered into this country and very often, the goods that are ordered as far as the Rt. Hon. Minister is concerned are of unknown quantity because merchants order goods which are without licence, but it has to be paid for in foreign currency. So, here it is that he is in a position, where he has to be responsible for the entire economy of the country and yet, he has to keep a watchful eye on the merchants in Bridgetown. Now, I do not say this in a disparaging way, but just to make sure that we are not over purchasing.

On the other side, Mr. Speaker, he has five, or six Honourable Ministers every time Estimates come around calling for more money. The Honourable Minister of Communications and Works calling for money to repair, maintain and build roads and sidewalks, *et cetera* the Honourable Minister of Agriculture wanting to give the small farmers a better deal; the Honourable Minister of Housing, who is no easy person to deal with wanting more money for houses; the Honourable Minister of Health wanting more money to be able to give the sick and disabled people in Barbados better attention; the Honourable Attorney General wanting to increase the size of the Police Force. In truth and in fact, Mr. Speaker, every Honourable Minister looking to the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance for more money to run their Ministry and all the things I have named required foreign currency. If the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works wants to do roads and repair sidewalks *et cetera*, construction and repair to public properties, he needs cement, he needs an abundance of steel, tons of steel. If the Honourable Minister of Housing wants to build houses foreign currency as well. Every time that an Honourable Minister goes, you could bet that somewhere along the line — if the Honourable Minister of Tourism goes he wants foreign currency to advertise Barbados.

So, here it is on one hand he is trying to keep his finances in good shape for the international view and on the other hand, he is trying to keep his Honourable Ministers, who are justly coming to him for money, I forgot the Honourable Minister of Education who is also

wanting more schools. He has got to keep them happy. But, there is a third party and the third party is the one that creates the most problems, the life-style of the people in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, the people in Barbados have good taste they want the good things of life and justly so. There is no reason why a person should want to accept anything lower.

I happened to visit Jamaica in recent years and saw that the people down there were disheartened and discouraged to go into a supermarket. You could not find chocolates; you could not find cosmetics; you could not find corn flakes; cheese was scarce, butter only on certain days and you had to put down your name to get bacon. When people from Guyana and Jamaica come to Barbados, they are spell bound to visit our supermarkets to see the chocolates and what have you. But, Mr. Speaker, it takes money to buy these commodities and foreign exchange so that the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance has to contend with the life-style of the people. You deal with any of the young fellows today, I circle, Mr. Speaker, I go out at all levels of this society, I find better off down below than up top. You go and ask a fellow to call for a drink and he calls for a brandy — he does not want any rum — and chase with Nutriment.....
12.45 p.m.

These things are all imported. The life-style of Barbadians is choosing the best of everything.

Let us take another thing. Mr. Speaker. You drive through any area in Barbados, anyone, do not mind where it is, and listen to the music coming from stereo equipment, and the best. They do not want any cheap equipment. I understand one of the biggest items sold in Barbados last Christmas was stereo equipment, and rightly so if they enjoy music. They should have the best equipment to play records, but again, Mr. Speaker, you do not pick foreign exchange off trees. No matter how much Barbadian money we have in the banks you cannot carry it to Tokyo, you cannot carry it to Germany to buy a Mercedes, you cannot carry it to Spain to buy wine, they do not want our money, they want international currency, marks, pounds sterling or dollars.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I would like to convey to my fellow countrymen is this, and I say it with all sincerity. You are absolutely right to want the best things of life, but there is another side to it, the side is productivity. If you want to enjoy the luxuries of life you have to work for them and work hard for them, and I call on my fellow countrymen today to put their backs to the task and realise that we are in a very difficult world. The Minister of Finance in his address did not draw a rosy picture of all the countries around us, he said precisely that economic conditions in most countries in the world had problems, and we being a small country are

bound to feel the waves coming off the big ones, so that, Mr. Speaker, I appeal to those in the tourist industry to make sure that our attitude to visitors is right. I appeal to the civil servants in this country and the workers in this country to put that much more into the productivity, into the producing of what they are supposed to do so that Barbados might ever continue to enjoy the prosperity that it now has.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, we are not content with what we have done, we intend to do more, and I feel quite confident within my heart that the electorate of this country are going to give us another five years to fulfil what we want to do.

The hon. member who is spokesman for the Opposition tried to create some problems as to tourism, saying that there was a decline in tourism and what have you, and how Puerto Rico was enjoying the best tourist season ever. What he said about Puerto Rico enjoying the best tourist season ever is quite true, but it is not the Government's fault that we have not had a good winter this year as we had year before last, and the very reason that the people have not come to Barbados is that they have been able to go to Puerto Rico, but they could not afford the luxury of coming further south to Barbados. The Americans who normally would come to Barbados could very well have easily gone to the Bahamas or Bermuda, or even Jamaica, because it is so much cheaper to get there, but we feel confident in Barbados with the product that we have that when the economic conditions in North America improve we will once again be able to enjoy the bumper tourist season that we have enjoyed for some time. Let the hon. member carry those remarks to those who do not know, but when he tries to lay the blame for fewer tourists in Barbados on the Government, forget that partner.

I would just like to comment briefly on a few items, Mr. Speaker. There was criticism here about the old age pension being increased from \$20 to \$28. Mr. Speaker, do not mind who is criticising it, the elderly folk out there appreciate the increase of \$8. For the hon. member \$28 is nothing, he will put that in gasoline in the tank, but the old people out there appreciate the \$8.

Now, just touching lightly on a few subjects, let us deal with the fact that from the 15th April there will be free drugs for all the people over 65. Mr. Speaker, do you know what this means to people? Everybody from top to bottom, from the Governor General back down to Slims and Gearbox, when you reach 65 you are entitled to free drugs in this country. For those who are laid aside, and I want to speak to the old folks and to the young ones who have old people laid aside, make sure your old people have their I.D. cards, they are going to need them now. If your aunt, or your uncle, or your grandfather is

laid aside at home and cannot get out of the house, and he gets a prescription from a doctor with his name on it, you will have to take that prescription along for the old boy or the old girl, with the I.D. card, either to the Government dispensaries or where else you should choose before you can get your drugs, so if you have old folks that need I.D. cards I am appealing to you, especially the younger people, to put some energy into getting the cards for them.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine a year when the Minister of Finance gives so many social benefits to this country, in the same year he can reduce income tax? You would think that one would become so heavy he would increase income tax. No single person in this country working for \$500 a month will any longer pay income tax, and if you are married and you have two children — I do not have to calculate it, it may be \$700, I do not know — imagine that when we came into Government I believe that if you worked for \$40 a week you paid income tax, \$25 a week you paid income tax, and today you can work for \$115 or \$120 a week and do not pay any income tax. Can somebody find fault with that? If you can find fault with that you will find fault with if I say today is Thursday, and try to tell me it is Saturday. What kind of nonsense am I hearing? When you can find fault with the obvious you are only making sport.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest thing that this Government has done over the last four and a half years for the poor people of this country is the Plantation Tenancies Act, last budget, the one they said was an election budget, but they have run out of saying it was an election budget. They have changed their tune. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, some people who have never had a hope of owning a piece of land, the Hon. Prime Minister, the son of the great Sir Grantley Herbert Adams, could bring forward the care of his father for the poor people of this country that they are now going to be able to buy land and will be able to sit down on the land, stand up on the land, lie down on the land and say "this is mine." A few of the benefits of owning your own land are some of these, like your kitchen getting eaten out by wood ants, you do not build it back in wood, you put it in stone, Mr. Speaker. You put in a water toilet and you put down a pit. Your child wants to go on a trip to New York to see the grandmother, you do not have to run up the road to ask the plantation manager to back a note for you, you carry the papers to the bank and say, "Mr. Manager, I want to borrow \$1,000, here are my papers." You do not have to beg anybody any more, you do not have to run to a politician and ask him to back a note for you, you have your own collateral and, Mr. Speaker, the land is being sold at a price at which it will never ever be sold in this country again, for little or nothing.

Mr. Speaker, that is to show you the interest we have in the people of this country owning their land and ultimately building better houses. Of course, when I go into Silver Hill and Gall Hill I do not refer to houses, they are so nicely put away in Silver Hill they are homes, and after all, a person's home is his castle.....

12.55 p.m.

We have done so much in Silver Hill, repaired the fronts of the houses where they were leaking, painted them inside and outside, and then the Minister said he was finished. I said it was not true. You and I went to school together and we are going to battle here for five hours until you tell me that you are going to put new fences to the backyard and he told me he did not have the money, and I said he has to find it or I am not leaving, and eventually the Minister said "all right, for peace sake I will send and take a survey to see what it would cost the Government to put fences in stone" so that you can have privacy, and your cat could not go into another fellow's yard, your dog cannot cross the fowls in the other fellow's yard, you are private.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to come into Silver Hill and you will be proud to see what I have been able to do for the people of Silver Hill in the parish of Christ Church.

Now the last point, Mr. Speaker, is this: do you imagine a party calling themselves an Opposition with an election around the corner and they are bringing an amendment to a Resolution calling on the Government to call elections now. Elections are coming now. What nonsense are you trying to tell the people that you are ready? You don't want any election. I do that too; come out barking believing I am bold, and then a fellow back raise you and then you leave town. There are 54 candidates out there working and they are asking to call elections now. If they do not expect it now, why are they working? It is so nonsensical to think that seven big men can get together and bring a Resolution like that. I have a fourteen year old boy who would see through that. They say bring the election now. It is around the corner. Do not worry, it is coming baby Mr. Speaker, I feel confident that the electorate of this country is satisfied that we have done a proper job in the last four and a half years and I go to this country in full confidence that they will return the Barbados Labour Party under the distinguished leadership of our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance to run the country for another five years.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, once again Barbadians have been presented with a budget of class on Tuesday of this week. It is a budget which the political analysts have dubbed one of benefit to Barbadians in the lower echelons of the society, but within the Barbados Labour Party I would think that the budget is designed to benefit

all Barbadians. For two successive years, Mr. Speaker, Barbadians have been awaiting a reply to the economic report as delivered by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, and to date in my humble estimation, they are still awaiting a reply to the budgets of 1980 and 1981, for we witnessed yesterday at prime time on television the Shadow Minister of Finance on the Opposition bench trying as much as he could to make a reply to the economic report and all that he was able to do was to make another political speech. At one time I thought he was somewhere in Carrington Village on a public platform, for he has said nothing in reply to any of the proposals which the Prime Minister has put forward to alleviate some of the burdens of the poor people in Barbados. What he did say was that the Government has not come to grips in essence with the problems of the country, and that leads me to ask which country. In which country is he a member of the Opposition? For if the Barbados Labour Party government did not or has not come to grips with the problems which the Barbados Labour Party encountered in 1976 when they became the Government of Barbados, then I do not know what has happened to Barbados and what has caused the great transformation between 1976 and 1981 in this country.

He says we have not come to grips with the problem. I will ask was he referring to jobs, Mr. Speaker? The Barbados Labour Party in its manifesto of 1976 which is now a public document promised that it would create over 3,600 jobs if elected to power, and my estimation is and the record is that we have fulfilled that promise. It might not seem apparent to people that that amount of jobs was found for Barbadians, but when you consider the number of various industries and Government's incentives to industry and housing development in particular, the massive building construction industry which today is still booming and the endless number of jobs and related jobs in construction and other industries, I would have to contend that the Barbados Labour Party did fulfill that promise.

He said that the Barbados Labour Party did not live up to its expectations, did not come to grips with the problems, and again, Mr. Speaker, I ask whether he means problems in the reduction of the cost of living. If the hon. member who represented the Opposition yesterday is referring to a state of conditions in Barbados, I would say that the Barbados Labour Party government has done admirably well in trying to reduce the cost of living. We in the Ministry of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs are perhaps best aware of the countless problems of the numerous cases for price increases that come to our office every day, and the officers of that Ministry and the Minister himself ought to be commended along with the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture in trying to work out a formula that commodities imported at inflated rates into Barbados reach the consumers at a reasonable cost.

We have not been able to overcome the problems of inflation because the problems of inflation are not ones within Barbados. They are problems which are imported into Barbados where manufacturers are looking for the best return on their investment, where labour unions abroad are looking for the best for their members and where there is a spiralling cost of inflation in freight rates, but yet things have to be imported into Barbados, and Barbadians will have to understand and realise that if they want commodities which they cannot themselves produce and we have got to import them, then they have got to sacrifice to pay the cost for the imported commodities.

I was checking on the price of corned beef only this morning with one of the local agents only to be told that the current prices for corned beef are factors which are outside the control of that particular agency. I enquired in particular about one brand and the agent was kind enough to inform me that I would never see that brand again in Barbados. I pressed further and he said that the price was prohibitive and it does not now profit the company to bring that brand into Barbados. Generally the Ministry of Consumer Affairs allows agents and their representatives a reasonable markup on their imports. I am also told that in some other countries corned beef has been totally removed from the import order of those countries because it is not considered a necessity of life, ...
1.05 p.m.

The price is so high that the countries themselves, unless it is a producing country, has decided that it is not profitable to bring the commodity into the country so, Mr. Speaker, my point is that we are aware within this party that there are certain things which we will never have control over as long as we cannot produce them. Corned Beef is one and Nescafe is one.

The coffee industry, since 1978 has been plagued with shortages and whenever there is a shortage there is demand for the commodity. The frost of 1978 wiped out most of the coffee fields in Brazil. The Jamaican economy was undergoing massive recessions and this put a burden on the other coffee producers who, rightfully, sent the prices up on the international market but if Barbadians want to think that they cannot do without a cup of coffee and if Barbadians feel that the very first thing they must have in the morning is a cup of coffee, well, then, it is up to them to pay the price or leave it alone, but what we need to tell our consumers in Barbados, what we need to instill in our consumers in this country is that commodities which we do not produce and if we are not willing to pay the price for, we must sacrifice it and use alternatives.

In the United States the price of coffee was increased by approximately \$1.12 for the 6 oz. tin and housewives decided that they were not buying it and the restaurants

assisted the housewives by offering as an alternative tea whenever coffee was placed on the menu and as a result, the price of coffee showed a marked difference after a period of time but our people are not willing to take such chances. They feel that they have a right to have coffee. They go into the Supermarket and see a tin of coffee \$12.00, they put it into the shopping basket, and because they see someone has noticed that they put it in the shopping basket, they know they cannot afford the price, they are ashamed to take it out of the shopping basket, they go to the cash register and pay the \$12.00. Well, you cannot eat the \$12.00. That attitude must be changed, Mr. Speaker.

We can very well do without a lot of these commodities on the market. We can very well do without them. I have not heard today any Barbadian who have died as a result of not having a cup of coffee, or a tin of corned beef of a particular brand, the first thing or any time in the day, and these are the things that Barbadians must be told.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central accused the Government for not coming to grips. As I said, I do not know which Government Housing? A check with the Minister of Housing, Mr. Speaker, reveal that a concerted effort between that division and private enterprise last year produced over 1,300 houses and this was made possible only by incentives offered to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company to assist would-be home owners with a very reasonable mortgage contribution so that they would benefit from obtaining a mortgage. In the past it was rather difficult for a home owner to obtain a mortgage concession but part of the Budgetary proposals for 1979/80 was to grant reasonable mortgage concessions to people who were seeking and genuinely seeking to obtain a house for the first time.

The Attorney General must go on record in this country for championing the cause for women and women's rights. In all that he has been out there alone trying to have a charter for our women folk and full credit must be given to him for his untiring work in maintaining this cause. It was part of the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party to formulate a charter for Barbadian women. There is now equal status for Barbadian women in almost everything in this country and the women themselves are thankful for his insight in trying to bring legislation before the country that they would be adequately represented.

We told you prior to the election in 1976 that we would remove the 5% sales tax. It was a promise like many other promises which we kept. It was a promise which we fulfilled upon entering this chamber on October 6, 1976.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party Government took office in 1976 and a spate of unusual things occurred to prevent the Government from functioning in

the interest of the people. I would not have to remind you or the people of Barbados of the threats of invasion, of the threats of coups, of the threats to destabilize the economy, of threats to do everything by the Opposition to bring the Government down in three years but the Government has prevailed.

With the fine leadership and insight of the Minister of Finance, he has led this country to new horizons, to new era, to new visions, to new insights for the people of Barbados. The fine leadership of the Prime Minister of this country – I say fine because we here on the back bench have reason to say fine. We have to work with him. The Cabinet have got to work with him. Some of the decisions taken in Cabinet, perhaps some of the Prime Minister's decisions have not always met with the approval of the people of Barbados but I would consider, Sir, that they were taken with an overview for the overall good of all Barbadians.

When the hire purchase restraint was introduced in 1977, it was a novelty to Barbadians because most Barbadians had really never encountered such measures to restrict the flow of currency out of Barbados in order to build up our foreign reserves but instead of being assisted in this exercise by the Opposition leader and the members of the Opposition, we heard statements to the effect that the Government was cheating the people. The Government did not want people to own refrigerators. The Government did not want the people to possess a car. The Government did not want people to have stereo equipment or stoves, or things of that nature but little did the average Barbadian realize that when you buy a motorcar you are using valuable reserves which, if not checked, would put the country into a state of ruin as many other Caribbean countries have foregone.

They were given an exercise in financial management which was perhaps new to most Barbadians but which in the long run and which we have conceived most Barbadians are thankful for. The restraints and the restrictive measures introduced in 1978 were a prelude to our being in this happy financial position today.

As a matter of coincidence, Mr. Speaker, while the Government of Barbados in 1977/78 was telling the people of Barbados that we must conserve, that we must use restraint in order to build up our foreign reserves, the former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, in April of 1978 candidly remarked to the people of the United States that despite our affluence, despite our wealth, it is very necessary that this Government use restraint.

1.15 p.m.

The most that this Government can afford to pay any increase to fellow workers would be a 5%. This was a year after the Barbados Government had told the workers

in this country, like it or not, the most this Government will allow for any wage increases will be a five percent increase. This can only take place Mr. Speaker when your finances and the management of finances is aware of what is happening internationally.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has not had an easy task in doing this. He has had to make drastic decisions in order to bring home to Barbadians that motor cars, refrigerators and those kinds of things have to be paid for in foreign currency and if Barbados does not have the foreign currency, Barbados will in the end, end up like other Caribbean countries who perhaps have more to offer in terms of natural resources than we do. I do not particularly like to refer to Guyana in dealing with the chronic cases of inflation in which their economies have faltered because of the lack of insight and foresight, but I believe in order to drive home to the people of Barbados, it is necessary occasionally to stress that it is only because our Rt. Hon. Prime Minister had the guts to tell the people of this country that it must be done in this way, otherwise we will all go down together like all Caribbean countries, if he did not have that courage to tell the people, if he did not have that courage to tell his Party. But, I am sure that things would have gone a lot better if he had the assistance of the Opposition in trying to inform the people of Barbados that we are not producers, we are importers and that every dollar that this country has is meaningful only if it can be saved for the good of Barbados. The Opposition in itself was failing the people and was doing no more than misinforming the masses of Barbados that they have an alternative to the present Barbados Government.

Four years have gone and we are now sitting on the eve of an election. There is no need for the Opposition to call for an election, an election will be called very shortly and there is only one sad thing about that, Mr. Speaker, after the votes have been counted, after the polls have closed, the Honourable Members of the Opposition will still be an Opposition. They have tried every trick to tell the people that the Barbados Labour Party cares only about a certain class in the society. It is not our finding in this Party. We have found that we care about the people and that is reflected in the proposals and the benefits which the people of Barbados will get from the 1981 Budget.

Workers who earned \$90 per week were exempted from tax. That has now been increased to workers who earn a minimum of \$115. If, in our first term of office Mr. Speaker we have been able to achieve so much, in our first five years, one can hardly imagine what is coming for the people after the second five years. We are not working I do not think towards the total elimination of taxes, but it means a lot to those 1,500 workers, who as from this week will not have to pay taxes anymore. It certainly is a bold step to take by the Rt. Hon. Prime

Minister, but we promised in our election Manifesto that we would do everything to remove the burden of taxes from the people and we have done that.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central who delivered the so-called reply to the Budget said that Barbados did not come to grips with the problem. I do not know which Barbados he is talking about, but every international forum has commendable praise for the way the economy of Barbados has been handled over the past four years. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the paper a document of the Honourable House. I am referring to the Beacon of Friday, 20th August, 1980. I refer to an article on page three which says:

"Stable Barbados in a sea of chaos" by correspondent Karen DeYoung and in part the writer says, it is a quote from the prestigious Washington Post:

"Barbados drives everybody else in the region up a wall in a part of the world where economic ruin is always just around the corner, where politics is an increasingly nasty business, where close historical ties among nations sometimes result in intense rivalry. This 166 square mile patch in the Eastern Caribbean is what Jimmy Carter might call, 'an island of stability in a sea of chaos'."

What more can we say about the Prime Ministership of this country? We should indeed have the Opposition praising the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister for taking Barbados from the depth of ruin in 1976, from the brink of collapse, from an economy which was stagnant to one which is buoyant and giving hope to the people of Barbados once again for resurgence of life and things economic, a new housing programme.

Mr. Speaker, Oistins Development Programme, I was trying very hard to remember what Oistins looked like two years ago and I am finding it difficult to recap in my mind what Oistins was like. I just cannot remember quite vividly the close narrow streets of Oistins, I am finding it rather difficult to remember what Oistins was like and I would hope that the journalists, and the artists of this country will have some picture for our children to look at to recapitulate what Oistins really looked like because Oistins Town will never be the same again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want you to take a look at Speightstown now.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, I was lost in Speightstown three weeks ago. I was honestly lost. I was coming from St. Lucy and I saw this big, broad expanse of road and I said, no this is not Barbados again and I stopped and I could not believe, Mr. Speaker that I was

in Speightstown. The Heywoods Development Project has put Barbados again in the forefront again because the narrow streets of Speightstown have now been enlarged. I understand that a massive development project is going there.

1.25 p.m.

We in Barbados can feel really proud to have such development in only five years, because – and I would not want to overplay this – I will honestly say that in no developing Third World country has so much been done for so many in so short a time. Fontabelle, Mr. Speaker, sometimes I think it reminds me of Mexico, and I think I am in Mexico seeing the wide expanse of the streets, and when you go to the new development at the Harbour, the extension project there, one can imagine in another five years when that project is fully completed, Barbados will be another Miami or so. Halls Road, Mr. Speaker, is another example of a Government working for the people. You yourself cannot remember what Halls Road was like when the baker man was at the corner there. I cannot remember his name now. He has gone, but that has all been developed within five years. It has given a new life, a new look, a new concept of what Barbados can really be. People are actually building houses in Halls Road.

The Ministry of Communications must be commended for its effort, but yet the Opposition is saying Barbados did not come to grips with the problems. What more can we honestly do in five years? When other Governments are tottering on the brink of collapse, when Barbados has been able to keep afloat, what more can we do in five years?

The Prime Minister ended his speech on Tuesday by asking a question.

Mr. SPEAKER: And you will ask yours in one minute.

Mr. SISNETT: I intend to ask one more question in less than a minute, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister has no need to fear, whether it is his Cabinet or the people on the back bench. We promised in 1976 we would come to grips with the many problems of housing and otherwise that confront this country, and we have produced the goods. We have sent the children back to school, the 14 year olds which the Democratic Labour Party kicked out. We have given them a chance to become men and women in Barbados, they are now all working. Mr. Speaker, the question the Prime Minister asked was, in effect, should he have another term, or can the people give us another term in office. Perhaps he is too modest in asking the question, but I say it would be a sad day for Barbados if at this point in time of our development that the people of Barbados

are so unmindful of the achievements that they have benefitted from in five years to remove this Government and replace it with the excuse for an Opposition to lead this country into the eighties, it needs bold, dynamic leadership, and that leadership can only be found right now in the Barbados Labour Party. One good term deserves two good terms.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

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.
1.30 p.m.

On Resumption:—

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if no other hon. member wishes to contribute to the debate I propose to wind it up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister proceeds to wind up his debate, I must first draw it to the attention of this Hon. House that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central introduced into this Hon. House what purports to be an amendment to the motion moved by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, but in my view, since what purports to be an amendment goes beyond the original motion, in that it seeks to call for a general election and expresses no confidence in the Government, that in itself supports my view that it is not germane to the main motion that is before this Hon. House, and I rule that the purported amendment is out of order.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister may proceed to wind up his debate.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I really have no thought, I can give no reason for why the members of the Opposition should have abandoned their spokesman and left him alone in the House on so important an occasion as his first and perhaps only reply to the budgetary proposals of a Minister of Finance. I will do the two members of the Opposition who have spoken the courtesy of dealing with the points which they have made. I will also advert to points made in one of the speeches from our side of the House, and I then propose to deal with the reply to the budgetary proposals themselves.

Mr. Speaker, except for the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, it is my sincere opinion that the debate has been of a high standard. I thought the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, except for a grave lapse in taste when he sought to misquote a remark which I introduced into the debate, place it out of context and deal with it as if it was my remark, his speech showed a proper thoughtfulness for the disadvantaged in our community. What I would say, however, is this. I want to assure him that the Government is as mindful as the Opposition of the plight of the submerged portion of our population who live below standards of living that we consider appropriate for the 1980's.
2.25 p.m.

The number is not so great as when that hon. member occupied a place in the last Cabinet. He suggested it may be as many as one-fifth. There has been a survey by the Organisation of American States which shows that Barbados has the smallest proportion of its population living below the poverty line in any independent country in the Western hemisphere other than the United States and Canada. We have a smaller proportion, something like 11% to 12% who can be identified as requiring welfare assistance than any other country in CARICOM — in Trinidad the figure is 16% and in the Bahamas 27% — or any country on the mainland of South or Central America. It is for these submerged 10% to 11% that the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Community Development carried out its programmes.

There are something like 16,000 to 17,000 names on the books of the Welfare Department apart of course from old age pensions. These include children who are receiving child benefits which were doubled towards the end of last year by the present Government. These include persons who by reason of invalidity are unable to help themselves, and who receive benefits on the same basis as old age pensioners. These include the able-bodied adult and unemployed who in the absence of any unemployment insurance scheme such as I have just introduced into Barbados received weekly grants from the Welfare Department to assist them in paying their rent and they are also entitled to food stamps to take to supermarkets. The food stamp system in Barbados is not so widely spread as it is for example, in the United States of America. Many people are probably very surprised to hear that it exists at all, but to the benefits which other hon. members have pointed out that old age pensioners received should also be added the benefit of food stamps, of payment of rent as well as payment of water bills and electric bills in cases of real necessity. The food stamp system is intended to ensure that no Barbadian need go hungry once he or she can make their way to the Welfare Department.

The point taken by the hon. member as to the insufficiency of protein in the Barbadian diet is also one that is giving this Government some concern. As long ago as 1967 an extensive survey was done in Barbados on the incidence of protein energy malnutrition and a team was set up under Dr. Frank Ramsey whose untiring work in this regard deserves the greatest possible praise from the Government and people of Barbados, and I am glad to say that Dr. Ramsey some time ago delivered a report that protein energy malnutrition had been wiped out in Barbados and that the population generally was receiving adequate levels of protein and a balanced diet in general. In fact despite the claims of my colleague, the Prime Minister of Guyana, Dr. Ptolemy Reid, I think that all the figures say that Barbados is not only one of the best fed countries of the Caribbean but indeed in the Commonwealth.

Again the points made by the hon. member that our calorific intake tends to give us the diseases of over-eating, diabetes and heart disease, this is another point that has occupied the attention of Government, and hon. members will be interested to know, Mr. Speaker, that when wearing the hat of Minister of Finance, I sought to reduce the vote to the Ministry of Health given for the purpose of alleviating malnutrition on the grounds that malnutrition had so far been eliminated and that there was no longer the need for a special programme, I was rebuked and properly rebuked because it was pointed out to me by the medical officers of health who deal with these problems that malnutrition does not only mean shortage of food, it means eating the wrong foods, and that there was a need to start with the children in Barbados to impress on them the necessity for a balanced diet.

I have dwelt at slightly greater length than I would be expected on this point, Mr. Speaker, but I do think that the hon. member's speech apart from the infelicity in which he attempted to slander the Minister of Finance deserves attention from the Government as a whole and the Ministry of Health in particular, and I know that the Minister of Health with her outstanding devotion to improving the health standards of Barbados in a comprehensive way paid careful attention to what the hon. member has said. She has indeed more than once told me that once the hon. member can curb his tendency to abuse people and to misrepresent the fact at a personal level, he has been of great assistance to her Ministry in terms of supporting the National Health Scheme.

The Hon. member for St. Philip South also spoke. I regret that I cannot accede to many of the arguments which he offered in respect of pensions. The matter has been thoroughly canvassed, it has been dealt with in here before now and all I can say to the hon. member is that the problem of the pension cards, the dual pensions, the

amount of pension and everything else arises not because anybody can think that on principle there is a right to both a contributory and non-contributory pension, but because pensions require to be raised despite the efforts that we have made during these five years. Mr. Speaker, my aim at the moment, I put it no higher than that, is during the next five years of Government to attempt to see the old age pension reach the region of \$80 weekly and the National Insurance minimum pension over \$90 weekly. That is the broad aim of the Government. We cannot quantify what the situation will be like in five years' time in 1986, but I believe that when welfare benefits are generally improved and the amount of pension is substantially raised by both recipients who have both contributed and recipients who have not contributed, we will be in a position where the true balance between national insurance and welfare pensions can be seen properly and completely.

Before I leave the subject of pensions, I think that I should perhaps deal with that portion of the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central which dealt with the old age pensions. The hon. member spoke about the old age pension about its being low and said that the Democratic Labour Party will do away with the biennial increases in the old age pension, but it has already been announced by the Government, Mr. Speaker, that as from next year we intend to have an annual increase in the old age pensions. And on the point of indexation, perhaps nothing in the hon. member's speech, certainly nothing in the so-called proposals, revealed so fully the shallowness of his mind, his anxiousness to grasp at slogans and his incapacity to think deeply about the subjects on which he is talking as the proposal to index the old age pensions.

2.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living has risen 50% in the five years that we have been in power. Therefore, if the pensions had been indexed over those five years, the old aged pensioners would now be getting \$20.50 instead of \$28.00. His proposal to index the pensions will give the old aged pensioners less than we are giving them. That is why I call it an idiotic proposal without proper thought having been given to it. Even an increase from \$20.00 to \$28.00, the cost of living has only gone up something like \$27% since the pension was \$20.00. Therefore, if he had indexed the pension they would have got \$25.50 instead of \$28.00 so the hon. member really wants the old age pensioners to get less than the \$28.00 which the Government would give them.

Now, the speech of the hon. member for St. George North, my member of Parliament who has represented me and all the other members of the electorate in St. George North and for whom I look forward to voting for in a few weeks or months, as the

case maybe, made a number of points which deserve some comment.

First of all, he spoke about energy. To do justice to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central he also mentioned the question of energy. There is no compulsion in the Budget to deal with every single point, good, bad or indifferent, that is made but that is a good point and I would wish to cover it.

The Government is very concerned about the question of energy obviously and from time to time I have announced in the House, as recently as the Estimates Debate what is being done about alternative energy programmes. None of these programmes have any immediate financial consequence and therefore they were not recited in Budget but, for the benefit of the House and the public I will mention one or two.

We are stepping up exploration for petroleum in Barbados. There are indications that the reserves of natural gas may be quite considerable and we have alternative programmes for the use of natural gas standing by depending on the results of the exploration that is now going on. If the reserves are sufficient, we intend to approach an international agency for an already formulated plan to bring natural gas in the initial stages to 60% of the homes in Barbados and a wider number eventually and at the same time to build a plant for bottling the natural gas and selling it under the current system.

If the reserves will not stand up for a long enough period for this investment to be useful, we plan to extend the supply of natural gas to the industries in Barbados, especially to the Barbados Light and Power Co, so as to reduce the price of electricity. This is an on-going programme and indeed, Mr. Speaker, as I speak to you, the results of one well are now being evaluated. The equipment was not available in Barbados for full evaluation and within a very few months I anticipate that a really substantial statement can be made on the situation of petroleum exploration and exploitation in the country.

A new Bill is intended to come before the House of Assembly dealing with taxation of petroleum resources, perhaps even before the next Budget, Mr. Speaker, and that will, no doubt, give an opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister whose efforts have been so untiring in expanding petroleum production in Barbados to explain the entire matter fully to the House.

We have also entered into an alternative Energy Programme Agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank. Under this Agreement, there will be a three-year series of alternative energy studies, investigating particularly wind power, the use of bagasse and

the distribution of an energy so obtained. A site has been located for an experimental windmill, not very far from your constituency, Mr. Speaker, or the constituency which the Honourable Minister of Housing will be winning in the next General Election.

This windmill will be different from the old windmills and the programme from the IADB is expected in respect of 18 months. The first elements of the bagasse study are already underway and this will also take 18 months. I am going to Madrid, next week, Sir, to attend a Board of Governors Meeting with IADB and I intend to raise at that meeting an even more major alternative energy project for which a pre-feasibility has already been done. This is a wave energy hydro-electric project. It would be premature, Mr. Speaker, to say too much about this at the present time since it would involve, if completed, and completion date could not be less than five years away, a couple of miles of Barbados' coast line and will involve, in addition to a hydro-electric project, producing at the moment our target as 20 megawatts of electricity a day.

The project in the manner in which we are formulating it will also have a fish farming component and possibly a recreational component as well. I will be raising this with the Bank in order to seek funds for preliminary studies of the power of waves off the East Coast of Barbados which in itself will take over a year. The Coast Guard is going to assist in this regard. If these preliminary studies by way of a pre-feasibility approach to the matter are successful, then a full scale pre-feasibility will be conducted and in due course if that also is successful, construction of this major scheme could be expected to begin within three and a half to four years' time.

2.45 p.m.

Such a scheme has already been identified for an island very similar to Barbados, Mauritius in the Indian Ocean and a good deal of preliminary work has been done there. They then are the energy projects which the Government has in mind. We do not have in mind, Sir, the impossible task of subsidising the price increases which the Arabs demand for their petroleum, virtually no country in the world is now seeking to do that and Barbados does not intend to make itself bankrupt. We intend to aim at energy conservation and at the production of energy from our own resources, we do not intend to subsidise the already swollen bank accounts of Sheiks in the Arabs Government.

The Honourable Member for St. George North also asked about the YWCA, I will pass on that suggestion to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Community Development and I see no reason why

suitable training programmes at the YWCA could not be financed by the National Training Fund which the Budgetary Proposals also set up. On the matter also raised by the Honourable Member on the ownership of tractors to assist small farmers. The accumulated sugar Levy Fund will contain a substantial amount that will be launched at the national Bank to provide loan funds for this purpose. The Honourable Member also asked if some consideration in the Home Aid Programme could be given to the large number of women aged 35 to 65 who would be glad for part time work to supplement their husbands' earnings. This suggestion will also be passed on to the Honourable Minister of Labour, but again, it is one which I am sure will receive favour for our analysis of the unemployment statistics reveal that while there may only be a few hundred men between the age of 25 and 50 I think in the Budget Speech I said between the age of 25 and 65 it should have been 50 Sir, 700 between that age and 700 over the age of 50, we know that there are many more women in these age groups unemployed than men, not necessarily unemployed in the sense of needing to be breadwinners and being unable because they have spouses, Sir for the most part, but willing to work and capable of doing useful work to help our community. I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Labour will bear them in mind in due course.

I turn now, Mr. Speaker, to the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. It would be idle of us, Sir not to admit to ourselves that we have a wider, immediate audience than is normal for debates in the Honourable House of Assembly and therefore, if I make a few remarks which are already well-known to Honourable Members and to those members of the public who regularly attend the public gallery, I hope I will be forgiven if they have heard it before, because there may be a wider public which has not heard it. It is customary when we speak in a Budget debate, or any televised debate to be extremely careful with what we say, to make absolutely sure that we do not give any false impressions rather than tell the simple and unvarnished truth. I do not mean Sir in ordinary debates that the rules of truthfulness are relaxed, but sometimes Honourable Members make a provocative remark in debate knowing that it can be corrected, by an Honourable Member on whom it reflects rising on a point of elucidation, or a point of order, indeed a point of Order and setting the record straight there and then. In televised debate a tradition has grown up that except in flagrant cases, brutally obviously against the Rules of the Honourable House, we do not normally interrupt. The corollary of being able to speak uninterrupted must surely be that you do not give cause for interruption by misrepresenting facts, or putting false impressions and I regret very deeply indeed for the whole course of public life in Barbados that the Honourable

Member for St. Michael South Central in my respectful opinion after 15 years in the Honourable House departed from the highest standards and traditions in debate on the Budgetary Proposals.

It is not customary just to take the most flagrant of the false impressions to tell the Honourable House that the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance for the first time was admitting that Barbados participated in an International Monetary Fund Programme and had received directions and policy from the Fund. This is not true, I am going to deal with it, it is not true, but not only is it not true, it is not customary, when you know you cannot be interrupted to make that kind of statement to an audience which may never hear the correction, when in due course, the correction comes. But, I think Mr. Speaker, that I had better take the Honourable Member's speech through point by point, and I will deal first with the false impressions.

At 5.10 p.m. the Honourable Member said that, "a motion calling for unemployment insurance by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was defeated by the Government." This is not true, it is quite false. It has been dealt with by the Honourable Minister of Health, the Honourable Member for the City. What in fact happened was that Government supported the principle of unemployment insurance and amended the Resolution to call for an actuarial study before unemployment insurance was introduced. The Honourable Member who replied to my Proposals saw nothing wrong in telling the public of Barbados that we voted against unemployment insurance and now introduce it in Budgetary Proposals. He saw nothing wrong in that. It is quite false.

At 5.21 p.m. he said that the tillage services established by the Democratic Labour Party for agriculturalists had broken down under this Government. That is also quite false. The Tillage Service Scheme was established by the Barbados Labour Party in the 1950's, it was run first by a private company, by a garage in Bridgetown and still under the Barbados Labour Party, it was run by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the doctor saw nothing wrong in telling the public of Barbados something that was quite false.

At 5.38 p.m. this is trivial Sir, he said that I never qualified in Economics anywhere. I have a Degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics; Statistics is my special subject. I wonder what qualification the Honourable Member has in Economics. That is only trivial. I cannot say a lie Sir, Parliamentary procedure does not allow you to say a lie, but you are telling that of a man, you are not telling that on the country so to speak.

At 5.48 p.m. he spoke of prices, I will deal with that as a separate item, I have separate notes on that, he

gave many false figures, for example saying that onions had gone up by 50% in price when in fact onions had gone down, that potatoes had gone up by 105% in price when potatoes have gone up by 10% in five years, by saying pork had gone up by 100% when in fact pork had gone up by 10% and so on, but I can deal with that a little later on. I am going to say something about prices.

At 6.08 p.m. he spoke of the National Debt and Central Bank's Credit to the Government and he said, "The last borrowings I saw was \$89 million from the Central Bank" and he repeated the same statement at 6.47 p.m. Now, I do not know whether that statement was based on a deliberate wish to be untruthful or whether it was based on ignorance, but there is no third alternative.
2.55 p.m.

In the Central Bank's statistics the Central Bank's advances to Government are set out very carefully. Debentures, Treasury Bills, Advances and so on, the figure is \$87 million and not \$89 million as of December 1980, but that is a minor untruth such as we have become accustomed to from the hon. member. What I said in my speech, and I said it last year and I said it again this year — it will be found on page 7 of the published Budget for last year and you heard it on Tuesday in the Budget for this year — I said the Government's national debt was so and so, exclusive of the Government's overdraft at the Central Bank.

Now, while I say there is no third alternative, either the hon. member does not know the difference between an overdraft, a Debenture, and a Treasury Bill, and is therefore ignorant, or the hon. member knows the difference between an overdraft, a Debenture and a Treasury Bill and is therefore something that I cannot call him, Mr. Speaker, without your asking me to withdraw it on the floor of the House.

There has never been any case for putting the Government's overdraft which varies every day into the National Debt, and more than that, the Government's overdraft can never reach \$89 million, because there is a Resolution of the House — I believe dated December 1971 — which allows the Government to borrow from any bank in Bridgetown, including the Central Bank, an amount up to, and only up to 10% of estimated Government revenue. Estimated Government revenue was \$395.1 million up to day before yesterday, and therefore the Government overdraft can never exceed under last year's dispensation \$39.51 million, and as far as I can remember, it has never reached there. Sometimes it goes right down to 11 to 12 million dollars, sometimes it is wiped out altogether, sometimes it gets up to the thirties. You do not put it into the National Debt, because the National Debt would fluctuate widely every pay day, every Thursday when the Accountant General draws

cheques to pay the MCW workers the Government's overdraft goes up. Around the 23rd, 24th or 25th of the month when the payable orders come in for the payment of monthly staff the overdraft goes up. Soon after the 15th when the P.A.Y.E. comes in, as long as it has not been a tax free month, the overdraft goes down. It is a fluctuating overdraft which Government uses to run its day to day affairs.

Now how can a man purport to be a Shadow Minister of Finance and cannot tell the difference between the Government ways and means accommodation by way of overdraft and the Government's permanent borrowings from the Central Bank by way of debentures and Treasury Bills? How is it possible for a man to stand up and challenge the Government on financial statistics when he cannot even read the Central Bank's Report properly and does not understand the basic nature of Government financing? It perhaps would be more charitable to the intellectual powers of the hon. member to assume that he was untruthful, but I personally think he was ignorant. A good solid false impression. The hon. member is on record as saying that truth does not matter, only impressions. Well he gave a demonstration which should prove to the public beyond any reasonable doubt that he practises what he preaches every time he opens his mouth in Parliament or outside, even on television a prince and a champion of what I can say somewhere else but I cannot say it in Parliament.

One minute after that, at 6.09 p.m. he then said something which does not reflect on the Government as a Government but it reflects on Barbados as a whole and it has caused great distress. The Central Bank has had to get in touch with the International Monetary Fund, the Director of Finance and Planning and other officials of the Ministry of Finance have all been working this morning to deal with a mischievous statement made by the hon. member when he suggested that the House was hearing for the first time that Barbados had participated in an IMF programme and had received directions of policy from the Fund. The actual quotations I have written down. "For the first time the Government admitted that they had borrowed money from the IMF." Then another quotation: "The policy they had to implement to meet the demands of the International Monetary Fund." Then another insult to the IMF: "Part of that price was the transfer of the economic burdens of recovery on to those who are least able to bear it at the directions of the IMF."

Now they are the impressions which he sought to create, the facts are really quite simple. Sugar prices were very high in 1975 and they fell catastrophically in 1976. Shortly after we took power therefore we tried to get back some of the money that we had been paying to the IMF every year to cushion the effect of the fall in sugar prices. The IMF agreed. On the 18th January, 1977 a

Press Release was issued by the Government setting out that money was being drawn from the International Monetary Fund's facility for the compensatory financing of export fluctuations. I will read portions of the Press Release. It has been supplied to the House, Sir.

"Where a shortfall in export earnings is a result of fundamental weakness in the economy, for example, an over valued currency, the International Monetary Fund may decide that the compensatory financing facility is not the appropriate vehicle for assistance. In such cases it may provide assistance under another of its facilities and would probably insist that the member concerned implement measures to remedy the underlying situation.

This is not regarded as the case in Barbados and there are no conditions attached to the compensatory financing recently obtained by Barbados from the IMF."

The final paragraph of the Press Release, Sir;

"This is the first drawing Barbados has made on an IMF facility since joining the Fund in December 1970. As a result we will avoid the curtailment of some of our current programmes of economic and social development. Having contributed \$30 million Bds., including \$7½ million in gold, to the Fund's resources, the Government feels that it is quite appropriate that Barbados should obtain some benefits from membership in the IMF, especially when facilities are available with no strings attached."

Now the hon. member says this is the first time that the House is hearing it and it is news. He is very fond of the Central Bank's Quarterly Reports. In the Central Bank Quarterly Report for June 1977, Volume IV, No. 2, which is already a document of the House, the following words occur relating to it:

"The drawing of the IMF was made under the compensatory financing facility which provides members with balance of payments support in the event of a shortfall in exports."

That is on page 23.

3.05 p.m.

On page 13 of the Central Bank Report for March, 1978, Volume V, No. 1, the following words occur: "In an effort to bridge the deficit, the Central Bank borrowed \$35.1 million during the year, \$15.1 million of this from the IMF relating to the same matter." The IMF itself issued two Press Releases, Press Release 76/104 dated December 29, 1976, and Press Release 77/84 dated October 17, 1977. All of these facts were fully set out to the public, but because IMF has a certain meaning and to go to the IMF means that you are not

running your country properly, the hon. member sought to create the impression that Barbados had what is technically known as IMF programming. We have never had any directions from the IMF as to how to strike a match, and the hon. member's imputations are insulting to Barbados as well as being untruthful. He should be ashamed of himself. He is not fit as far as I am concerned to sit in the House of Assembly far less in a ministerial chair if he makes statements so wildly irresponsible and destructive to the credit of the country, trying to suggest that all the favourable words said from time to time about Barbados in the International Financial Press are the result of Barbadians writing letters. What absolute outright nonsense. Who could believe that? Not even the Quakers Road faithful who come out to encourage the hon. member in the false impressions that he seeks to create could seriously believe that our Government has the capacity to make the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Miami Herald, the Washington Post, the Journal of Commerce in the United States, the Financial Times, the Sunday Times, the Observer, the Times in Britain, the Express in Trinidad, the Gleaner in Jamaica, every visitor who comes to the Island from a CARICOM country, every financial visitor who comes to the Island that we have the power to confuse all of them. Well in that case the Arabs would not be on top of the world, we would be on top of the world because we would have mastered the art of false impression to the extent that obviously the hon. member is ambitious to master.

You cannot run a Government on false impressions. It was open to all these journals to say the same things about Barbados if they were true before 1976. They have chosen to say them now, not before 1976 and I think that we can reasonably assume, Mr. Speaker, that they are saying them because they are true. The hon. member has come in here and said that he had spoken to officials of the IMF and the World Bank here in Barbados and that those officials indicated to him that all was not well. The hon. Deputy Prime Minister challenged him to call the name of the officials, not because he wants to get anybody into trouble, but I will tell you this: I am a governor of the IMF and I have a responsibility to the International Monetary Fund even in my own country. If an official comes to a country, thinks that things are not well and goes back and reports to the Fund or to the World Bank that things are well, that official wants firing. He will have been in breach of his duty, and the officials have a duty to tell the truth.

Mr. Speaker, continually from 1978 we have received nothing but praise from the international organisations. Virtually every point on which the hon. member dwelt..... he talks about the national debt. I have read out in the House of Assembly from a document which the Leader of the Opposition had in

his hand and I had in my hand the commendation of the World Bank as to the way we handled our debt. I read from paragraph 33 of the Economic Memorandum of Barbados dated May, 23, 1980: "given the continuation of overall prudent economic management and present development strategy, Barbados' prospects for high levels of economic growth and a strengthened balance of payments over the medium and long term are favourable with a public external debt service ratio of 2.8% in 1979 and debt outstanding and disbursed amounting to \$US60.9 million, less than 10% of GDP. At the end of 1979 Barbados had relatively modest external indebtedness. In the light of its economic performance in recent years Barbados should be expected to remain credit worthy in the foreseeable future for loans on conventional terms." That is the World Bank. Who would the public of Barbados want to believe, the World Bank or the hon. member for St. Michael South Central? Who will they believe? Liar.

I said I would say something about prices. The hon. member read out a whole string of prices and I am really very sorry that the hon. member for St. Michael South West has absented himself from this debate. Perhaps with his record on prices what he did was in his own best interest, but I am very sorry that we did not have the benefit of what he could have said about price control and everything else.

Now the hon. member produced some figures. Rice, pork, onions. Now the lie has been given to some of what he said already by the hon. member for St. Michael West who demonstrated that there are still some commodities of which \$1.00 will buy more now than it could buy in 1976. I wish it were true of all commodities; but I am going to take an item particularly mentioned by the hon. member; chicken backs and necks, the food of the poorest people. To talk about price control, how this Government has taken everything off price control, I know, the files reveal it, a particular decision was taken in 1974 to allow the merchants a very healthy mark-up on chicken backs and necks. A meeting was held in the Ministry of Trade with certain persons indeed whose names are household names and the then Minister, the hon. member for St. Michael South West agreed to fix a price on backs and necks at 67 cents a pound when at that time they could have been sold perhaps for 44 cents or 45 cents. When we came into power we reduced the price in 1977 from 67 cents to 48 cents, we raised it to 58 cents in 1978 where it still is and you know why I cite that, Sir? I cite that to illustrate that you can do anything with price control; you can fix prices high or you can fix prices low. You can make yourself a fool by price controlling glauber salts, epsom salts, vaseline, camphorated oil, every conceivable item that mankind buys, candle grease, with the effect that

we do not have any epsom salts in Barbados for two years until the Barbados Labour Party got in power, because they forgot to raise the price. They just left it and so no epsom salts came to the Island.
3.15 p.m.

You can also do as that hon. member did in 1974. I have a list of them here. I wrote them out myself, 290 separate price control orders in one year. He raised the prices 290 times, over 1,000 items in all of 1974. I had some of them here.

This is the record of the hon. member for St. Michael South West. On February 6, 1974 he raised the price of cheese to \$1.48. On April 5, he raised it to \$1.62. On May 20, he raised to \$1.74. On November 26, he raised it to \$1.83. Now, he would tell you that price control means keeping down the price of food. How can he explain raising the price of cheese four times in one year.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central, I do not know but he said something about milk. He still did not even get that right. He said that milk had gone up 33% since 1976. Now, I am going to give the history of the milk. A 16 oz. bottle of evaporated milk, the hon. member for St. Michael South West fixed the price at 47 cents on February 6, 1974. In six weeks' time, on March 27, he raised it to .52 cents. On May 2, he raised it to .62 cents. I will spare you the raises, Sir, but by September, 1976 he had raised it to .74 cents so it rose in those two years by 57%. The price now is .92 cents so it has risen in five years by 24% and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, when he was talking about that, even that he could not tell the truth about. He said it has gone up by 33%. Even that he could not be straightforward and honest about.

He talked about rice. Now, Sir, we have gone over all this in here but I am going over it again for the benefit of those of us who have forgotten. The price of rice used to be maintained at a high level in order to allow the Government to charge an excess which was used to subsidize the cost of cement brought into this Island by Leo Leacock and Co. Ltd. who, in this House, the hon. member for St. Michael South West has described as a friend of his.

The price of rice was 52 cents on the 28th July, 1975 and at that time a certain amount used to be charged. The consumers had to pay something like 11 cents extra for a pound of rice from Guyana in order to subsidize the price of cement being brought into the Island by the Minister's friend. On that date the price was reduced to 45 cents, it was said, due to a currency alignment. On the 5th May, 1976 it was reduced to 41 cents, a couple of months before the elections and, of course, prices have risen since then. They have risen to 42 cents in 1978,

to 51 cents in 1980 and just a couple of months ago to 57 cents which is the current price. These were freight charges.

Do you know something Sir, due to other things that have happened in Barbados, not all that very much rice, that is on price control, is even eaten now less and less comes into the Island every year. Why? Because people demand a better quality rice and they are prepared to pay more for a better quality rice and there has been money in their pockets to pay more for a better quality rice.

The hon. member has been telling you about prices and he said not a word about wages. Now I ask you, Mr. Speaker, the price of chicken used to be \$1.80 or \$1.82 for many years. It was raised in December last year to \$2.05. When a maid was working for \$45 a week in the Government Service and chicken cost \$1.82, was she not worse off than now she is working for \$116 a week and chicken cost \$1.99 at Goddards and any price up to the controlled price thereafter? Nobody seems to have mentioned that the salaries of people less able to look after themselves have increased demonstratively much more than the cost of living.

When the old aged pensioner was getting \$13 and paying 41 cents if you like for her rice, was she as well off as now she is getting \$28 and paying 57cents? That is what you have to look at. I heard the hon. member read out a lot of things that old aged pensioners had to buy. He said he was going to describe the food items that she had to buy to live well. He read out the food items. He read out the foods, including two boxes of matches, and toilet paper, all those food items like that he read out and one box has in 40 matches. These old aged pensioners must be smoking a lot of cigarettes if they are using two boxes of matches a week. Maybe they are smoking a pipe and they have to keep relighting it all the time.

Do you know what one observer said to me? It was a lady. She said to me that when Richie started to read out those things I listened, but when he read out all those things that an old aged pensioner could buy, I did not think that he was really making any serious point. He read out a whole set of groceries as well as matches and toilet paper. Now, I am not saying that all old aged pensioners are well off but what I am saying is this that the old aged pensioner who is suffering real hardship, in addition to paying the electric bill and the water bill, is eligible to apply for food stamps, to apply to have rent paid and to apply for small welfare grants.

We are insistent that an old aged pensioner must be able to stay in his or her house and spend out his or her days in comfort at themselves and we intend to increase old aged pensions next year again to make this even more possible.

Some of the statistics produced by the hon. member on food really I do not even feel like tiring the House with them. The monthly Digest of Statistics I do not know how my hand came to light on this one, Sir, published by the Barbados Statistical Service, No. 9, November 1979, it gives the price of English potatoes discovered by the Statistical Officers in 1976 at 36 cents per lb.

As I was setting out to come to the House today, I received the BMC's Weekly Price Survey Comparative Analysis of Prices at Big B's, JB's, Super Centre, Goddards, Shoppers' Centre, Carlton Supermarket and the BMC. I discovered that on March 19, BMC was selling potatoes at 99 cents per kilogram, that is a little over 40 cents a pound. (*Asides*) That is the 19th March, this year, week before last. I think the hon. member said that potatoes had gone up 100%. Just let me see what he said, Sir, potatoes 105%. How outstandingly untruthful. I mean something like 5%, from 36 cents to 42 cents and personally I think that 42 cents is a little bit too expensive.....
3.25 p.m.

Over five years and he said 105% perhaps, he meant sweet potatoes. The Statistical Service has a price of forty cents for sweet potatoes. At one time sweet potatoes went to eighty cents Sir, but sweet potatoes were sold on 19th March at Big B and at Super Centre at seventy-seven cents per kilogram which is about thirty-five cents per pound less than it has been under the Democratic Labour Party. The price of clod beef went up by 150%. Clod beef began coming to this country and did not make its way into the price control statistics at that time around 1976. Shortly after we were in power, the price of clod beef began to go down, down, down, now it has found a more normal level. But the Statistical Department and the Price Control Department have supplied figures to me that in 1976 the beef which they had in their statistics cost \$2.30 to \$2.50 per pound and that it now costs around \$3.00. The Honourable Member said 150%. It is not true. He cannot tell me what the price of clod beef was in September, 1976, he cannot tell me because it was not a commodity which was then being priced.

The Price Control Department told me this morning that mutton cost \$2.40 in 1976 and \$3.00 in 1981 an increase of 25% over five years. The Honourable Member said that mutton went up 120%. The truth 25%, the Honourable Member's the doctor's impressions 120%. Fresh pork, the Statistical Department said cost \$2.75 per pound in 1976. That is their price, it fell to \$1.99 in 1977 rose to \$3.25 in 1978 and they say that it stayed around that price ever since 1978. But, there is some slight clash there because the Price Control Department says that fresh pork is obtainable around \$3.00 per pound that it has risen only 25% in five years. The Honourable Member said 100%.

I wonder why I go on with all of this, Sir. The Statistical people and the Price Control people were so disturbed when they heard those figures read out last night because it reflects on them as decent civil servants that one officer even went to the trouble to tell me to find out some prices in other parts of the Caribbean. Antigua was mentioned by the Honourable Member as a place which has abolished income tax. Let me tell you some of the penalty they have to pay for abolishing income tax. Cheese EC\$6.00 a pound in Antigua, Spaghetti EC\$3.01 per pound, onions EC\$1.27 per pound, English potatoes EC\$1.04 per pound. I could go on forever, but I would not wish to do that, Sir.

The fact is that prices in Barbados have fallen among the lowest level of prices in the Caribbean, possibly in St. Vincent food prices may be lower, possibly I say, but there is no other MDC in the Caribbean which has done a better job of controlling inflation and from the details, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I had better turn to the generality on inflation. You can have price control, obsessive price controls. We have a large number of price controls in existence now, Mr. Speaker, but you can have more and you can go on. The items which I have mentioned are not the only items whose prices were raised four times in 1974 and another three times in 1975. Things like table butter and so on.

The real point is that you have to consider your position in the international world. We are price takers, we are not price fixers, it has one advantage. We can pay higher wages without of itself making the prices for the greater number of products that we consume go up, but it has a great disadvantage. The disadvantage is that we really have no control over prices of things which come into Barbados. So, when they get here we have to think about the cost. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South in a very simplistic approach pointed out that when they get here, there is more inflation as he put it, there are mark ups and so on. Nothing will ever come to Barbados unless there is a mark up. A sale without a mark-up does not exist. The more you reduce mark-ups, the more you cause unemployment, the more groceries you shut down. If you reduce a mark-up through the small shopkeeper, who may sell 60% or 70% of his stock at controlled prices, you will have a shut down.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South West, when he first became Honourable Minister looked forward to the one door shop in Barbados closing down, he gloried it, but every one door shopkeeper who had to go out of business as a shopkeeper meant one more man looking for work as a lorry driver, a watchman, or some other job competing with people who were already in jobs. Every supermarket that had to send home staff and let the public have worst service meant more people on the market looking for jobs than the supermarket would

otherwise have provided and that is what we have to think about. So, our policy in Barbados is to control the prices of a basic, minimum basket of food. We do not control the price of meat. In fact, the previous Government took all meat off price control on 24th March, 1974.

I venture that on their platforms they will make you believe that it is the Barbados Labour Party that removed meat from price control, but all meat was removed from price control in March, 1974. We control chicken because that is a basic. The price of fish is no longer controlled. We control the price of basic rice, we control the price of cooking oil, that has not gone up by as much as the Honourable Member said, but the real point there is that people buy more expensive and better quality oil. Which is better for the quality of life, Mr. Speaker a condition that existed under the previous Government when expensive Corn Oil could only be imported by the hotels and ordinary citizens could not buy them, or the situation which prevails today a price controlled oil and any number of expensive oils for those who wish to pay a little bit more? Which is better for Barbadians for the hotels alone to have access to the better quality oils, or for the whole population to have money in its pockets to afford to make a choice and that is the key to our policy.

Our policy is that at all times, we must let wage increases keep in front of the inflationary spiral. That is why in the Economic Report, year after year we publish the level of wage increases, so that we can demonstrate that they are greater than price increases. We have to handle ourselves this way because we cannot in any real sense control the price. All we can do is decide which of our prices we give a good mark-up to, as in the previous Government and we want to put an end to that altogether. That is all really that the previous Government ever did. Not being willing to do that, we have to aim at a policy of making people richer, so that they are more able to pay increased prices which are forced on us from abroad.

I do not believe that we can be doing badly on prices, if people come to Barbados from Trinidad to buy onions. They get into an aeroplane and come to Barbados and buy fifty pounds of onions and motor car tyres and carry them back as passenger baggage to Trinidad. I do not believe we are doing badly, when people come from Guyana and see more goods in one island supermarket, than exists in every supermarket in the whole of Georgetown and I am not offering any criticism of any Government. That is their way, this is ours. We are proud to think that Barbados is the shopping paradise in the Eastern Caribbean.

3.35 p.m.

Inflation is less in Barbados than it is in any other CARICOM country. Prices are rising but they are rising

more for our neighbours. All of us face the same problems, we take the prices from outside but somehow, I do not know how, other than good economic management in Barbados we are still inflating less than the others. Despite the fact that all of us have the same access to everything that is sold on the world market, we are still inflating less.

So, Mr. Speaker, I come to the conclusion of my reply. It seems to be a habit these days not actually to discuss the Budgetary Proposals in a reply to the Budgetary Proposals, but this year this habit was carried to a level which I very sincerely hope will not become a pattern for public life in this country. I have never heard such a farrago of foolishness about the death duties. The hon. member dwelt for five minutes on the death duties, but he was talking about the 1977 Budget, not this one. All his criticisms related to the Budget of 1977.

The hon. member talked about the consumption tax, but we did not introduce the consumption tax, we found the consumption tax and a sales tax. In 1976 when we took office people had to pay consumption tax and a sales tax as well as income tax at much higher levels; at much higher levels indeed. Consumption tax, its spread has been wide. The hon. member talked a lot about it. Do you know what he even said, Sir? He even said there was a consumption tax on food, which is flagrantly untrue. He even spoke as if the price of food depended on a consumption tax. He never told you that when we revamped the consumption tax that we reduced the consumption tax on household goods, that we reduced the consumption tax on bottled gas, which went down in price at once and has remained down. All of those things were not said, but it is just the words "consumption tax" must be enough. When you say them the party faithfuls are supposed to bay to the moon like wolves howling for some political crumb out of the door. We found consumption tax and we found sales tax and we have abolished sales tax and now we are being criticised for the consumption tax, and they objected to abolishing the sales tax. What did they want? Higher prices yet?

The income tax. The hon. member said that a married man, wife not working and two children, one aged 7 and one aged 12, would only have saved a few dollars a week on an income of \$230 a week, but the hon. member is mistaken. What he should have looked at is that in 1976 such a person would have paid \$2,041 a year in tax but after this Budget they will pay \$812, so the saving the Barbados Labour Party has effected for that person is something like \$25 a week, not \$5 a week. That is another of the false impressions. He said you only save \$5 a week, but why doesn't he go back and say what you save overall since we have been in power. That is the nature of the speech.

Even the question of the IMF, I made a note of it and still forgot to mention it. I mentioned in the Budget

of 1977 on page 19 that Government in January 1977 took the precautionary step of borrowing under the compensatory financing facility of the International Monetary Fund because of the anticipated shortfall in receipts from the export of sugar. I actually said so in a Budget debate, and the hon. member gets and tells the entire public of Barbados that they are hearing it for the first time. I really wish you would let me relax the Standing Orders to deal with him properly, Sir. How can anybody ever believe Dr. Haynes if he tells you you are going to live, die, stand up, walk.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think you are referring to any member of the House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central. How can anybody believe him if he says he is a man, if he says he is a woman, if he says he is a dog? You cannot believe him, he is untruthful.

He talked about drugs, and that was something. What have I introduced into Barbados that is something to do with drugs? I have never taken one valium, I do not even know what a valium tablet looks like, I do not have to take a fist full of valiums in order to come in here and make a speech. I do not know what a valium tablet looks like, and I suggest that apart from prescribing them he knows them well. Mr. Speaker, I am falling into the fault of replying too seriously perhaps to what the hon. member has said, and I must ask the House to forgive me, but it is because I feel so deeply, I feel that Barbados is being disgraced by this man, I feel that this man could drag public life in Barbados down to a level that none of us want to see it at, that the power hunger which he demonstrates in every step is intended to destroy this country if he cannot destroy the Barbados Labour Party. I feel very strongly about it.

The word "power" I believe was used nine times in his speech. What is power? I do not talk about power in the Budget, what has it got to do with it? At least I must say there is one thing he did not mention, since we are on politics, I suppose I should be commendatory of some of the things that were not in the hon. member's speech. He did not criticise the salary increases that we have given the people. He said something about there being four inflationary Budgets. That meant, I daresay, that we were giving money back to people to allow them to have something to spend. Not one word did he say about the Government being corrupt or lacking in integrity, I suppose we should be thankful for small mercies, that we were not accused of that. We should be thankful that basically we have not been attacked for letting this debate go on television, for example, as we were attacked two years ago when they said that there were too many of us and too few of them, although I believe the reason why they have not turned up is because they are afraid of the

contributions which some hon. members on this side may have made. They have stymied us, you see, a DLP speaker was to speak at 2.00 o'clock, and so if no DLP speaker was there it cut off the rest of us from speaking. That is really what happened, but I think the public will recall that never before have they been able to see all their representatives on television in the House of Assembly until the Barbados Labour Party came into power. We are not afraid of what they have to say, Mr. Speaker, but evidently they are terribly afraid of what the Government benches had to say here today; terribly afraid of it, and they emptied out those benches after the hon. members for Christ Church North Central and my friend "sweet boy" the hon. member for St. Michael North East, they emptied out the Opposition benches. The boy was left on the burning deck whence all but he had fled, and when he saw himself alone, Sir, he ran with his tails between his legs out of the House of Assembly, he could not even stay to face up. It is an unusual discourtesy, he could not even stay to face the final reply by the Minister of Finance.

3.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Budgetary debate has once again come to a rather earlier end than we anticipated. I think there has been no serious criticism of the Budget. We have reduced income tax five years in a row, we have kept the country's finances on a sound basis, we have built schools, we have built houses, we have built roads, we are building towns, we are looking at energy projects, we are looking at agricultural projects, we are looking at projects to carry Barbados into the 21st Century with a viable economy, a happy, healthy, contented and well-off people.

I regret that we have not had as full a debate, but really, Mr. Speaker, if you have nothing to say, it is better that you do not try to say something; it is better that you keep quiet and if you have nothing to say in the House it may very well be better that you keep away from the House of Assembly. The same people who can hold over 300 meetings in one year, holding meetings almost up until Christmas Eve are the same people who cannot face the Government in the House of Assembly on the occasion of a Budget debate.

It only remains, Mr. Speaker, for me formally to thank the staff of the House and yourself and the officials of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and to thank all hon. members who have taken part in the debate.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution standing in my name do now pass.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Order, No. 2.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1981.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1981.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, this is a Civil Establishment Order designed for the purpose set out in the Addendum thereof.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, there is an Item which came back down from the Other Place dealing with the acquisition of land at Beachmont, and it is asking the House to concur in the amendment. I would like to have your instructions on this.

I believe I would have to recommit Announcements. I think that is the procedure, if you would just give me your guidance on this.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is seeking the guidance of the Chair in respect of a Message from the Other Place concerning an amendment proposed to a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Beachmont, Bathsheba, St. Joseph for the establishment of a community centre. The proposed amendment is very simple and I can see there is no reason for any objection to proceeding with it forthwith.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now concur in the amendment as it stands.

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

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. The Prime Minister has already expressed his thanks to the staff and to the Officers for doing their work in the manner in which it has been carried out.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 7th April, 1981 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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