
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th November, 1981.

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House); Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Q.C., M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); His Honour C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A. (Econ.); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Education); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Health); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A., (Minister of Labour and Social Security); Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A., (Hon.), M.A., LL.B (Hon.); Hon. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A., (Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs); Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, (Minister of Housing and Lands); Mr. L. L. SISNETT; Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.); Mr. P. M. GREAVES; Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE; Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, (Minister of Transport and Works); Mr. M. A. KING; Mr. N. K. SIMMONS; Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN and Mr. A. TRUSS.

Prayers were read by Archdeacon Frank A. Cayless.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it appears as if there is a power failure only in the Chamber. I recognise that there are lights in the dining hall and I believe there is some fault in this Chamber.

I therefore beg to move that this sitting be suspended for half an hour hopefully that this fault may be corrected.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion, I wonder if the Hon. Leader would not consider getting rid of the routine matters, laying papers, etc., since one does not have to hear as well, and then perhaps the power might come back on while he is working than our losing the full half hour. I do not know if he is willing to consider it.

The question that the sitting be suspended for half an hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

On Resumption:—

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, the 27th day of October, 1981.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the 27th day of October, 1981 be taken as read.

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

The Minutes of Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 1981.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that the Minutes for the 3rd day of November, 1981 be taken as read.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received copies of Accounts and Statements for the month of September 1981 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Report of the National Insurance Board on its operation under the Severance Payments Scheme for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1980.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report and Statements of Accounts for the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year ending 31st December, 1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to repeal the Patents Act and make new provision for the law relating to patents. Also, a Bill to revise and reform the law governing signs used as trade marks, service marks or collective marks in connection with the marketing of goods or services. Also, a Bill to provide for the protection of industrial designs and for related matters. Also, a Bill to reform and modernise copyright law and the law governing similar or related matters.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to repeal the Patents Act and make new provision for the law relating to patents be now read a first time.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to revise and reform the law governing signs used as trade marks, service marks or collective marks in connection with the marketing of goods or services be now read a first time.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the protection of industrial designs and for related matters be now read a first time.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to reform and modernise copyright law and the law governing similar or related matters be now read a first time.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 20, and 42(5) be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

Mr. FRANKLIN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1981-82 No. 7

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Resolution for \$665,141 which is before us is for travel and to carry out the necessary work at the Ministry of Information where renovations are being done at the Archives. It would appear that some renovations had to be done for the purpose of bringing up to date a number of

things at the Archives, and I have no doubt that the hon. member for St. Michael South whom I am told is a frequent visitor to the Archives would support this Resolution in its entirety. He of course, I am told, is a person who is always doing quite a bit of research and I am quite sure any contribution from the Other Side would obviously come from him.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that this Resolution should really lead to any great debate, and therefore with those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution stand part.

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

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am at a loss here. From the manner of the introduction by the Hon. Leader of the House, I am under the impression that this Resolution deals solely with the Ministry of Information, and the amount to be spent on Archives. The document that I hold in my hand which calls for an expenditure of over \$600,000 is in fact to supplement a number of Heads including \$100,000 for Cabinet Office and the bulk, unless I am looking at the wrong Resolution.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is well taken. It is my view that if the Committee should wish to debate it at large, so to speak, I as Chairman would have no objection, but normally we call the Heads and each Head is called separately.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: We are dealing then with Head 35 which was not made clear, because under this Resolution Head 15 is the first Head on this paper. If we are dealing with Head 35, that is fine, but this was not made clear. I assume that we are dealing now at this point with Head 35 and Head 35 only.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is now my feeling that the Committee would wish to discuss it one Head after the other. I would ask the Minister to call the relevant Head.

HEAD 15 – CABINET OFFICE

Head 15 – Cabinet Office – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, there is a National Honours list and this system which I hope is an all party matter since it was conceived and formulated by the previous Government and implemented by the present Government, from the Knighthoods back down, involves the issue of medals and other emblems to persons who are honoured under the awards. We have not so far got any of the medals and numbers of persons who have been honoured therefore are not wearing their Gold Cross of Merit, Silver Cross of Merit,

Barbados Silver Star, or the emblems of Companionship of Honour of Barbados, or indeed of their Knighthoods or Damehoods or Damehoods of St. Andrew.

We are advised to buy a stock of medals because the prices of these little articles have been skyrocketing, and the supplementary vote is as large as \$100,000 for this purpose. The requirements for the period July 1980 to November 1981 might only be \$30,000 but this would be a case of being penny-wise and pound foolish because the savings in bulk buying are very considerable indeed, and if we got \$30,000 in medals now and then next year came for the medals and the year after came for the medals for next year, we would exhaust the \$100,000 if we went at it in these bites. But at least one extra year can be obtained by getting this large number at once, and therefore to safeguard ourselves against inflation we are seeking a sufficient supplementary to cover us for three years.

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

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.
1.10 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it is my firm belief that at this point in the economic affairs of this country that the Government has a duty to restrict all expenditure except those which are absolutely necessary to provide for the welfare, employment of this country and maintain reasonable levels of capital development.

I am not opposing the National Honours system but I believe that this kind of expenditure of \$100 000 is inappropriate at this time and the Government must get it into its head that if it continues to spend money at the rate at which it has been spending money, it is going to cause more and more problems in this country and, therefore, I am disinclined to give my support to this kind of expenditure for this purpose at this particular time.

We are spending \$100,000 to purchase medals, or whatever it is, for the National Honours system. We are at the same time slapping on a 1 percent levy on the poor people of this country for transport. You are introducing, and threatening to introduce, more and more impositions of a revenue nature in Barbados. It would seem clear to me that the Government has to take a firm decision to cut back on all unnecessary expenditure and if \$30,000 would be enough for the present year, then let it be \$30,000 and save the \$70,000.

I think it is most unwise to go on spending money at the rate at which they have been spending money and my position is absolutely clear that we cannot continue to be taking money out of the pockets of the people of Barbados, decapitalising the entire nation, transferring it all to Government, for Government to continue to waste it

at the pace at which they have been wasting money in Barbados.

I therefore feel that this kind of Resolution should not be before Parliament at all at this point in time. You can do without the medals. You yourself have said that you have serious income expenditure problems, therefore, why come to Parliament with this sort of nonsense at this particular point in time. I think it shows a lack of judgment and it shows a lack of understanding of the way the people outside feel about the manner in which money is being thrown away by this present administration.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, surely I am at a loss to understand the argument put up against this Resolution for \$100,000 by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. He said he is not against the medals. In the meantime, he is for the medals. He is neither for, Sir, or against the medals. He is neither for honours or against honours.

He is arguing about \$100,000 that the Government is wasting money at a pace . . . I do not know if the pace is at 100 miles an hour or 50 miles an hour. I have not got an idea but all he has done, Sir, is to get up and criticise the Government for introducing a Resolution for \$100,000 to pay for medals that worthy Barbadians who have already made a contribution in the society. . . .

For example, I wonder how the hon. member will feel if tomorrow the Leader of the Opposition was recommended for a Knighthood. (ASIDES — I would feel real bad). You would feel real bad? I know you would feel bad but I know you would wear it all around your neck and on your face too. I know these sorts of "feels bads". He reminds me of a man who said "I do not want any money" but if money drops on the ground he looks down. I know that old story too well. What is the \$100,000 that you are arguing about?

The Minister of Finance in his introduction said that the reason why they are spending this amount of money now is to avoid being a pound wise and a penny foolish. Buy them at the cost that they are at now because you know throughout the entire world the prices are escalating. There is a recession in the United States of America, one in Europe, all over the world there are economic problems, and I cannot understand every time something comes before this Chamber for a single cent dealing with any type of expenditure at all there is some big debate on the country's economy.

Every single time you hear this. Look, a Transport Levy, bus fares. Look, Barbadians should be proud to know that they have the best transport system in the entire Caribbean, the very best, the best roads, the best mini-buses, the best transport system in the entire Caribbean, the best schools and the best Government and every single minute for \$100,000.

Now, how patriotic can you be? There is no wonder, Sir, why when you hear the National Anthem being played, the school children walk everywhere and the Police have their hands in their pockets because you do not, for one single moment give them that national feeling.

I am quite sure that every hon. member on either side of the House would be happy to know that the Barbadian who gave his life-long time in the field of Medicine, Law, Agriculture or whatever field, sport or whatever it is, would be proud to know that the country would honour him for the work which he has done and now you hear about \$100,000 that the country is decapitalised, undercapitalised, overcapitalised and downcapitalised. Soon it will be depressurised as the Rasta man would tell you.

Sir, I support the Resolution in all of its entirety and I am quite sure that the speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is not even worthy to go into Hansard, Sir.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not replying. I am not making the final reply. Perhaps it would assist the hon. member for St. Michael South Central if he had made an inquiry, Sir. The \$100,000 is not a net sum. The primary medal is given to the recipient but the recipients customarily buy a miniature to wear and in this \$100,000 is included a vote of approximately \$40,000 of it for miniatures which will then be sold to the recipients.

The hon. member's reaction — I mean, \$100,000 when the Government is spending \$500 million is really a very, very small sum of money. My first instinct, I must confess, was that it really is a very trivial matter at this time.

But every small thing has its place in the order of events. Erskine Ward has died without getting his medal which should have been there to pin on his bosom at the time when he was knighted and that is always very bad where a country is so parsimonious that it gives an award and the man dies before he can even get it to wear upon his coat. Others may very well also have died. I wish them all long life.

It is easy to say postpone it. It is easy to catch at the Press headlines and repeat the same argument that has been repeated on every single occasion. I have never heard an argument so flogged to death.
1.20 p.m.

I mean this is like a doctor whose only remedy is to say, "an appendectomy, cut out the appendix". Every disease that comes to him, "You have a bad appendix, you have appendicitis. I will cut it out and you will be better." And, it is not surprising, perhaps, to hear it coming from that particular quarter.

So, it is not a gross sum, Sir, the Government will receive revenue from this amount of money. We have not set the price yet for the miniatures, but, we will receive some revenue from it and it really is a very small sum of money covering 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 – covering four years of expected awards of Barbados National Honours.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have heard that same kind of argument repeated *ad nauseam* in this Honourable Chamber, by the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance. Whether it is Ministerial salaries, it represents a miniscule proportion of expenditure. If it is the Defence Force, it represents a miniscule proportion of expenditure. No matter what you attempt to criticise in here to advise the Government to establish proper priorities in respect of expenditures, the response is almost, if I could use the word of one of the Honourable Ministers on the Other Side, a kind of “mejerk” reaction. But, one plus one makes two and two plus one makes three and then, you go along and along like that. And it is my contention that it is necessary for the Government not to spend a single cent at the present time, unless it is absolutely necessary because when they spend the money, it is the people out there who eventually have to suffer as a consequence of it. That is my firm position. I do not think this is a necessary expenditure at this time. (ASIDE) I support the honours system, but that has nothing to do with the timing of buying or spending money, or shall I say, the paraphernalia that will go along with it. If you do not have the money, do not spend it. And, the chances are that this is being bought with money that has been borrowed. Does it make any sense. Why go for the frills, when you do not have the money to purchase these things with?

So, the criticism made by the Honourable Member for St. James must be dismissed out of hand. It is not a question of whether one supports or opposes a National Honours system. It is a matter of whether one is prepared at this point in time to support this kind of expenditure whether it be \$10 000, \$100 000 or \$60 000. And, I am prepared, on each occasion that I see any unnecessary expenditure coming before this Parliament to get up and speak because if you do not speak out against it, then, it will continue to create the kinds of problems that we have had already, as a consequence of wild and reckless expenditure and then, every single person in this country will suffer in the long run, whether it be small, or whether it be large. Once it is not deemed to be necessary at the particular time or in my judgement, it is not necessary, at that particular time, I have a duty to speak out against it and I will not fail to exercise that duty. Nor, am I afraid that persons, in order to catch the press, would try to give the impression that because you oppose this kind of expenditure at this point in time, that that means that you are against a national honours system.

Honour, Mr. Chairman, resides in the contribution that people make. In the regard that the community holds those people. What a Government or what an administration can offer is just a little topping up on top of that. But, basically, it is the contribution of the person and the respect that he has for his fellow man that is important and I do not think that a man of the stature of Erskine Ward would be in any way upset.....(ASIDE: Because you all did not like him.) (ASIDE: He cannot be, he's dead) because he did not have something pinned on him and he would certainly, looking at his career, be most concerned about the kind of reckless expenditure which has been taking place in this country, by this present administration.

I have also heard that there is no point quarrelling about First Class passages because it is only double the amount that you spend when you travel in economy. And, for each Honourable Minister, it is a small amount, maybe \$2 000, maybe \$3 000, but when you look at the number of trips made abroad by Honourable Ministers, by Chairmen of Statutory Boards, by other functionaries who travel First Class, it adds up to a lot of money and there are people out there, Mr. Chairman...

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Would the Honourable Member make a suggestion then? If we do not travel by plane, First, Second or Third Class, if he recommends a boat? You can get all the trips out of Caribbean Airways, you know. You are still the medical man there, so you are easy.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: At the expense of the taxpayers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member has said that I get a lot of trips out of Caribbean Airways at the expense of the taxpayers. I know, Mr. Chairman, that you feel very strongly about statements misleading the Honourable House. I do not travel on any airline, unless I have worked for that travel. Worked for it, not as a perk.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The Honourable Member does not draw the money because he does not want to pay the tax.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: He takes it out in trips.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is what I happen to know, if you want to know the truth now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Four and five times a year. Free.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. I cannot have two Honourable Members on their feet. Please, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And, you argue because you do not want to pay the Income Tax some of the money. That is what you say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Unless, I work for it. In any event, Caribbean Airways has not got any First Class section, so you are talking foolishness. Anyhow.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: They have not got a First Class section, but, you travel.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Honourable Members take your seats. I cannot have two Honourable Members on their feet.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point, Mr. Chairman, is that when a country is faced with difficult circumstances, it is absolutely necessary to look even at small areas of expenditure because it could make a big difference to the old age pensioners in my constituency. If the Honourable Minister had a little more money, he could do the roads in Nurse Land more effectively. He could do the roads in Carrington's Village. One hundred thousand dollars spent on those roads would go a long way. But, alas, he has to tell many of his colleagues who come to him and ask him to get a pot hole repaired that he has not got a single penny. That is the kind of situation that the other Honourable Ministers in the service areas will be faced with from day to day.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I will wind up now, by simply advising the Government to pay more attention to their expenditure patterns and not to spend another cent for the rest of this year which is not absolutely necessary.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I would just like to mention, that I believe the Government is very right Sir, in approaching this matter at this time, especially when the £ sterling is really down. I mean, all of this, I really thought the Honourable Member would take into consideration. Anybody buying goods now should try to buy them out of England because you know the position with the pound. (ASIDE: Before devaluation.) I do not

know. When you are Prime Minister you would know about devaluation. I am not an Honourable Minister of Finance. You would know about that.

And, when the Honourable Member talks about reckless spending, you have a record of reckless spending in this country — unmatched. You bought a boat called the North Point for US\$1.4 million, that nobody has ever seen, apart from Captain George Fergusson and the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition. Now, that was reckless spending and \$100 000 and the Honourable Member here is supposed to be some gallant Air Force Pilot or Navigator, although Webster says he used to wash off wheels. I do not know. Webster said he used to wash off the planes. I do not know. That is what Webster said. Webster, the man who is running with you. You should be the last person in here, sitting down on the Same Side as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and supporting such a ridiculous argument against National Honours. And, you are the very person that led the country into Independence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I could not be addressing anybody else, but the Chair. You led this country into Independence. National Honours, all the trimmings go with it and today, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is criticising people spending \$100 000 to give people who made a contribution, a little, piece of plate on their chest or something so. You should be ashamed of yourself. All that is wrong with you, is that if we had to put one on you, you would have it all on your car flying morning, noon and night. Two outriders and a medal on your car. That is what you want. You are in full time. You are still in your forties.

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

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 15 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
1.30 p.m.

HEAD 35 — MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, the matter for the consideration of the House is the provision of supplementary funds in the amount of \$430,000 under Head 35 — Ministry of Trade, Subhead 2 — Export Promotion Corporation, to meet expenses of the Export Promotion Corporation.

It is worthy of note, Sir, that the Export Promotion Corporation is at this time undertaking a series of promotions in Europe, and we have found it necessary to

come to the House for this supplementary which is reimbursable by the European Development Fund and the World Bank Export Grant Incentive Scheme under the indicative programme on the financial and technical cooperation provided under the Lome II Convention between Barbados and the European Development Fund. The Bank will reimburse this amount to Barbados. The funds are totally reimbursable. Only the figure of \$450,000 was provided in the 1981-82 Estimates under Head 35 to meet the expenses of the Export Promotion Corporation. This amount provided only for salaries and other administrative expenses of the Corporation, but we feel it is necessary at this time for the Corporation to undertake some of the promotional programmes which have been recommended by Paul Hogan.

Paul Hogan is an expert, a consultant of the Irish Export Board. He was financed by the EDF to provide consultancy services to the Corporation, to evaluate the progress made by the Corporation and to advise the Government on a suitable export promotion strategy for the European market. We believe it is very necessary that this advice of Paul Hogan be taken into consideration and we are seeking the approval of this sum of money to expedite the promotional activities of the Export Promotion Corporation.

I hereby do ask that this Head stand part.

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

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

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this is for the Ministry of Information. The sum of \$875 was originally voted and we now seek a supplementary of \$525 to finance the travelling of these officers who I am told worked very feverishly – I think it was during CARIFESTA, but I am speaking under correction – and the sum which was voted has now proven to be inadequate, and therefore we are seeking this amount of money for the purpose of supplementing the Estimates.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for \$665,141 do now pass.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am waiting on Subhead 7 Printing Department – and I have not yet heard it called. This seems to fall under this same Resolution we are dealing with for \$665,141. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Do you want it recommitted?) Yes, I have something to say on it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 43 be recommitted.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under Subhead 7 – Printing Department – I want to draw to the attention of the Government that despite all the beefing up of the Government Printing Department we still seem not to be getting work of a standard that we can be proud of.

Less than two weeks ago I believe this whole Assembly was issued with the Laws of Barbados for 1980, and if we look into Part I of these Laws we will find under 1980-4 the Visiting Forces Act that the printing is rather atrocious. On page 7 of that Act we are dealing with the Visiting Forces Act, on page 8 we are dealing with the Land Boundaries Act, on page 9 the Land Boundaries Act, and on page 10 the Visiting Forces Act. If we go to pages 11, 12 and 13 we have the same thing and I am beginning to wonder whether or not there is a system in the Printing Office for printing to be edited, read over, proof read, and when it is bound up whether it is again checked before it is distributed. Because I am sure if you begin to look for the Land Boundaries Act you should find something of this nature, and these have all been distributed. To my horror I have been told that there are no other volumes available.

I would very much wish to inform the Minister responsible and I hope that he would withdraw these or recall them and issue properly printed documents. For some time here we in this Chamber have been complaining about the standard of printing and the efficiency of printing in the Government Departments. We have gone through periods of time when the Official Gazette had not been printed for quite a long time, we have had instances in which members have complained that the Official Gazette was not correct, and I would have thought that after all that has been said in this Chamber about Government's Printing Department, that things would have improved.

If you look at this year's Estimates you will note that large sums of money have been inserted in the Estimates because vital documents cannot be obtained from the Government Printing Department. There has

been a complaint about time, a complaint about space, a complaint about the lack of adequate machinery, but I still believe that if printing is going to be done when it is done it should be printing that we can be proud of, but not to be distributing documents, particularly Laws of Barbados, printed in this particular fashion which have got to be used by everybody who is interested in this area.

1.40 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am not really speaking on the matter because I do not think it is appropriate, but I think we have to be careful when members ask for a Head to be recommitted that the grounds for recommitting the Head are based on corrections to be made to the Resolution or matters of that kind. I submit, Sir, it is not competent for a member to allow a Head to pass and then to come back in to debate the issue over again because we will be wasting a lot of time. Every time a member goes out he comes back in and says I want the Head recommitted, because I want to say something, I want to have a shot at the Minister or I want to have a lick at the Government Department. I am not really speaking on the Resolution; it is not really worth while, but I think that we ought to be careful, and the hon. member should know better.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: The hon. member who now sits down should know better because if there is one person who goes out and comes back in, sits down in his chair and sleeps with his mouth open and then jumps up on things that he does not understand, it is the hon. member who just sat down, and if the hon. member is not proving to this Assembly that he is doting, he will remember the method of calling Resolutions in this Chamber. You call them Head 43, subhead so and so. If the procedure has been changed and he has been outside not knowing what has happened, how dare him come in here and criticise anybody? You are the greatest culprit of breaking the Rules of this Chamber. There is no greater culprit than you in breaking the Rules. You should remember the statement "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh"; because when Maxwell did not allow you to break the Rules of this Chamber, you did all you could until you destroyed Maxwell. What are you talking about? You should be the last person to talk about this Chamber. You do not even understand the Standing Orders of this House up to now. You are Leader of the Opposition and if you knew what was going on in this Chamber you would not have allowed the hon. member to get up in here earlier today and talk about the \$100,000 Resolution because the correct way to do it would be to bring a Resolution in here asking to reduce the sum by \$1.00, but you do not even know the Rules of this Chamber. You want to run the Chamber like you run yourself. You cannot run it to suit me. (Asides) You get up and let me deal with you now. You stand up and open your mouth. He can fool you all, but he cannot

fool me. I know him too well, but you do not know him. He can lead you all down a gully and you will follow. You know what Gearbox said

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I hope the hon. member is not addressing me because I do not have any big rocks behind the door that he can pelt at me. I saw a big stone in Massiah Street, St. John behind a door.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats, both hon. members.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say a word on behalf of the Printery. In spite of all the blows which the Printery came under over the years from both sides, I believe Mr. Chairman, that the Printing Department of the Government has come a long way. I think we can be happy to know that the debates are up to date. It has never been as good as it has been in the past, and rather than criticise the printers today, I think we should laud them. We have just appointed a Hansard Editor of Parliament, the first time probably in the history of this country, to make sure that all these problems are corrected. We know the Printery is still lacking in space, but we are hoping that when the Town Planning Department moves out of the building, the Printery will have a full working area, and rather than being critical of the Printery today, I think we all should be justly proud, for at least one thing we can say is that the debates are up to date, and they need our fullest support.

The question that Head 43 - Ministry of Information - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1981 - 82 No. 8

Head 83 - Ministry of Information - was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think that we are all well aware of the development which is going on at Oistins, and the Oistins Branch Library as you know will be re-located at Scarborough House. There are insufficient funds to complete the work there on the actual re-location of the Library, and that is the reason why we have brought this Resolution before Parliament to have it approved. I am quite sure that all Barbadians

would be proud to see what work is being done at Oistins, and I am quite sure that when Oistins is complete that we as Barbadians can be justly proud of it. This is just part of the whole structure of the Oistins Development, the relocation of the Branch Library.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. L. SISNETT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. L. SISNETT, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.
1.50 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Item No. 2 be the Instant Order of the Day standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 2.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WATERFORD,
ST. MICHAEL**

Item No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Waterford, St. Michael.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is yet another land acquisition in order to provide the youth of this community with recreational facilities. I need not remind this Honourable Chamber that this Government feels that the young people of this country should have adequate recreational facilities so that they can let off some of the energies which they have.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know that there are a number of young people who are presently coming out of school, and unemployed as well as people who do not have anywhere or anything to do in their leisure time, and Government, bearing this in mind, has decided to provide the necessary recreational facilities for these people.

This particular Resolution or acquisition is related to four acres of land at Waterford. The youth in that particular area, a very densely populated area, are without recreational facilities and therefore this Resolution is to give the youth in that area the opportunity to have their own grounds.

The young people in that area need not be worried anymore about other recreational facilities to be provided, for instance, the people in Bush Hall. Cabinet has already taken the decision to provide recreational facilities for the residents of the adjacent constituency in Bush Hall.

Bush Hall also will be provided with another housing area. I say this in response to a number of queries which have been posed in respect of what is to be done or what will be done for the residents of Bush Hall which, as I said, is a couple of metres away from Waterford. So this Resolution, Sir, is to provide the youth of the Waterford area and surrounding areas with a pasture on which one hopes a hard court, a pavilion and other facilities will be erected.

Government is still negotiating the final price of this land but I am hopeful that an amicable settlement will be reached. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. (ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member is not addressing the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, in seconding the Resolution I would also like to make a comment. I know the Government over the past years, the last five years, surely can boast of a good good record of providing recreational facilities for the people of Barbados, both young and old, but there is something which still is a bit of a problem to me and I think it is because that national awareness is not yet there, Mr. Speaker.

It is horrifying to see after Government has spent so much of the taxpayers money providing these facilities to see the very facilities actually destroyed overnight by the very people, young and old. Some people believe that as long as you provide recreational facilities it is all for young people. I do not subscribe to that. I believe that a man is as young as he feels, Sir. As a matter of fact, I am seriously thinking of taking up skating, Sir. This would seem strange to some people that because I am in my 50's that I should not skate but skating is something that can help my health. It is something that can add to my health and make me look better and live longer.

I am not saying that I would go into skating competitions but I am talking of it that it is just another form of recreation but what is problematic, Sir, is that the very people who you spend all of this taxpayer's money on to provide these facilities that that national awareness is not there.

I am very concerned, Mr. Speaker, when I pass around the road and I see young men and women, old men and middle age, and adults, for that matter, Sir,

climbing over the very fence that put up to stop the ball from coming into the road. They find it difficult to walk just 10 yards or 15 yards to go into the gate but they would rather climb over the fence and break the fence down.

Then you see, Sir, all sorts of stupid things written on the walls and on the pavilions and so on. That does nothing for us, Sir, and I would call upon the Barbados Youth Council and all of the youth groups, the Jaycees Association, the Church and all of the persons concerned, to bring to the very people who these facilities are provided for a national awareness and I think that this is what we should be concerned with.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that when we all look around here, for example, and see what the Government — the former administration, I would give them a little credit, they did not see young people in that sense, Sir, I would give them a little credit for providing some of the facilities. But when you look back at our record over the past five years to see what we have done, I would hate to see it destroyed by forces, out of sheer ignorance, I would think, and unless there is a national awakening, where the Church, the Government, the Barbados Youth Council, all of the associations can carry that message to the young people and the adults not to destroy what we have built for them because it is theirs. Whenever we are finished, it all concerns them and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am sure we should all get through to them.

I support the Resolution but that is my hope and my sincere wish, Mr. Speaker, that all of these organisations would come together to bring some form of awakening to the people where recreational facilities are concerned.

I also, Mr. Speaker, at this point would like to appeal to skaters now. This is another problem in this country. It has been echoed in the Other Chamber, Sir, and I would like to echo it down here, that Government would have to look into the problem of skating on the highways because until some innocent person loses his life, then we are not going to be aware of what is going on. I support them but I support them going on to some square or somewhere off the highways skating.
2.00 p.m.

I cannot support that. I know it is dangerous and I am echoing this sentiment now, here. You know, the press have a way of saying, "we are banning them." If they are to be banned, I would be the first person to say it, Sir, but I am appealing to the very persons who use skates to keep off the highways in their own interest. I think, Sir, that is a sound and very good warning and very good advice. Otherwise, the Government would obviously have to do something, Sir, to prohibit this problem which you are getting with them along the streets, Sir. The motorists are going to find it

difficult, as well as, the pedestrians and you cannot allow a few hundred people to make many thousands uncomfortable, Sir.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, I want to support the last speaker on his request that skaters be more conscious of the danger that they impose on motorists using the highways.

While I am happy that the Honourable Minister is acquiring the portion of land at Waterford, St. Michael for the people of that area, I believe that the Government would have to come to recognise the fact that inasmuch as many facilities in the form of basketball and paddle tennis and other forms of recreation were devised for the youth of this country that the young minds have devised some other form of recreation in the form of skating. And, while I myself do not foster or encourage these young minds to use the highways, I would like to encourage the Government to encourage the same skaters, by providing what I would term in the various districts throughout the country, small skate rinks. On Saturday, on weekends, and leisure hours, you can see them utilising the various car park facilities in the City and some of the various hard courts throughout the country, but, I believe, Mr. Speaker, with a little effort that a skaters' rink could be provided at the National Stadium on certain unused land there, which the people of this country and the young minds would themselves take advantage of. It is an extremely dangerous thing to see them on the highways, Mr. Speaker, and I would want them to desist from this.

What I have noticed over the past, recent weeks is that some of the youth have desisted from skating on the highways. They would rather prefer to walk to the open areas, car parks like at Wanstead and the new West Terrace car park and perform late in the evening. I believe that if Government could encourage a skaters' rink at the National Stadium, we could find people taking up this form of activity which is healthy, which is good for the young minds and perhaps, you know, just needs a little more encouragement to find another recreational sport. I really support this concept, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, (ASIDE: Do you know what disco is or skating?) I too am in favour generally speaking of the provision of recreational facilities for the young people of this country and for that reason, Sir, I cannot oppose this Resolution.

I would like to caution Government — it is very possible, Sir, that all kinds of investigations have been made — but, the area where I understand this land, this playing field to be sited, is I believe, somewhere in the area on the Zone One water restricted area. I have been trying to see if I could get this out of the Minister who introduced the Resolution. If it is, it would then be

difficult to provide supporting facilities that I think should normally go with the provision of recreational facilities and before the acquisition is concluded, I think this aspect of it should be investigated, and investigated thoroughly. But, if it is in Zone 1, you would not be able to put the pavilions that carry the sewerage and water-borne system. (ASIDE) Anyhow, I would suggest that this matter be investigated thoroughly.

As I said earlier, Sir, I support it and I think there is not sufficient discipline in this community and this does not only go for young people. We are apt to stand up and say things that we label a particular segment of the society. There is too much indiscipline in this country generally and this goes throughout the whole society. Sometimes, Sir, even this Honourable Chamber is not free from indiscipline and for this reason I am in full support.

I also want the appropriate Ministry to look into the question of facilities that they provide at these recreational places, playing fields and so on. For example, there are certain areas where an officer is provided. I do not think that those officers who are provided to work at these playing fields are doing sufficient work for the money they are drawing. If one would look at some of the playing fields, one would see that they are untidily kept and not sufficient is being done. I would like to suggest that the appropriate Ministry — it might not be the Ministry of Lands, it might be a different Ministry, the Ministry responsible for Sports — I would like that Ministry to look into this aspect of it because some of the playing fields — it is not enough just to provide land, put it in shape and just leave it, or just provide — I want an individual to be present.

I think it requires more than this and I am suggesting this to the Government because there are playing fields, Sir, in the area that I represent, like Eden Lodge for instance, Grazettes for another example. I am not talking about Montgomery at all because what is happening at Montgomery School, that is being deprived completely of recreational facilities. A building has been put there that is larger than the playing field itself. I think, Sir, that these matters should be looked into and I would want the Government, Sir, to look at these aspects of the matter, particularly as regards the acquisition of this playing field.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution and in supporting this Resolution, there is one thing that worries my mind. A few weeks ago, I heard an Honourable Member speak of such a facility some part of Lowthers, Christ Church, where not one ball bowls on that facility.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident and I know that the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, who

is responsible for such facilities, I am sure that as he checks on these many acquisitions, he will make sure that it will not be wasted money because when I think of a playing field that is in the parish of Christ Church that no one plays on — this was done, I would say, in the last regime, Lowthers, I would say — a parish like St. Lucy that supported that Side for 15 long years, never had not even one playing field for 15 years. I would say (ASIDE: Rockfield) Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member should be ashamed. He knows that Rockfield was acquired in 1956. That is 20 years ago.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am just trying to let you know that from the time I came in here, I hear someone talking about acquisitions for playing facilities and something of that nature. This is approximately 20 years that nothing has been done for the parish of St. Lucy, as far as such facilities are concerned and I think that the people down there in that parish are getting very perturbed about what really is going on.

I would say, that many of us have a tendency, as the past politicians would make us believe, that the worst people in the country used to be the conservatives, but I cannot say that they were so bad because we took up this country in the year 1951 from the conservatives and they left us with approximately, you would say, five playing fields. The Barbados Labour Party came into power and they added one more playing field which is Rockfield. You have heard about Rockfield, Sir. And, you would know, for that 15 years, the Democratic Labour Party was in power and St. Lucy was the outstanding parish that always supported the Democratic Labour Party, all they did for that 15 years for the young boys and girls in the parish of St. Lucy was to subtract one of the playing fields that the white people of this country and the Barbados Labour Party left for the young people to play on.

I am sure that you know, Mr. Speaker, the Parry School pasture, it was approximately 100 years a few months ago, that was a pasture I born — and today if you go there, it is no more a playing facility, it is a place to put the telephone exchange.
2.10 p.m.

I do not have anything against having the telephone exchange in the parish, because I believe it is a help to the parish, but I believe there is so much wild, loose land in the parish that the Democratic Labour Party should have been a little wiser than to stop the young girls and boys from around Benthams, Nesfield, Mount Gay, Trents, all around there where the boys and girls have nowhere to play.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the breeze is blowing fairly good and I believe the Hon. Minister is straying a bit north, because it is a long time I would say, that we

were down there crying in the wilderness. There is a part of the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 16, Verse 9: ".....There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." I am saying, therefore, that I am satisfied he will come over to Macedonia, St. Lucy, and help us, and Mr. Speaker, I am sure that on his way back from St. Lucy he will pass through Six Men's Village and Road View.

Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister a few questions on acquisitions this morning. We had a few acquisitions in the parish of St. Lucy a few weeks ago; I would say acquisitions with a difference, acquisitions that we down there do not really like, to make room for the cement plant. If you go to that parish now and you see that land now it is like a bald-pated man, all the mould has been removed from that land, and up to today the poor people do not know what they will get, they do not know what will happen with them, and I would say some of the valuers are very, very ridiculous. I remember our selling houses at \$24,000, which I think was very reasonable, at Wotton, Christ Church, and one valuer offered some person in the parish of St. Lucy \$18,000 for a wall house. I think it is a disgrace. There are some people who feel that because we are really far down in that section that we do not really know, but I am sure that we are going to go all out to see that we get our rights.

I would like to ask the hon. member what is his intention, what is he really going to do with the people. There are some people who say that we are far down behind God's back and far north, but we love down there. I would like the Hon. Minister to let me know that he has acquired a plot of land in the parish of St. Lucy where these poor people will live. There is a gentleman who came here from England only last week, and he said, "Brath, now I come my house is no longer my house" and he does not know where he is going to live. I am hoping that the Hon. Minister in replying will give me the assurance that he will acquire some place in Checker Hall where these people can have their houses rebuilt in the same parish. We do not want to go to Christ Church, we are quite happy and satisfied to live in St. Lucy.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am appealing to the Hon. Minister and to the members on This Side from the depths of my heart to pay a little attention to the parish of St. Lucy, especially Checker Hall, because as I say I am worried day and night with people coming and asking me what will happen to them. I do not mind if you rebuild the houses in the same shape as they are, but I would like to hear something about it. I believe that we have to realise definitely that a politician is a different man from an engineer. An engineer's attitude is to acquire what he wants to go on with his business, but a politician has to please the people in the district, so I am appealing

to you friends that you all will do all that lie in your power that the people of St. Lucy will be happy and satisfied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I will be extremely brief. I think the hon. member for St. Lucy has very well supported the contention of the Democratic Labour Party and his predecessor in office, and I would like to ask one additional question in relation to this and other acquisitions. We are spending sums acquiring lands for playing fields and so on, which is a laudable effort, a continuation of what the Democratic Labour Party has done over many years.

What does concern me, Sir, is that there are a few areas where there has been significant neglect, and whereas I would not wish to be parochial, I am sure that the undertaking given by the former Minister of Housing, the Hon. Leader of the House, that Valerie will be a playing field and a community centre, that that will be honoured by his successor, and previous undertakings given to the former member for the then St. Michael North Central, that the playing field in the Carrington's Village area where even the poles have now fallen down, some corrective action will be taken very, very urgently.

This is my humble plea on behalf of all those playing fields that are neglected throughout the country, but in particular in relation to the development of Valerie and the playing field and the basketball court there in Carrington's Village, to get the poles back up. They are actually on the ground now.

Mr. A. TRUSS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to support the Resolution for the provision of playing facilities at Waterford. The Hon. Minister in introducing the Resolution represented the area between 1976 and 1981 and it was from that moment that I believe that he as Parliamentary Secretary at that time fought to ensure that the people of the area received some sort of recreational facilities. Further than that, Sir, I believe that late in 1980 the Hon. Minister from St. Michael East also contributed in forcing the Government's hand to compulsorily acquire a piece of land for the people of Goddings Road at Waterford.

Right now, Sir, I have the honour and privilege of representing the people of the very same area, and if I may say so, it is the very first time in the history of politics in Barbados that the people of Goddings Road have supported the Barbados Labour Party, so I am pleased that in such a short time we have been able to bring for the people of the area a piece of land that is over four acres, and I am looking forward to see that the Minister of Sport, the hon. member for St. Michael East, as well as the Minister of Housing who I understand is the person responsible for the construction of sports clubs and pavilions, I hope, Sir, that these two Ministers will ensure that before 1986 the people of the area will be given a proper pavilion.

The area is large enough for a football field, a cricket pitch, a couple of hard courts for basketball as well as netball. At present the people of Goddings Road rent a small place that is known as Colts Club, and this is where they meet regularly, but that place is very old and dilapidated and in order to ensure that the discipline of young people continues, sporting activities are an extremely important part of their growing up.

Over the last 20 years, especially between 1961 and 1976 when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, nothing was done for the area, and I am happy to see that finally the people of Goddings Road, Savannah Road and Waterford Housing Area will have a facility that would be large enough to accommodate all of them and perhaps many of the games which they play. And in saying that, Sir, I can only once again thank the Hon. Minister for his cooperation in this matter, because we have talked about it in the last few months on several occasions, and I am urging that both he and the Minister of Sport combined, will assist me in achieving the goals for the young people in this particular area.

2.20 p.m.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I feel obliged to respond to two hon. members. The hon. member for St. Michael North did raise the question of zoning and questioned whether a permanent structure could be built in Zone 1. Mr. Speaker, I think the time has come for us to set a number of things straight. Building can take place in a Zone 1 area provided that there is proper disposal of sewage. The hon. member for St. Michael North was a Minister of Lands and Housing and he ought to know that. I should not be telling him that. What he must realise is that this Government, realising that in the Zone 1 area there is a possibility of contaminating the water, has decided to carry out the relevant surveys and studies with a view to putting down the proper sewage in these areas. This also applies to Belle Tenantry.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that has been occupying my attention not only with playing fields but with plantation tenancies under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. All of that has a lot of implications, so I want the hon. member to understand now that we have got a plan and a policy as far as Zone One is concerned. People will not be moved out of Zone 1. We are prepared to carry out proper sewage so that people can build permanent structures. The hon. member ought to know that as it stands now you can build in Zone 1 provided you have proper septic tanks. I should not be telling him all these things.

But, Mr. Speaker, let us get back to the question of St. Lucy and compensation to those people. Only this morning I had the project manager and officers from the

Ministry in for discussion along with the Senior Crown Counsel with a view to determining what compensation and how soon we can compensate those persons, but the problem, Mr. Speaker, is that some persons are prepared to settle and others who have got other attorneys — I would not want to mention an hon. member who is in this Chamber — representing them are asking what in my view is a totally unreasonable price for their properties, and I have said that wherever a question arises or dispute arises over compensation, there is a recourse to the Law Courts, but my Ministry and I certainly will endeavour to settle wherever possible amicably, but there is nothing one can do if the vendors hold out for their price.

I want to give the hon. member for St. Lucy the assurance, Mr. Speaker, that I will explore every avenue to see that these people's grievances are relieved, and that he will get the playing field which he has asked me to get for him. I have asked about it, and I am sure, judging from what I have been told this morning that it is well on the way. I remember Battaleys and I will be coming home in St. Peter with Battaleys very shortly, and I am sure that the people of Battaleys when they are recycled will also have adequate recreational facilities. I am thinking about the entire country and providing facilities for the use of this country and not one part and not the other. There is no discriminatory policy which I will pursue while I am in the Ministry of Housing and Lands, so I want that to be quite clear.

The hon. member for St. Lucy will also get that much needed facility for the people of St. Lucy, and I want to give him that assurance that this will come. Archers Bay and Checker Hall, all these things are occupying my attention, and I want him to rest assured that things are going north, and as he said to come over to Macedonia and help, I will respond and I will come over there and help him, and I will carry the good news to the Gentiles as well.

The question that the Resolution do now pass 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 now suspended until 3.15 p.m.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Item No. 3 be the Instant Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 3.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT THICKETTS,
ST. PHILIP.

Item No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Thicketts, St. Philip.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is another Resolution dealing with an acquisition for a portion of land for the purpose of providing recreational facilities for the youth in the St. Philip area. I need not remind or restate Government's policy as far as recreational facilities are concerned or Government's position as far as the youth of this country are concerned but I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that this Resolution or this acquisition was initiated on the recommendation to acquire this portion of land by a member of the Other Place who, until the 18th June, represented the St. Philip North constituency.

That member who is now in the Other Place, as I have said, did invite the then Minister of Housing and Lands to consider the acquisition of an area of land in the Thicketts area for the purpose of providing recreational facilities for the youth in St. Philip.

The then Minister of Housing and Lands considered favourably the suggestion by the hon. member as he was then and after some dialogue between the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the Ministry of Labour and Community Services, a decision was taken to acquire this portion of land for the purpose as set out in the Addendum to this Resolution.

It was thought, however, that because the member who is in the Other Place was not successful at the last General Election that this Government would have shelved the plan to purchase this area of land. (*Asides*). Hon. members from the Other Side have agreed that they felt so but this Government has proven time and time again that it is not a vindictive Government and that it believes that the spoils or whatever services that it has to provide, must be provided and shared by all Barbadians alike and that there is no discriminatory policy.

This Resolution is yet another Resolution which proves beyond any question of doubt that the Government is prepared to honour its pledges wherever

possible or when and where they made them during the Election of 1981 so I hope that hon. members from That Side will desist from feeling or making any accusations which would tend to mislead the public, that this Government because it did not win a seat here or there, or because it is held by an Opposition member, is not prepared to carry out the pledge or programme in that particular constituency.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make it abundantly clear that it was not because of the prompting of anyone but because of a decision that was taken long ago by the then Minister of Housing and Lands that this particular area should be compulsory acquired.

Some weeks ago the hon. member for St. Philip North did express concern because he did see the field, on this land being planted or seeing some canes on the land, apparently. He drew it to my attention and he said that work was being carried on by the plantation owner on this particular area. He wondered what was Government's plans. I did give him the assurance then that Government did not alter or was not prepared to alter its pledge and he would shortly see the introduction of this particular Resolution in this Honourable Chamber.

Today the hon. member can be assured that his side will support this Resolution as it is the intention of the Government to give it its wholehearted support and I do hope that the youth in that area as well as the youth in all the other areas for which recreational facilities are provided will use them realising that it cost government money and we provide these services because we feel that they are entitled to them.

We wish to remind them that they have an obligation and responsibility to take care of them because it is for them. It is not only for them but for their generation and the generation to come and we hope that they will care them and desist from forms of vandalism which I have been told about.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that, I think, should introduce or throw some life on this particular Resolution and I do hope that I will be able to see the erection of the facilities which the hon. member from the Other Place would certainly wish to see erected in this particular area.

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

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, indeed I am happy to support this Resolution as I quite rightly should and I wish to confess that I am very pleased with the speed in which the Hon. Minister did have a look at this for me.

Since this is a very crowded area in the Blades Hill area and the amenities are very badly needed, while I am on the topic, I will invite the Minister as well to check his files. It is on record somewhere for the request of similar facilities at Bayleys and I am sure that if he looks as well on the other point at Bushy Park, I am certain if he uses his good offices that there is a field at Bushy Park being presently used for cricket and I am certain that from discussion with the owners, that the Ministry if they used their good offices, would get this field at a very reasonable price, if not as a gift, and I would invite the Minister to make the necessary approach for that field at Bushy Park.

I know that the owners of the field at Bushy Park have shown quite a bit of public spiritedness and I am quite sure that if approached by the Ministry for the use of the field on behalf of the residents of Bushy Park/Gaskin area that he would be successful in his endeavour.

Earlier the hon. member for St. James North spoke about the roller skating on the roads and I share this concern so much that I would like to let him know that I have sought the use of the old Bushy Park race track for the roller skaters of St. Philip and we are having our big roller skating event over Independence weekend. It is temporary and I believe that the youth of St. Philip will have the facility for quite a long time so if they want to join us in St. Philip on Sunday, just before Independence for the roller skating we are happy to let them know.
3.30 p.m.

On the point of playing fields, however, I would like to draw to the appropriate Honourable Minister's attention that the Sports Council seem to be unable to surface some of these fields in a way that is necessary, since one of the teams in St. Philip had to actually drop out of the BCL Cricket Competition since the Sports Council could not find it possible, due to pressures, we were told, to have the field cut for them and the grass overran the field and they could not use that particular field for cricket. I would only invite the appropriate Ministry to make the facilities available to these sports grounds through the Sports Council, so that things like mowing of the fields can be done, so that the fellows can enjoy the facilities of the playing fields, because there is no point in having the facilities made available and then, for the want of a thing like a lawn mower, not being able to use them.

Once again, as I said, it is really with great pleasure that I support this Resolution and look forward to having a similar Resolution for that part of St. Philip brought before this Honourable House,

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

Order No. 1 was called – To move that the House do resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this Island.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Order Number One was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$2.5 million from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1981–82, Part II Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1981–82, No. 6 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

PART II CAPITAL – HEAD 74 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, right at the outset of this Resolution, I must ask for an amendment. The amount which we are seeking to appropriate is \$3.1 million and not \$2.5 million and I therefore beg to move that the Head be amended by substituting the words \$3.1 million for \$2.5 million.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I second the amendment and reserve my right to speak.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Resolution is bound up with the whole position of agriculture in this island and particularly sugar agriculture. The Agricultural Development Corporation is one of the significant sugar producers in the Island, more significant indeed, in the last few years than it has been in the past. In 1975–76, the Agricultural Development Corporation produced 28 000 tons of cane. This has steadily increased under the present Government and in 1980 it produced 57 000 tons and even despite the adverse conditions experienced last year, it produced 43 000 tons of cane which I believe is its third highest amount ever.

The losses made by the Agricultural Development Corporation principally relate to its losses as a sugar producer at least in the last few years this has been so. In earlier years, the Agricultural Development Corporation was given a role of what was then known as crop development and a great number of experimental crops which have all proved to be failures were planted on its lands. Many more of its lands were allowed to run to grass.

They were not put to any useful purpose. There was inadequacy of control of individual estate managers and although a number of managers were persons of the highest integrity and efficiency, as estate managers in private and then Government employment, some were neither fully honest, nor fully efficient and the ADC became a by-word for losses.

We have tried to systematize the Agricultural Development Corporation and understand what exactly we are doing. There is some conflict of opinion between some of the professional advisers of Government, the Chief Agricultural Officer is one and those now responsible for taking the ultimate decision on the activities of the ADC. I think that the balance of achievement certainly lies on the Side of recent Honourable Ministers of Agriculture, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, since we can now see exactly what function the ADC is carrying out in Barbados. I will deal with this in slightly greater depth at a later stage in my speech, but I would merely point out that the Government has come to a decision that it has to be prepared, in the interest of maintaining a viable sugar industry, to subsidise a certain number of marginal plantations owned by the Agricultural Development Corporation in sugar production, for the sake of the foreign exchange which they earn and for the sake of maintaining a large enough production of sugar to keep the sugar industry still viable in the modern age.

In 1980, the Agricultural Development Corporation earned approximately \$7 million in foreign exchange. Last year, the sum was very nearly \$6 million. These are valuable amounts of money and in our view, they must continue to be earned. The Government is therefore prepared to estimate each year, some reasonable amount that is likely to be lost by the ADC in keeping marginal lands in agricultural production at present day wages and this Resolution is a somewhat belated recognition of the Government's policy and intention.

Now, I want to say something first, Sir, about the sugar industry as a whole. It has always been known that Barbados is peculiarly well-suited for producing sugar. Despite the social stigma attached to working in the sugar industry and despite the political hostility towards the sugar industry, which has been shown by various people for a variety of reasons, sugar still remains a crop which we have the experience, the soil types, the research facilities and the marketing opportunities to grow. This combination is afforded to very few small countries, to fewer still small islands and I venture to suggest to not another country in the world with an area of less than 500 square kilometers.

The opposition to the growing of sugar has come on all sides. The Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition opposed

it many years ago, on grounds which were then fashionable that tourism provided a greater return and that labour, in the sugar industry was degrading. Other persons opposed it in Barbados, on the grounds that the oppressors of the masses were the proprietors of the sugar plantations and long after these oppressors ceased to oppress or the masses ceased to be impressed, this attitude has continued.

3.40 p.m.

But in 1977 a careful study of the soils and the climate of Barbados confirmed that sugar is still the best crop for us to grow if we have to have any hope of serious agricultural self-sufficiency, or any hope of an export crop which will raise foreign exchange to a maximum. Our soil qualities, our rainfall and its distribution which obviate the need for irrigation, the research which has gone into the sugar industry over the years, sugar research after all started in Barbados. We used to give technical assistance to the United States, to Holland, and to other countries on how to raise varieties of cane and how to start sugar industries, and the experience of those engaged at every level, the level of cane cutter, the level of supervisor, of overseer, of manager, all these alike indicate that the crop with which Barbados has risen over the years remains a viable crop at the present time.

After the study of 1977 carried out by Mr. Graham Gooding had confirmed that sugar is still the best crop, the Government set the target of 150,000 tons of sugar per year. Now, this target was set because, firstly, very small sugar industries aiming at a local market only tend not to be viable. The factory structure required to maintain an industry that is viable at today's prices cannot easily be maintained unless on 150,000 tons, and perhaps certainly not less than 100,000 tons. So on the basis of that, and on the basis of what we can achieve in Barbados, the Government is pursuing this target.

We did not pursue it easily, Sir, many alternatives were considered. Cotton which was a great favourite of the previous management of the Agricultural Development Corporation was examined closely. Cotton was discovered to be more susceptible to disease, there is much less marketing expertise in it. If anybody seriously thinks that it is easier to get cotton pickers to pick a large cotton crop than to get cane cutters, they must be crazy. With the small cotton crops which we had it might be possible to get a few cotton pickers. The experience of the United States, the experience indeed of Egypt today, and the experience of Uzbekistan, which is the second largest producer of cotton after the United States in the Soviet Union, alike suggest that the reaping of cotton is a matter as fraught with difficulty on a large scale as the reaping of sugar, and of course there is no local market for cotton.

It is very popular in Barbados, the most popular of all the economic fallacies that surround public discussion in our island, that we import a great deal of food which we could grow locally, and the corollary to that seems to be that the concentration on sugar somehow prevents us from growing more local food. This is a matter of the most utter and total nonsense. With hardly any diversion from the production of sugar we have been able to make ourselves 85% self-sufficient in vegetables. We have been able to produce onions to achieve very real self-sufficiency except in those months when the climate and the hours of daylight do not permit the production of onions.

The foods we import, Sir, are perhaps not perceived by the public to be imported foods. If we wanted to do away with imported foods, the first we will have to stop eating is rice and the second we will have to stop eating is bread, the staples of our population. There is nothing that can be done in Barbados, sugar or no sugar, to reduce what we pay for rice and what we pay for wheat which we make into flour and into bread locally, because again the climate, the soils and the tropical location of Barbados do not permit the existence of a viable cereal industry. We do not have the rainfall or the soil type to allow us to grow rice. They are the chief foods, Sir, along with beef which we import, and to suggest that there is something that any Government can do to remove our reliance on imported rice and imported wheat is sheer nonsense, and I regret that so many journalists and so many others have spent so much time in dealing at length with the mere trappings of a situation that they have not fully analysed. We import also a great deal of meat and the Government is seeking ways and means to reduce this.

In the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party for the 1981 election we have indicated that our aim is to establish feedlots for sheep and cows with a view to greatly expanding mutton and beef production, and also to expand the Black Belly sheep multiplication programme. But I would ask hon. members and the general public to look at the figures. There are, I believe, something like 72,000 black belly sheep in Barbados. If those figures are incorrect some hon. member will correct them later, but the number is measurable in thousands. There are 72 million sheep in New Zealand that has ten times as many people as Barbados. That is a lamb, sheep and mutton industry. We import a great deal of beef. Professional opinion is unanimous that if you destroy every cane blade in Barbados and turn it over to grazing that you might produce enough cows to feed, I think the figure is 16,000 people, not 250,000. To grow beef in Barbados you have to import feed. The cost of importing the feed to grow beef in 1977 and 1978 would have been something like 50% more than the cost of importing the beef, and in my opinion, just as the chicken industry is virtually what is called in manu-

facturing a screwdriver industry, import the feed, import the oil that makes the electricity, import the eggs or the chicks as the case may be, so too would be the imports of enough animal feed to raise animals in Barbados sufficient to feed the population of Barbados.

Barbados has 250,000 people and 480 square kilometers, and the land constraint ultimately will mean that we are always to be an importer of some foods. The only area we are possibly — you always hear a lot of arguments, you hear arguments against potatoes, you could mention pumpkins too, because for some strange reason pumpkins figure largely in our food imports, it is the vegetable we import more than any other apparently, or it was so two years ago, but you hear voices raised against potatoes.
3.50 p.m.

I have had to ask members of the Cabinet why you want to stop people eating potatoes but you don't want to stop them eating rice; English potatoes I mean. I suppose there is a possibility of banning the supply of potatoes in Barbados. I for one will not be any party to that. I believe the standard of life of a people can often be measured by the extent to which that people can import the good things of life from the far corners of the earth and afford to pay for them by their export of goods and services, and a country where potatoes are not available is not as well off a country as the one where they are available. But that perhaps is a diversion.

The essence of sugar is that with 150,000 tons of sugar we are within reach of having an export earning from agriculture sufficient to allow us to pay for the imports of foods that we cannot grow here. The Agricultural Development Corporation had done very well recently with the export of yam. I could wish perhaps in dealing with the potato argument that we could export enough yams and grow enough to have enough yams to eat here and to pay for the potatoes to give people an alternative as well. But the essence is that the agricultural crop with which we are best able to deal is sugar. It is the only crop all the experts assure us that gives us any hope of being within a measurable distance of self-sufficiency in agricultural products, export sugar and pay for your food imports out of the cost of your agricultural export. So the Government has this as its aim. We came quite near to it in 1980; we have gone some distance from it in 1981.

The hon. member for St. Philip South said that \$43 million is no big thing and that we got in \$43 million more in 1980 than we hoped for, so we should not object if we do not get it in 1981. The balance of payments crisis that we faced in 1981 we would have faced in 1980 if we had not got in the \$43 million. The \$43 million pays for all the motor cars, all the refrigerators, all the hi-fi sets that come to Barbados.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is indicating that I should not say "crisis". I will accept his *sotto voce* submission and I will say balance of payments difficulties which we are facing.

Now the Government's scheme for sugar is a fully structured scheme; it extends over the entire range of sugar production. We have accepted that shortage of agricultural labour necessarily means that there will have to be more mechanisation in the harvesting of sugar. It has been indicated to us that the reshaping of the sugar fields of Barbados for mechanisation will be a long process. We accept that it may take 20 years. The process has now been underway for a couple of years, reshaping 5% of the fields every year, planning for mechanisation and this is already underway. We accept that persons cannot readily be persuaded to work in the cane fields unless adequate rewards are available, and the Government has lent its weight to the increase of wages to agricultural labourers even if this means a great shrinkage of employment in the industry.

At the other end of the scale down stream from the cane field, the Government considers that public participation at a high level is necessary in machining the manufacture of sugar, and the Government has accordingly bought, it is no longer a proposal, we have already bought a sufficient number of shares in Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd., to make the Government and the Agricultural Development Corporation the largest shareholders in Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd. which owns all the sugar factories in the Island. We will shortly be appointing directors. I have already indicated the names of the persons whom I wish to serve on the Board of Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd. and a number of public institutions will be represented thereon.

Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd. is also building a new sugar factory, the first built in the island for over fifty years, and I just want to say something about this. Contrary to what the Dr. Goebbels's of the Barbados Workers' Union say, confident in the belief that if you repeat something often enough the public will take it to be true, the Government is not building any new sugar factory, it is not giving the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association a factory out of the taxpayers' money or anything like it. The Government itself is the largest shareholder in Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd. The new factory when built at Blowers which we call Portvale will be the people's factory as much as it is anybody else's, and the taxpayers' money, not one cent of it has gone into that new factory. Neither the money of the taxpayers nor the money of the workers. The money for the new factory has been borrowed from the Caribbean Development Bank on very favourable terms and from other commercial sources.

Now having outlined the importance of sugar to the island, its significance to foreign reserves and its importance to Government agricultural policies, I perhaps should deal more specifically with the role of the Agricultural Development Corporation in the entire process. An essential part of the Government's plans for the re-organisation of the sugar industry was to give some weight to the small man, to the smallholder, to the landless peasants and the workers and peasants certainly with a very small amount of land and the agricultural labourer with a very small amount of land and so on. One million dollars has already been paid to promote a mechanisation scheme for small holders which is being administered through the agency of the Agricultural Development Corporation. This will enable small sugar producers to harvest their canes, grow their cane indeed, on the same terms as the big plantations. This money ultimately has come out of the hands of the big plantation owners themselves, paid over the years under the levy.

At one time, Mr. Chairman, I must confess to you, Sir, that I was persuaded that the Agricultural Development Corporation had pursued so many wrong lines that it should be wound up and the estates should be administered on the pure attorney principle. I put this sometimes to the very able chairman of the Corporation Mr. Bert Reece, and Mr. Reece in his quiet way let me have my say but indicated a few ideas in contradiction to mine to suggest that perhaps the ADC was not such a bad thing after all, and in the passage of time assisted by two particular appointments — and I would like to pay personal tribute to the people concerned: first of all Mr. Reynold Field was appointed as agricultural attorney. Mr. Reynold Field is one of the most capable estate managers in this country, he worked many years in the Barbados Shipping and Trading estates, and has proved a real tower of strength as agricultural attorney for the Agricultural Development Corporation. He is one of the unsung heroes of the island, a man whose name seldom appears in the press. You read more about Eric Sealy and Basil Forbes, but you do not read about Reynold Field who is turning around by his good advice the sugar estates belonging to the ADC, who has brought the sugar estates from a situation where the average yield per hectare under the previous Government for the ADC estates was 55 tons of cane compared with the national yield of 66 tons, to a situation where the ADC when the national yield was 76 tons was producing over 71 tons, almost 72 tons.

4.00 p.m.

He improved the efficiency of the ADC. In 1980 it had its highest crop; last year as I have said earlier, despite the bad conditions, it had its third highest.

The other appointment is that of someone who is an official in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, proved his worth there and is now General Manager of

the ADC, Mr. Leroy Roach, who has brought intellectual qualities and management qualities of a high order to an understanding of the problems required to manage an agricultural development corporation in a small island.

The ADC is now a project managing agency for overseas agencies in respect of the Spring Hall Development which we inherited from the previous Government under the Integrated Rural Development Scheme which we are now carrying on with the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Integrated Rural Development Scheme which is step 2 after the Plantation Tenantry sales scheme, will transform the face of the country side of this island with the assistance which it will give to the small man, the small producer to form a tenant farm, living in disadvantaged areas of the island but despite the quality of management which the Agricultural Development Corporation now brings to bear on the problems of sugar in this island, it still finds itself in a situation where money is going to be loss.

Now the last season, Mr. Chairman, for sugar in Barbados was a very sad one indeed. Perhaps we were all a little bit euphoric after the splendid result of 1980. The Union was happy, the Government was happy and the sugar industry was happy.

A few far-sighted people in the sugar industry saw well that the industry could not afford to hand over all of the money which it had made in 1980 as a bonus to the workers. No business can carry on on those principles. They told the Government quite clearly that they were unable to pay more than over, I think it was \$2.7 million. In the end that turned out to be quite true. The Government had to lend them the money to meet the settlement negotiated by the then Minister of Labour and myself. We had to lend the money. I daresay that we will end up by having to write it off.

The Leader of the Opposition is very familiar with these cyclical effects in sugar. He would recall that he had to make a draft to the industry of \$3 million in July, 1976 to allow the industry to pay the losses for the years previous to that.

Now, the losses since then are even more considerable. Four things struck the industry in 1981 and they struck Barbados as well. I am talking about the industry but you have to understand, Mr. Chairman, that the sugar industry, of all industries, is the one in which a good year means a good year for Barbados and a bad year means a bad year for Barbados.

To earn a dollar in the sugar industry is the equivalent to earning \$3.50 in tourism. Only ten cents of each sugar dollar goes out of the island. It is a locally

owned business and it is an industry which has few imported inputs so when we lose \$43 million which the hon. member for St. Philip South says is no big thing, we are losing the equivalent or perhaps \$150 million in the tourist receipts which is as much tourist receipts as the whole island was getting when we came into power. It was as if no tourists came to the island at all in 1977. That is the effect of it in 1981.

The four things that struck the industry, as I see them, were these. The long negotiations delayed the start of the crop. There was a critical loss of time in harvesting which resulted from the labour dispute that ran right into March.

The second thing is that the bad weather which came on in April, May and June — the hon member for St. Michael South Central said that we should have got a long-ranged weather forecast and predicted that. Honestly, I really would have to say that I believe we would have to have a forecast from up there. You would have to see the clouds open and letters of fire tell you that there will be 12 inches of rain in April.

There has never been a long-ranged weather forecast in the history of mankind that could tell anybody on March 31st that there would be 12 inches of rain in Barbados in April and if the hon. member thinks that he has a channel to celestial meteorologists, he really had better come over on to This Side. Come over into Macedonia and help us with your meteorology. That is all I can say.

The bad weather not only hindered harvesting, in particular mechanical harvesting, but it reduced the sucrose content of the cane by increasing the water content. It therefore reduced the factory efficiency. When the normal time for the ending of the crop arrived, 30% of the cane, I am told that was the figure, had to be left in the ground because it was really not possible to carry out harvesting and that has had an adverse effect on this year's crop. The sugar industry which had 131,741 metric tons of cane in 1980 could produce only 94,065 metric tons in 1981, a 28% reduction in output, at the same time as it had to pay a 28% increase in wages. It is only a coincidence that the two are the same, but it is there, nevertheless.

The third and fourth factors that struck the sugar crop relate to sugar revenue. The first of all was the effective devaluation of the £ sterling or the revaluation of the Barbados dollar against the European currency of account, which ever way you put it. We are paid in European currencies and accounts. During this year they have fallen sharply in relation to the U.S. dollar to which we are tied.

Again I do not know if the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has a special line to future market

forces. I know he has made money from medicine and land speculation. I am not hearing that he has made money from speculating in the market. If he could predict, as he says that we should have predicted, bad conditions with sterling in the ECU, then he would not just be a millionaire he would be as rich as Rockefeller but whether or not we predicted it or could predict it or wanted to predict it, the fact is that it happened and that reduced by 30 per cent the ordinary revenues that you would expect in ECU.

4.00 p.m.

And, finally, Sir, there was a fall in the sugar price, so, the average revenue per ton of sugar produced in 1980, was \$962 and in 1981, it was \$886. Nine hundred and sixty-two dollars in 1980, \$886 in 1981 and the cost of production of a ton of sugar is over \$1 000 — I believe \$1 021. I am happy to be able to report that in the middle of all of this sugar workers' wages suffered very little. Sugar workers, during 1981, received \$46 558 934 in wages. Fifty-five percent of the total revenue. The highest percentage ever. You will search in vain in the record, of the years that Barbados suffered under the Democratic Labour Party to find the year where sugar workers got more than half the revenue of the sugar industry. But, this year, they got 55% of the revenue.

I am very glad to be able to say that. But — I think I gave a wrong figure for the cost of sugar, I said \$1 021. I am mistaken. It is \$1 106 per ton. They got \$886 per ton for the sugar and it cost \$1 106 to produce. That is this year, Sir, \$1 106 not \$1 021. Sixty-seven percent of the plantations lost money in 1981 including all the ADC plantations. The ADC plantations almost made a profit in 1980, but the bonus took it away from them and they made a very small loss, but a loss nonetheless.

The plantations were unable to pay back to the banks the money they had borrowed to pay the workers' wages. It was \$13 million left unpaid in the Barbados National Bank alone at the end of August. (ASIDE) Thirteen million dollars, and, of course, they had debts of over \$5 million previously, and these sums included the \$3.1 million which we are now seeking to appropriate for the Agricultural Development Corporation.

The Barbados National Bank has taken a wise, if somewhat brutal step. It savours a little bit of "to him that hath shall be given". But, the Barbados National Bank has decided that for next year, people who owe them nothing will be able to borrow money at the traditional rate of 5%. They would be able to borrow that money to pay the wages to their workers. But, people who have not paid off their loans will have to pay 10%. This is a very substantial difference and for this reason, we are appealing to the Honourable House to pass this Resolution, so that the ADC may benefit from the lower cost.

Now, the outlook for sugar for 1982 is also not good, Sir. In addition to the fact that world prices has fallen a little more, we had a great difficulty which will immediately make itself felt in relation to the position of the United States, as a sugar importer. I would like to make it clear, that the Government of Barbados views in the most serious terms possible, the unfortunate sugar support price that has been passed by the United States Senate and now agreed in conference between the Senate and the House of Representatives, and that the Government of Barbados is calling on President Reagan to veto the Bill, so as not, within a few years, to destroy the sugar export industries of those Central American, Latin American and Caribbean countries, which the United States has so recently pledged to support.

Now, in the United States, there are always demands for what is known as support prices for agricultural products. I think that the present sugar support price is in the range of, I think it is 15.6 cents. That is the price which every sugar farmer is guaranteed in the USA. We were fortunate with President Carter in that the Coca Cola company which is the largest consumer of sugar and sweeteners in the United States is also one of the largest businesses in the State of Georgia and if rumour has it correct, one of the largest contributors to President Carter's campaign. Whatever the reasons, the interest of the Coa-Cola company coincide with those of the sugar farmers of Barbados which is in a low, domestic, sugar support price in the United States. Coca-Cola wants to get its sugar cheaply, so as not to have to raise the price of coke.

After President Carter's departure from the White House, and despite the wish of the new administration to balance the American Budget, a farm support Bill came before Congress that would cost a minimum of \$4 billion or a maximum of \$7 billion per annum and in the middle of this was this special support for sugar at an 18 cents per pound price.....that is US 18 cents per pound. That is so far in advance of what is paid in Barbados basically to the sugar producers for sugar that you can imagine — and the world price is 12 cents — that if this is passed, it will elicit much more beet sugar production in the United States. At the same time, there is also talk about reducing the Sugar Tariff which seems a good idea for us, but it is not a good idea because we benefit from a special preference with the United States, under which all the money that our sugar which goes into the United States is refunded to us. So, if you reduce the Tariff, you reduce the amount that the sugar producers back in Barbados will ultimately get. Anyway, it is a very destructive potentiality to Barbados and experts estimate that six million tons more of sugar could be produced, as a result of this carrying world production to 93 million tons. World consumption which was rising beyond production — that is what gave rise to the high prices of last year — at 92 million will

inevitably fall below this and will reduce the price of sugar yet more in the world market.

We are also under great pressure from the EEC, Mr. Chairman. Most of our sugar goes under a guaranteed price to the EEC. This year, we are transferring the contract which Ireland has been taking up for a number of years to Britain. Tate and Lyle have offered them a small premium and they are offering to buy all the sugar that Barbados can produce, up to the level of the EEC contract and refine it in Britain. But, the EEC is offering only a 1% increase in sugar prices and this is really meaningless in all, when we consider what we are facing.

So, Mr. Chairman, before I finally commend this Resolution to the Honourable House, I want to ask us all carefully to consider Barbados' best interest, when we look at the future of the sugar industry. To the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, who commented that \$43 million is no big thing, I would tell him that last year, we imported a record number of motor vehicles and they only cost \$25 million. So maybe, 3 000 motor cars is no big thing either. We imported a record value of electronic consumer goods. No big thing. No bigger a thing, certainly, than what we have lost in sugar could pay for.

4.20 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central will know that without \$43 million, if he decided to take that off what we have to spend in drugs, medical equipment, that we would not have any drugs or medical equipment in the island. It is vital to this country that a viable sugar industry remains to maintain our standard of living, not the standard of living of the sugar proprietors or even of the sugar workers, but the standard of living of all of us. We have to understand that the export potential of the sugar industry is one of the crops on which the prosperity of Barbados is built; that all the tourism in Antigua which at one time was not far off Barbados as a tourist centre has not prevented Barbados from having five times the per capita income of Antigua; that the abandonment of the sugar industry in the small islands — St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent — is one of the reasons why those islands have been standing still; that the abandonment of the sugar industry in Jamaica which produced no more sugar last year than we did is one of the reasons why the supermarket shelves were empty, and in the words of the Leader of the Opposition, you did not see rats running around in them, the room was for elephants to run around.

The arguments ill-formed, ill-considered and owing nothing to a mature judgment about the sugar industry are sadly mistaken. We have a duty to redress the social inequalities which sugar cultivation foisted in this country. We have a duty to make sure the industry is run for the benefit of all Barbadians and not for a

few, and the Government thinks it is discharging that duty by supporting the ADC, by taking the manufacturing of sugar partly into the hands of the people and by controlling the industry as we have controlled it.

Now the industry is threatened, Sir. On October 21, I believe it was, the Sugar Producers Federation wrote to the Barbados Workers Union and asked for the current wage agreement to be extended for one year. This is not unprecedented, Sir, but on November 2, the Barbados Workers Union replied rejecting this proposal and stated that it would shortly set forth its own proposals. According to my information, this has not so far happened. Now, I think we are in fact facing a situation which is much more serious than any of us realise, really much more serious. The request of the Sugar Producers Association is not without precedent. There was an agreement negotiated during the time of the Democratic Labour Party which ran from the 1st January 1975 to the 31st December 1976. During that year of 1976 the Sugar Producers received a shot in the arm from the Democratic Labour Party in the form of a \$3 million grant from the accumulated funds. Nothing was heard then from Mr. Walcott about taking the workers' money and giving it to the sugar producers, but more important perhaps during that year of 1976, the Sugar Producers wrote to the Barbados Workers Union and asked for an extension of the agreement, in other words no wage increase for 1977, and the Barbados Workers Union agreed, subject to a bonus payment if possible, and when I came into power it fell to me to set the size of the..... I had to arbitrate either the bonus agreement or the new agreement for 1978, but we were not able to deal in amounts like 10% at that level.

Now, the sugar industry was in no means such a bad way in 1976 and 1977 as it is in now; by no means. The share of the workers and the output of the industry was much less than it is now, very much less, the sugar workers in the 1976 crop, the total wages they got was \$32 million, in 1980 they got \$56 million. Even last year they got \$46 million from a much, much smaller crop.

I have to ask myself what were the reasons which under the Democratic Labour Party persuaded the Barbados Workers Union not to object to the Sugar Producers being given \$3 million and to extending the wage agreement for a year so that the sugar workers went three years instead of the two that were originally negotiated in 1976 where they do not wish to do it in 1981, and I am calling on the Barbados Workers Union to draw back, before in attempting to destroy the Barbados Labour Party you find that you have destroyed Barbados itself.

I am only going to say this, Sir, the Government is having to deal with every contingency. Already we have heard that a number of plantations have no intention of reaping their crops; one plantation in St. Philip, even if there is not a wage increase, they are going to leave the cane and forget it. They cannot afford any longer to reap that 500 acres of cane. That is a couple of million dollars in foreign exchange gone down the drain. There are other plantations which are saying that if they go through one more season they will owe more at the bank than the plantation is worth. Do not ignore that, when the Government bought Coverly Plantation, I doubt in all for the 200 acres we had to pay out any more cash net than about \$20,000, because we bought it for just over \$200,000 and it owed the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank over \$190,000. Coverly Plantation had reached the stage where it owed more money than the plantation was worth, and you cannot tell people under those conditions to go on cultivating.

Mr. Chairman, I am appealing to the Barbados Workers Union to put the interest of Barbados first in these particular wage negotiations which are now coming, otherwise I very much fear that we will see the sort of crisis next year that none of us have ever had to face in Government or in Opposition. The day that the sugar industry decides to close down in Barbados, we will all be worse off, do not fool yourself, and I am appealing to the patriotism of the Barbados Workers Union to abate its hatred of the Government, forget the defeated candidates, forget all that, put it out of your mind and let us have the same approach to the problems of those whose jobs are threatened, whose livelihood is threatened, and the viability of the sugar industry which you had when the hon. member for St. John was Prime Minister and was Minister of Finance.

4.30 p.m.

There are worms at work in the goods solid trunk of the Barbados Workers' Union. I do not refer to anybody who is in the Democratic Labour Party or the Barbados Labour Party. There are people burrowing in there and in due course I suspect I am going to have to say my say and reveal what the Government knows about them, their plans, for whom they are working, how they want to see Barbados destroyed, how they receive instructions from overseas sources to attempt to penetrate the Barbados Workers' Union and assist in the destruction of our country so that the prosperity of Barbados which has been a byword and model will be no more, and they will be able to drag us down to the level of their overseas masters.

In the fullness of time I will have something to say about them, but perhaps not at this moment. I can only say that I hope that their existence and their influence will not combine with the frustration and the hostilities of those who are licking their electoral wounds inside the

Barbados Workers' Union, and take steps that will be erosive of our country as a whole without in the end being erosive of this Government that has five years come hell or high water to sit down in here and govern. You will not destroy the Barbados Labour Party by imposing an industrial crisis on us now and a real balance of payments crisis next year. You will only be damaging Barbados as a whole.

So, Mr. Chairman, I commend to you the Agricultural Development Corporation under new, mature and sensible management and direction. It has indeed been a buyer in the last resort of impoverished marginal plantations. For that reason you cannot expect it to show the profits of Bulkeley and Constant and the plantations in St. Thomas favoured by nature; but I am satisfied it is doing its best.

I would say only on the technical side a few small things. This money is a substantial sum of money, but the Government intends to pay it out by issue of special Treasury Bills which can be held by the Barbados National Bank as part of its reserve requirements with the Central Bank. So immediate cash will not be paid. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central loves to be up to date with the facts on the printing of money. He will be happy to hear that there is now rather more room within the Central Bank's holdings of Treasury Bills and the general issue of Treasury Bills for a modest expansion in our short term debt. The Central Bank's holding of Treasury Bills has fallen by something like 20% in the last few weeks even without applying the proceeds of the Orion Bank loan for those Treasury Bills. The Government has received the Orion Bank's money and we have put it on deposit in the Central Bank pending such steps as are necessary to be taken to reduce what the hon. member's economic advisers now tell him amount to the printing of money. The hon. member can put any construction on my words. It is intended to be a special issue of Treasury Bills and the Barbados National Bank would be glad indeed to have this debt paid off. This debt is possibly the difference between that Bank making yet another loss and making a profit, because I believe that those bad debts, the Agricultural Development Corporations debts by now are scheduled as bad debts with BNB and when they are paid the BNB's bottom line will look a great deal better.

Very shortly the financial statements of the Agricultural Development Corporation itself will be laid in the House. I do have an advance copy and the Acting Minister of Agriculture will also have an advanced copy. I do not think that these have been approved by Cabinet, so perhaps it would not be proper to make them available at the present time, but the hon. member and I would both do our best to answer any questions which arise.

So, Mr. Chairman, we had a long exposition. I hope the Government's situation on the importance of sugar to the economy is a little better understood. I have tried to explain that growing more food is not the anthesis to growing more sugar, that the two can go on together, and we are growing as much food as we can and we are using sugar to pay for the rest. I have tried to explain that the Agricultural Development Corporation although it deals in marginal lands and can be expected always to lose money on its sugar operations is yet earning valuable foreign exchange for the country and should be supported. It is also employing a great number of workers who will have no employment if the estates were abandoned and left to run to grass.

I have tried to explain that the Government has put into operation the first steps in its programme to hand the sugar industry over a little more to the people than it has been in the past by buying a sufficient number of shares in Barbados Sugar Factories Limited to make the ADC and the Government the largest shareholders. I have appealed to the Barbados Workers' Union for a reasonable approach, the approach of 1976, to the immediate wage problems of the sugar industry. I only perhaps should add, Sir, that the sugar industry lost a great deal of money in 1981 and is expecting, no matter what happens, to lose a great deal more in fact, in 1982. I think the amounts have already been published. I do not have them to hand. I have explained all this and have asked the House to support the ADC by supporting this Resolution and implicitly also supporting the Government's careful analysis and careful policies that indicate that a viable sugar industry is one of the essential props on which the prosperity of Barbados as a developing economy depends.

I beg to move that this Resolution as amended do now pass.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I had the honour and the privilege to sit and listen to about one hour and three minutes of the Hon. Prime Minister and I believe that about 98% of the time was taken up speaking about sugar. We on This Side, Mr. Chairman, believe that since the Agricultural Development Corporation is in charge of eleven plantations and the Hope Dairy Farm, plantations like Spring Hall, Bath, Fairy Valley, Haggatts and Coverly, we will not be led down that path which the Prime Minister would like to lead us to think that all the troubles or most of the troubles with ADC spring from sugar. From the Honourable Prime Minister's speech we would believe that year in and year out ADC and its eleven plantations do nothing more than plant sugar. We will not be led down that road. Fairy Valley is more of a vegetable plantation than a sugar plantation and there are

many other plantations in Barbados like this, so to try to tell us that most of the blame or all of the blame lies at the foot of sugar is begging the issue.

There are a few comments I would like to make on this Resolution as it stands. The amount of \$2.5 million is required to provide financial assistance to the Corporation to enable it to reduce the level of its indebtedness to the Barbados National Bank.
4.40 p.m.

We have been told that there are other outstanding debts. The Hon. Prime Minister said, that the Barbados National Bank has said, that those Corporations who owe them no money in 1982 will be allowed to borrow money at the rate that is going now. Those who owe them money still in 1982 will have to pay back the money at the increased level of interest.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if this \$2.5 million only goes to reduce the level of indebtedness to Barbados National Bank, it means that there is still more money owing to the Barbados National Bank, which means that the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation will not be in a position to gain from the reduced interest rates because they will still be owing money to the Barbados National Bank.

The Hon. Prime Minister said that he has to import rice, he has to import wheat. There is not a single person on this side who has said that Barbados should not be importing because we know, and simple economics, comparative advantage, tells us that it is to one's advantage to import what people are making for less than you make it for — so we are not against importing. But what we are against, Mr. Chairman, is importing the goods that are unnecessary and are used by the wealthy in this country.

We have got to a ridiculous state in Barbados today where we even import sweet potatoes. We have got to that stage in Barbados today and I have never known that before. We are importing sweet potatoes. This is the stage that we got to in Barbados today.

Let me continue, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Prime Minister and this is about the fifth time that I have heard him say.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, I would like to draw to the hon. member's attention that in 1975 we imported sweet potatoes, I think from St. Vincent, and Sam Gibbs sold them at 80¢ a pound under your democratism.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am just trying to assist him. Don't say that we have reached the stage where we didn't have to import sweet potatoes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. That is no point of order. Please continue.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am correcting you for his ignorance.

Mr. H. BLACKMAN: I will continue, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Prime Minister — he said it about three times for today and he said it earlier, I think, in the last session — the Hon. Prime Minister said that I said that \$43 million or \$42 million is no big thing.

With your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, I will quote from the *Official Gazette* that was sent to me recently, about a week ago, and I will quote exactly what I said on that occasion, with your indulgence. It is page 153 of the *Official Gazette*, No. 92 dated 22nd September, 1981 and the speech was made and I will quote exactly what I said on that occasion. "I will continue", and I am quoting:—

"I will continue, Mr. Speaker. Now, I will turn to sugar. All of us know that the price of cane sugar is likely to fluctuate up and down depending on the stocks that the sugar buyers have and also on the competition from beet sugar. If we know that the price of sugar is likely to fluctuate and we also admitted and the Central Bank has said it, that we got an unexpected"

I repeat, "\$42 million last year, that is what the Central Bank said. We received an unexpected \$42 million last year on sugar."

I continue, Mr. Chairman. I am quoting:—

"If Mr. Speaker, you say that you are going to fall back by \$43 million, that is no big thing because you got an unexpected \$42 million last year."

That is the statement I made. I am continuing.

"It will only be a critical issue" and this is the point I am trying to make....."It will only be a critical issue if you plan and project it, take into account an unexpected amount of money that you got in one year and that is bad planning and bad projection because you cannot plan in accordance with an unexpected year or a windfall year."

That was the statement I made. That is for the record. I continue, Mr. Chairman, recently there has been a lot of talk in Barbados about agriculture. Why there has been a lot of talk in Barbados about agriculture at this time more so than over the last five year, is because over the last five years we have been existing on borrowings

and a large amount of taxation and agriculture has been going downhill.

Suddenly we have realised that the people in Barbados are at their wits end to keep up with the amount of taxation that they put on them. Suddenly we realise, Mr. Chairman, that we cannot continue borrowing and I will say this. The Hon. Prime Minister in speaking about importing rice and sugar, mentioned that, well he did not say this in as many words, but what he is saying is that what he would try to do and his Government is to get foreign exchange earnings from sugar to pay for things we import that we cannot provide here.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that there are lots of things we are importing that we can provide here in Barbados and only about four weeks ago or five weeks the Hon. Minister of Agriculture addressing the Barbados Agricultural Society made the same point. He said that we are importing too much. If the Hon. Minister for Agriculture says "we are importing too much" and the Prime Minister now says that we are importing what is necessary but what we need to do is to generate foreign exchange earnings from sugar to pay for it, Mr. Chairman, I am saying that both of these gentlemen cannot be right. Both of them cannot be right. The Hon. Minister says we are importing too much. He must know what he is speaking about. He has to know what he is speaking about.

Why is it that there is so much talk nowadays about Agriculture? Why is it, Mr. Chairman? Everywhere in Barbados and the Central Bank Report says it, there has been a fall in the production of potatoes. There has been a fall in the production of yams. There has been a fall in the production of onions. Everything is going down. Everything is going down in Barbados. The production of everything is going down. That is what the Central Bank Report is saying.

I will say this. What happens when there is a shortfall of the production in Barbados and that is the basic fault in the economy. That is the basic fault in the economy of Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Cross talking, please. Order.

Mr. H. BLACKMAN: What is happening is that the Government, instead of making necessary investment in the agricultural sector decides that importation is the easiest way out, instead of making the necessary investments in agriculture.

I am saying that if the investments in tourism or half of the investments in tourism and the investment in other branches of the economy, if those investments were made in sugar and agriculture, if those investments were made in agriculture and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has repeatedly said this, if the necessary investment had

been given to agriculture, we would not be in the situation that we are in today. (ASIDE: What is the situation?) I am saying this, Mr. Chairman,.....
4.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Please, please, the reporters must do their work and they must not be interrupted. We cannot have a debate with this cross talking. Order, please, on both Sides of the Honourable House. (ASIDE) The Honourable Leader of the Honourable House, please contain yourself.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I will continue, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will give you one extra minute for the interruptions. Go ahead.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: We want certain questions answered and this is one of the problems in here, Mr. Chairman. We, over here come in here to get questions answered. (ASIDE: What is the question?) If we were over there, we would be in the position where we would have to answer questions. (ASIDE: Let us have the questions.) But, we are over here, and what is happening today, Mr. Chairman, is that the attitude is wrong. The attitude nowadays is, we have five years, you all have to stay over there and sleep for five years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: We can do nothing about it. That is the attitude. (ASIDE: Ask the question.) I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I admire certain Honourable Members on the Other Side because I think they take their duty seriously and in that role, not because you are in the Chair, Sir, I would like to say, I will put the two representatives for St. George. They take their job seriously and the Honourable Minister for St. Michael East. (APPLAUSE) But, there is too much frivolity in here. People have to become serious when you are dealing with the welfare of people.

But, I will continue with the ADC Resolution — the questions we would like to know, Mr. Chairman. There are many people at Springhall waiting for nearly two years now for land and it does not appear that they will get it until next year or further down. What is the Government doing about those people at Springhall? Another question, we would like to know what about the

amount of idle land lying around in these Government Corporations at Fairy Valley? There are lots of land lying around with grass. At Bath? (ASIDE: Bath? You can call Bath's name?) Lots of land. Acres of land in grass.

You see, Mr. Chairman, why the questions we would like to have answered? Why, are vital questions put to the Ministry of Agriculture in 1978 and 1979? Every since 1978 and 1979 we have been hearing about the future direction of the black belly sheep and you heard the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister mention the Black Belly sheep today. Why have those vital questions put to the Ministry of Agriculture in 1978 and 1979 about the future of the Black Belly sheep multiplication unit remained unanswered up to this very day? Why have those questions not been answered? What final decisions, Mr. Chairman, have been taken about the future of the Black Belly Sheep Project and the use of the land in the Scotland area for this and other livestock? These are questions we need answered.

When we come here to support a resolution for money, for ADC or BAS or anything, we need answers to questions. What were the results of the trials undertaken? The sorghum I have not hear anything about those. Just after 1976, 1977 and 1978, you heard how Barbados produces the best brand of cotton anywhere in the world. Sea Island cotton. (ASIDE: Not true.) You heard this. I am saying you heard it and I heard it. If they did not hear it, I heard it. It is a matter for them.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: The Honourable Member, in trying to support a contention is using a wide, open statement, "You heard it that Barbados produced the best brand of cotton." (ASIDE) I do not take anything you say because you know you and I. Nothing you have every said about me has ever been true. So, do not open your mouth. Please. Yes, Mr. Chairman, all I would like the Honourable Member to be, is to be a little more specific. He said I would like to know the exact statement he is referring to because if he is talking about hearing about the best brand of cotton, I want to hear him on that because that is the main point why the ADC is down in the ditch today and I am going to tell you about it. You go ahead.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph will have an opportunity shortly to reply.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I just want him to be specific because I do not want him to say that I am misquoting him at any time.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, may I continue, with your indulgence?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. (ASIDE: Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: You go ahead.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: What I was saying, Mr. Chairman is that we want to know the true position with cotton. One day you hear it is being abandoned. Two weeks after, you hear it is starting back up again. Then, two weeks later, you hear they are going to abandon it again. What is the true position with cotton? What is the true position?

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Honourable Member is up on a point of order.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, he must not say, "one week you hear the next week you hear". If he is condemning the Government and he said they come to ask questions, he must say whether the Government has made those statements or not because we cannot answer for Roy Ward.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: The Government cannot answer for Roy Ward.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. An Honourable Member says what he hears. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph will have a chance to address the Committee.

I shall have to give you another at least half minute more. (ASIDE: Half a minute.) Please. You have another two minutes.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: What.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: What I would like to find out, Mr. Chairman, is what is the latest position with the experimental food processing factory? What is the latest position with that? We have not heard anything about that recently. (ASIDE: Ask Carmeta Fraser.) We want to know what is the position with that. What about the competition and confrontation between the BAS, BMC and ADC which the Honourable Minister of

Agriculture spoke about some four weeks ago, in a speech he made at the Barbados Agricultural Society? What about the confrontation between them? What about the confrontation between these bodies?

You see, Mr. Chairman, sugar is only one branch of the mess that the ADC has got itself into. Only one branch. (ASIDE: That you all left it in.) So, to say, or to get up or to speak for over an hour about sugar and not mentioning all the other things that the 11 agricultural stations under the ADC — not to speak about the other things that these stations produced — is sidestepping the issue.

We are saying, Mr. Chairman, finally, that to support a Resolution like this, we have to have questions answered. We need to have a lot more information. We have to know exactly how much the Agricultural Development Corporation is indebted to the banks in this island. We have to know some of these things before we can support this because we do not want to have to come back next year again with another amount of money to help with the indebtedness of the Barbados National Bank.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I note that on this.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My eyes have caught the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. Please take your seat.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman this is indeed a glorious day for the Government and I must say, against the wishes of Honourable Members in my Party that if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and the Barbados Labour Party had taken my advice in the early years of 1976, 1977, and had come to this Honourable House and explained to the public of Barbados the true situation that they found the country when we took Office in September, 1976, we would not be in this position today to take the battering from an Opposition that had left it in complete chaos. And, today gives a good opportunity to deal with the BMC, to deal with the ADC and to deal with agriculture in this country.
5.00 p.m.

I know I have only got half an hour, so I might speak fast and I might skim over a lot of things. I am saying clearly, that I have refrained from speaking to the Press during my years as a Minister, because I know that I have a lot to disclose that will offend a lot of people.

Now let us deal with the ADC today. The hon. member for St. Philip South unfortunately has been pushed into a debate that he had no earthly right getting into, he should have left the others to talk, those who were in here before.

The decline of the ADC started back 1974-75 when Mr. Edward Cumberbatch the then manager of ADC, conceived a plan to plant cotton in the north of the country. Now, at that time the Government did not have the money to buy into ADC and they applied to the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank for \$12 million as a loan to the ADC for the current year. Mr. Mahon was then the Chairman of the Sugar Industry Bank and I opposed it, because I was a member of the Sugar Industry Bank. I opposed the loan and I said that Barbados cannot go back into growing cotton because the circumstances, the environment, were not in our favour. I said we had a lot of wild cotton growing which nobody had taken care of for a number of years. We had a silk cotton tree growing that nobody had looked after and the people were forced to cut it down because of its size. I said Barbados grew okras over a number of areas, you cannot eradicate the okra, and cotton and okra have never been known to survive side by side in any country.

At that time Clyde Turney was a member of the Board. We were told that the Prime Minister said the money must come from the Agricultural Credit Bank. You look up the Minutes of the Agricultural Credit Bank and you will notice that I opposed it, and I opposed it down to the end. Every member on instructions, as they say, I do not know how true, the Prime Minister told them the money must come from the ADC, and the compromise was that the then Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Bank said he would monitor the proceedings. Go and get the files and you will see, go and get the Report of the Agricultural Credit Bank for the year 1974-75 and you will see. They did not pay back the first year's money, Mr. Chairman, ADC never paid back the first year's money and then we ran into trouble with Barclays Bank, because Barclays Bank then said that they were not going to advance us money in the Agricultural Credit Bank because we were lending money which we had no hope of recovering. Check it and you will see.

Over and above that, dealing with cotton, because the whole of the north failed with cotton for up to two years. You have never reaped a pound of cotton out of the north, St. Lucy, that was planted when you all took over the estates up there. Check it and you will see. Over and above that, dealing with cotton, when I went to the Ministry, Mr. Chairman, as Minister responsible for Agriculture, my first task was to call a meeting of the BAS cotton growers and the two experts we had in Barbados. One was a West Indian cotton expert and the

other one was on loan to us from the United Kingdom, and the next thing that realised was this, that the ADC and the West Indian Cotton Association - WISICO, as it was called - agreed to sell their cotton between Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, and Britain withdrew her financial support from the project then. That is why we never got into the mechanical reaping of cotton.

Look and see the fields up by the airport, you never got them reaped, they stayed up there. When I called the meeting, do you know what the two experts said? Barbados cannot grow cotton because our agricultural wages are based on sugar wages. The other islands can grow cotton because their wages were then eight and nine dollar a day compared with agricultural wages in Barbados of between \$16 and \$20 a day and we were all getting the same price for the final weight.

Over and above that, the members of the ADC saddled the taxpayers of Barbados with an agreement whereby all the cotton grown in the LDCs were shipped to Barbados, stored at Fairy Valley and only dispatched when the contractors in Japan or the United Kingdom were ready for it. In the first year I was in office we lost over \$90,000 in the total revenue because we paid the farmers and stored the cotton in Barbados. Check the records and you will see.

But it is Roy Ward, a member of the Democratic Labour Party, President of the Cotton Association in Barbados, went abroad and sold Barbados as a cotton growing country, despite the fact that he knew we could not grow cotton successfully in Barbados, so do not talk about stopping cotton in Barbados. I stopped it and I am proud that I stopped it, because it saved the taxpayers of this country putting money into cotton to satisfy the growers, spinners in Japan and elsewhere. Have you ever grown a commodity not knowing what price you were going to get for it? WISICO employs an agent up and down in the United States, England and Japan, and any time you ask him what price cotton will bear he cannot tell you, he says he then has to negotiate. Check it and you will see.

You see, there are some people in the Ministry of Agriculture who believe they know all. Do not let me start on that end now, I will deal with that in the Estimates, so those who know that they have something to talk about, bring them down and let me line them up for you, because I will tell them. You know me, I like to talk a lot.

This ADC started off with about \$1.8 million in debt from 1975 incurred by the ADC in experiments. Over and above that, when I went to the Ministry I found

out something. Would you believe that the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for research, they are supposed to do the research on new crops, etc., but you know we had a situation where the Ministry of Agriculture was applying to agencies abroad for technical personnel and we had ADC applying to the same agency for the same technical personnel? So I said, how can you have a subordinate institution competing with the parent institution, and they carry out their own experiments, they do not care what the Ministry says at all. I said it should not be done. If the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for agriculture, they must do the research, they must direct, and as I understand it from the law, ADC was the executing body of the Ministry of Agriculture.

5.10 p.m.

But no, they wanted to set up their own hierarchy up there. They had a development Officer, a scientist and all kinds of things you can think of. The ADC had a massive structure just as big as the total Government and competing in agriculture with the Ministry of Agriculture, so nobody knew who determined the agricultural policy, whether the Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture or the Manager of the ADC. And don't talk about the Chairman because the whole problem with the Experimental Food Unit failed because the Chairman, the Manager and an associate had their own views about running the Experimental Unit contrary to the Ministry's views, and that is where the problems existed.

You talk about vegetable growing. Fairy Valley used to produce vegetables, and I will tell you Mr. Chairman, that after we recognised that Fairy Valley was returning the lowest production yield in the island for even sweet potatoes, we had to make a policy that Fairy Valley crops must only be sold to the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Out of a ten-acre field, after five acres had been sold off privately at Fairy Valley, the five acres sold directly to BMC at a far lower cost netted more returns on the books of Fairy Valley than the five acres sold in the yard. You can draw any kind of implication you feel like. *(Asides)* That is my business. You are a lecturer and you should help the students to draw implications. This is part of the problems of ADC. The ADC has never broken even. ADC started to break even when I appointed an agricultural attorney, and I said then, how can you have eleven estates with eleven managers, with a Board and expect it to function. I said no way, you have eleven managers, you want an attorney, and they will have to perform, because when we went into office we said we are going to make these plantations pay, we are going to make them break even; we are going to move you the managers to the same level as the managers in private enterprise and you will have to perform likewise. I went to Cabinet despite the

objections by certain members of Cabinet and I insisted that I did not want a general manager for ADC because I found that every manager took the excuse that the General Manager told him something and he disobeyed every written instruction from anybody else.

There is a man in Barbados called Mr. Narodny who will tell you that he brought a grass to Barbados. It was experimented on by ADC, planted by ADC and when he wrote the Ministry years after asking for the right to create an oil plant in Barbados, the only person who knew about that was Mr. Narodny and the man he dealt with at ADC, and this is supposed to be a Government institution with a Board responsible and a Minister responsible, and the Minister taking licks left, right and centre for people who ran their own business in a corner, and you had members of the Opposition trying to tell you that you did not know what you were doing.

I feel sorry for the present Minister because I know the problem he is going through, and I can tell the public of Barbados how we can cure the problems in agriculture in due course. So do not let anybody get up here and tell you about the ADC problems. And when it comes to Bath, hon. members cannot sit down in here and face me. Bath was a political financial deal for certain members of the Democratic Labour Party. When we took up Bath in 1976, Mr. Chairman, Bath was in complete ruin with grass from top to bottom. We spent money in bringing Bath back into production, and had it not been for Bath today, the ADC would be in a worse position than it is, because I said to the then Chairman, Mr. Bert Reece, that the only salvation for the ADC was to put it back in sugar cane. We might not break even in the first two to three years, but the contribution to foreign exchange in terms of sugar would more than benefit the country for what the taxpayers had to plough back into ADC to bring it back into a position that is worthy of the people of this country.

Do not let us get on to dairies because I can tell you about the Hope, about Haggatts; I can tell you about the sheep growing programme, but the time will come. You told me that I have fifteen minutes. I do not want to break the Rules, but there is so much I have to talk about.

Mr. Chairman, if the Opposition there refuses to vote for this Resolution, they should be condemned as a people who ran the Government institution ADC for their personal benefit despite the warnings of everybody that it was being run wrong. When you come down to the plantation in St. Lucy, I found the programme

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. There has been a reflection on the character of members of the Opposition.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I accept that totally and I withdraw, but I will seek to say, Mr. Chairman, that the members of the Opposition were well aware that these institutions of Government were not being run according to their statutory requirements, and that they ignored it, whether deliberately or else I do not know. I do hope that they will reconsider for the benefit of the country — it is not for the Barbados Labour Party, it is not for the Democratic Labour Party; it is a question of what benefits will enure to the country — that they should vote for the Resolution. I believe that there should be a greater vote for the ADC at this moment. The ADC has always been caught with actual operation expenses. The Central Bank, Barclays Bank and those banks have put down limits as to how they will lend to agriculture if the previous year has not been paid off. I want to say something about small farmers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have another chance. You must finish now.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, having listened to the hon. member for St. Joseph, one can only come to the conclusion that the most ancient statement *capax imperii nisi imperasset* is most applicable here. The proceedings of this Honourable House should be conducted in English and I would attempt to translate it with some degree of poetic licence, that he would have made a marvellous Minister of Agriculture if only he had never been one. His pronouncements from the Opposition benches somewhat reminded us of his presentation today and there is very little really that needs any significant response to.

I believe that I should concentrate on the contribution made by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. It is to be noted that he very delicately side-stepped the entire issue of the function, the role, the performance of the ADC, its indebtedness or role in the Barbados National Bank in dealing with this particular issue. I am not surprised that he has done so because he would leave it to others to defend the indefensible. He is smart enough to do that, but elected to follow another course of action no doubt anticipating events which will be taking place in Barbados over the next three months, and has been trying to get the public to accept certain positions in relation to the sugar industry and in relation to the economy. His new found sobriety in presentation has no doubt been dictated by the misfortunes which have befallen him.

5.20 p.m.

I wish specifically to comment on those areas which seem to me to touch in a very important way on the working people of this country. He has indicated, and I think with a degree of impropriety, because these negotiations, as far as I know, have not yet been made public,

that the Sugar Producers have written to the Barbados Workers' Union asking for one year's extension to the existing Agreement and have sought to indicate that if the Barbados Workers' Union did not accept that position that they would be contributing to an aggravation of the serious foreign currency crisis facing the country.

Having denied for sometime that the word "crisis" was inappropriate except in relation to the Transport Board, now he himself today uses that word in this Honourable House. I would say this. The Barbados Workers' Union was in no way responsible, and I repeat, in no way responsible for the delay in this year's sugar crop.

The Barbados Workers' Union as is well-known, sought on behalf of its membership a small proportion of the excess earnings of the previous years. They finally settled for \$10 million and it was due to the dilatoriness of the Minister of Finance who elected to go off on several trips, including a trip to Venezuela to see what he could get as a consequence of the oil facility that was being offered, which he now recognises was of no value to Barbados, his failure to take early action and, indeed, the failure of the Sugar Producers themselves who stated that they were in no position to start the crop even when a final Agreement was made. So it is quite unfair to try to place the blame on the workers of this country and the representatives of the workers in this country for the late start in the sugar crop. I think it was due to negligence on the part of the Government in part and to some extent the blame must be attached to the Sugar Producers. I have said that before and repeat it again here without any fear of contradiction.

Now at this point of time, to expect that after the wide range of impositions on the working people of Barbados, to expect them to go through another year without some sort of increase in their wages, I think is quite unreasonable.

It is further unreasonable, Mr. Chairman, because the Government, the Cabinet of Barbados — at least the previous Cabinet — have agreed to a disposition of the existing levies with the exception of the Provident Fund which would be absorbed into the National Insurance Fund in such a way as to provide in the main for all the capitalisation of the sugar industry with a nominal ownership structure on behalf of the small tenants, a very small proportion involved there, and I am disappointed that the hon. member for St. Andrew, who has always said he is a man of the people could have sat down in the Cabinet and agreed to that.

I would have expected him to come on the floor of this House and give me his full support in making it clear that he would not consider himself bound by the principles of collective responsibility in a matter that was

so close to the vast majority of the working people of this country in particular, since he represented an agricultural district and I would expect that kind of response when he gets up to speak.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there are many other areas here that the Hon. Prime Minister touched on. He has now discovered for the first time that the production of sugar in Barbados is partially dependent on rain and a whole lot of other factors. He was not singing that tune when he was in Opposition. He was not singing that tune. He was singing the tune that it was due entirely to the negligence of the Democratic Labour Party when every one knows that during the early 1970s Barbados went through a period of low rainfall and indeed, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Philip South made a very important contribution to this Honourable House.

I heard certain members on the Other Side trying to intimidate him. Try and intimidate me because you are not going to intimidate me because I am going to pick up this document here and I am going to embarrass you with it. This document is the Annual Statistical Digest, 1980, Central Bank of Barbados, Volume Index of Agricultural Productions Page 145.

If you, Sir, were to use 1972 as the baseline as is used in this particular document, you will see that in almost every single aspect of agricultural production that there has been a decline. As far as 1971 if you take sugar cane, there has been a decline, in 1980, your bumper year, as compared with 1971. If you take onions, there has been a decline. cotton a decline, peanuts a decline. In all of your domestic food crops, each and every single one, there has been a decline.

In livestock products there has been a slight increase. In eggs there has been some increase and in poultry, but the Minister of Finance himself made a very valid point that where you record an increase in poultry and eggs because of the high import nature of that aspect of agriculture, you have to be very careful when you look and seek to put an interpretation on the true nature, the true contribution that agricultural production made in that area because of the high import content of the factors that go into that.

Even more scandalous, Mr. Chairman, and more indicative of the kind of propaganda that the Barbados Labour Party is capable of, if you take this same document, unfortunately it is in hectares and tonnes and so on but if you look at the amount of area reaped per thousand hectares, you would see that in 1966 it was 20.6. In 1973 it was 18.7 and in 1980 it was 15.9..... all this land that they have brought back into production. The two previous Ministers of Agriculture should be

ashamed. The statistics are here. You cannot argue about that.

If you look at the number of canes milled, you will see that in 1973 there were 1,040,000 tonnes, in 1978 895. If you look at the canes per hectare.....

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It is quite easy to read off statistics from 1973 of 1,040,000 tonnes of canes milled and in 1978 the figure the hon. member was proceeding to give. 5.30 p.m.

But, I would be grateful, if he would tell the Honourable House, after 1973, how many acres or hectares of agricultural land had been sold out of agriculture into house building like Frere Pilgrim and all those up in St. Thomas and all those up in St. Philip. That is what you have to tell. You must tell the acres under production or under cultivation, as against those not under cultivation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, that is one way of reasoning. I am talking about the acreage under production and the point is that there has been no expansion. In fact, there has been a decline in the acreage under sugar production between 1970 and 1980. (ASIDE)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: An Honourable Member has risen on a point of order. Order, please. Order. Order. It is impossible for the Reporters to do their work.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is quoting in millions. We do not have millions of hectares nor acres in Barbados. So, I want to know exactly what he is dealing with. He said he is dealing with acres, but it could not be. (ASIDE: It would have to be something else.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue. There has been a claim, a serious claim made by this administration that they brought back large amounts of idle lands into cultivation. I do not care what you say you brought back. What I am telling you, either these statistics are wrong or they are right. And, the fact is that in 1970, 20.1 thousand — I believe — hectares were reaped and in 1980, 50.9. That is land mass and the amount reaped. It goes on again on the amount of canes milled and you do not see this kind of increase that you are talking about.

If you look at the canes per hectare, the average yields, you will see, in point of fact, that the first year

that you got any significant increases were in 1979 and 1980. All the other years were no big thing that you were in office.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have not even just started, and I was interrupted about 10 times.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, do not waste your time. (ASIDE: Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: I had to give way. Please do not argue with the Chair.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow, the point I think is clearly established that it is nonsensical to say because a few acres at Frere Pilgrim or a few acres at Rowans or something like that – when you take the global situation, there has been no expansion of the total amount of land under sugar production in Barbados. And, if you are going to say so, then you have to say that the Central Bank figures are wrong and I have the greatest respect for the Central Bank of Barbados. I only regret that they would not ignore advice or instructions from the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance. And, indeed, I am looking very carefully at the terms of appointment, Sir, of the head of the Federal Reserve because I understand he could be appointed, but not be dismissed. These are things that one has to look at very carefully. But, I have the greatest respect.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, since my speech seems to have given rise to some doubt, I rise on a point of explanation, if the Honourable Member would give way. The Honourable Member is talking about total sugar production. I talked about the work done by the ADC. I hope he remembers that. The ADC has increased its acreage over the last five years by 47.6% and it has increased sugar cane production by 101.5% since we have been in power. That is what I was talking about, the ADC. I made no general remarks, whether contained in the Central Bank Report or not. It is the ADC that I said is improving its yields and, incidentally, expanding its production.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point taken.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has disassociated himself from the statements of his two previous Honourable Ministers, and very clearly too. But, there are two other important aspects of his statement that I want to comment on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You can do it in one minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In one minute. This Honourable House and this country should be grateful for the way in which he said he intended to make provision for

the financing of this matter and at the same time, in an oblique but a fairly precise manner to indicate that there will be no further abnormal creation or printing of money in this country. I think that the country and the Honourable House would welcome to hear that and we will be keeping a very careful eye on that.

And, again, one final point is this that I would urge on the Government to look very carefully at the distributive sector in Barbados and see whether or not people like R. L. Seale and Company, instead of devoting so much of their time to supporting one political party or making money to give millions at election time, whether they cannot divert some of that effort towards some export component of their activities and join with the Barbados Marketing Corporation which may have some hope, under a new Honourable Minister and new management and a new Chairman, join with that exercise in forming a broader stimulus for agricultural production and agricultural marketing in Barbados.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this is a big subject that I would really like to get into, get to the meat of it, but the constraints of time are such that I would confine myself to responding to remarks made by the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance and in supporting the very valuable and important contribution made by the main spokesman for agriculture in this country, which I thought was a fine speech made by one of the finest orators in this Honourable Chamber.

Thank you. Very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up. Does any other Honourable Member wish to make a contribution?

Mr. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 1980 crop, Sir, for sugar was 125 000 tons and that yielded \$120 million. The full, estimated 1981 crop is approximately 95 000 tons and the estimated yield, in terms of dollars is approximately \$77 million.

The real loss to date so far, has been estimated by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister at \$43 million, but the overall projected loss for 1981 is really \$47 million. A lot has been said that the reasons were because there was too much rain and as a result of too much rain a late start in the crop, a drop in the sugar price and so on and so forth. But, another factor, Mr. Chairman, has to be taken into consideration and that is, as a result of all the rain that we have had, the normal agricultural production, yams, onions, carrots and so on has dropped and consequently, the non-exports of such products have also cost the Barbados economy, in terms of foreign exchange, an additional \$13 million. So, we have a lost of sugar of \$47 million and then, we have a lost of other agricultural products, as a result of the heavy rains, of some \$13 million. This, Sir, is estimated.

Now, the Central Bank Report for the Quarter, September, 1981, Sir, Volume 8 Number 3, the Quarterly Report of the Central Bank on page 14, under the heading, "Non-Sugar Agriculture" states in part that:

"The heavy rains curtailed the output of yams and carrots during the period."

— in question "yam output was one-third the amount for the first half of 1980, while carrot production fell by 20.3%,"

It goes on to say, Mr. Chairman that:

"The reduced output of sweet potatoes, beets, beans and cucumbers may also have been the result of the rainy conditions."

So, when we, on This Side, state that the decline in agricultural produce is as a result, a direct result of the heavy rainfall which we have experienced, I believe, Sir, that we are justified in saying so. (ASIDE: Do you not want any rain to fall?)

Now, the last Honourable Member who sat down really should know better, when he talked about R. L. Seale supporting a political party because there were other members, friends of That Side who supported the Democratic Labour Party when they were in power. But, the difference is, though we may have people who support our political party, you had a situation when the Democratic Labour Party was in power that the Democratic Labour Party supported people. There is a difference, Sir.

5.40 p.m.

The contingent liabilities of Government in 1976 as a result of the BMC, International Seafoods Limited, Carib West and Bath Plantation totalled \$22 million, money loaned out to friends of the Democratic Labour Party. The BMC lost over \$7 million, Mr. Chairman, on sales of \$45 million, and the liabilities stood at \$3.5 million in 1976 when we took over. There is a well known case of a man walking into the BMC to sell a pig, and he sold the same pig seven times. He went through the front door to the back, collected his money, put the pig out through the back, went back through the front door and sold the pig again, Sir. Because at the time the BMC subsidised cabbages, people went to the BMC, the BMC bought cabbages at 25 cents and sold them retail in the BMC at 20 cents. People drove up to the BMC, bought all the cabbages at 20 cents, drove around the block and came back and sold them to the BMC at 25 cents. All of that went on.

International Seafoods Limited, Sir, the directors paid up \$250,000 and borrowed \$5 million from the Barbados Development Bank. The debt-equity ratio was

too great. If any bank in Bridgetown would lend me \$5 million if I put up \$250,000, I would be very grateful, and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central would be very grateful too. The debt-equity ratio was too great. When you had Carib West, Bath Plantation, BDB hamstrung for funds, and buried in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1975-76 in a Capital vote under the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Head 109, Item 6, under Purchase of Assets, they had allocated \$5.5 million where the Minister of Finance could spend \$5.5 million without reference to Parliament. This is when he got the U.S. LST landing ship, commonly known as the North Point. He paid U.S. \$52,000 for it, another U.S. \$390, 000 to fix it at an agreed price, and after the agreed price was paid, the people asked for an additional U.S. \$200,000 that was paid too. After we came into power in September 1976 they asked for another U.S. \$124,000 and we refused to pay it, but they would have paid it.

When you had a man like Mr. Byer buying up all the meat, and Leo Leacock — do not talk to me about party politics, I thought we were talking about agriculture, and it is not fair for someone to come in here and call the name of Mr. R. L. Seale supporting a political party.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member gives way.

Mr. A. TRUSS: I am not giving way, he had his chance, let me have mine.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Let me at this stage remind hon. members that there is a time limit to the debate on this matter.

Mr. A. TRUSS: Thank you, Sir, I am sorry to have been sidetracked.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You would not know that.

Mr. A. TRUSS: with all this. I only wanted to talk on agriculture like anyone else, but some of these charges have to be answered from members on this side.

The Corporation has operated the ADC over the last year or two when it had several developmental projects that cost over \$220,000, part of which we are repaying now. The point which the hon. member for St. Philip South made about \$2.5 million, it is not \$2.5 million, it is \$3.1 million. The Hon. Minister of Finance stated that when he introduced the Bill, and that has to do with all the debts it owed up to October 31st of this year in relation to the crop for last year. It has nothing to do with what has to be repaid out of the next crop, so if the hon. member for St. Philip South had followed the

debate a little more closely, and had done his homework, he would not have to come in here and make rash statements.

The developmental projects which the ADC is carrying out, Sir, are a food processing project, a Black Belly sheep multiplication project, a cotton ginnery, a peanut project and so on. There is a combination of factors that contribute to the Corporation's poor financial record. A lot of the sugar estates are below capability in terms of sugar production, and there has been a high cost in bringing idle agricultural land that was taken out of production prior to 1976, and we have had to bring it back in. Sir, it has cost the ADC \$1,215,000 to bring back 270 hectares of agricultural land back into production.

They talk about cotton production, Sir. The cotton production which was instituted by the Democratic Labour Party when they were in power, we are still chalking up the losses in 1981 as a result of that venture, because the direct losses associated with diversification must be accounted for, and the opportunity costs in terms of cane revenue that has been lost must be accounted for, and the cost of putting the very same land that was out to cotton into agricultural production must be accounted for.

Had the ADC not existed, Mr. Chairman, a lot of the land that is marginally agricultural land would grow weeds. It is the function of the ADC to ensure that the Barbados Labour Party's Government meets the target of 150,000 tons, and last year they produced 55,000 tons of sugar, 2, 000 tons more than their projections in order for the country to meet the target of 150,000 tons.

The Prime Minister alluded to the contribution of the ADC's sugar production to gross foreign exchange earnings, Mr. Chairman. In 1975 the percentage of the island's production as accounted for the ADC was 1.7% in 1980 it is 4.8%. The estimated contribution to the island's gross export earnings, Mr. Chairman, in 1975 was \$1.8 million; in 1980 it is \$5.1 million. Clearly you can see. Now when you talk in terms of 1975, ADC's cane production in terms of tons was 14,236 tons compared to 1981 production of 57,200 tons. We are not saying that all is well at the ADC, Sir, but certainly it is better than it was prior to 1976.

As an instrument of agricultural development, Sir, let me quote that the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation Act provides that it shall be the duty of the Corporation to stimulate, facilitate and undertake the development of agriculture in this island and to carry out, operate and participate in such agricultural projects as the Cabinet may approve. Now, by virtue of that alone, Mr. Chairman, it cannot by any stretch of the imagination be any of the ADC's terms of strict business in

terms of financial conditions alone, because if that was fact then the ADC would have to get rid of all the land. What the ADC needs is to have other plantations that would yield a greater amount of sugar to offset some of the losses of keeping the marginal lands in shape and under sugar production, Sir.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the recommendations as I see them and the policy pursued by this Government, are that the Corporation should utilise its resources to become an efficient cane grower using recognised agronomic practice, and that the Corporation's developmental effort should be concentrated on (1) the implementation of the Rural Developmental Project and the Springhall Land Lease Project; (2) the consideration of alternative uses for marginal and sub-marginal land as resources would permit; (3) the rehabilitation of idle land; (4) the transfer of land to owner/operators as resources permit; (5) improving the viability of small holding sectors; and (6) supporting an appropriate mechanisation strategy for the entire island. These are the policies that are being actively pursued by the ADC. Sir.

5.50 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, it is a great pity that we had to wait so late in the debate to hear a recital of the objectives of the ADC as set out in Chapter 254 of the Laws of Barbados. I regard my duties as a parliamentarian to be something beyond just criticising the delivery, incompetence, the adequacy or inadequacies of people who do not necessarily share the same particular political persuasion as I myself happen to be convinced should be best for this Island. The kind of talk that you hear in here may be very well and good at an election time, but we are in here to do the people's business. I understand the predicament of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. member for St. Thomas. What the Prime Minister had to say in here today really has nothing to do with the Resolution. That is no reflection on you. The Prime Minister has to use an occasion whether he is giving out prizes at a secondary school, whether he is opening a Labour Party conference, or whether he is speaking on a Resolution for providing subsidised busfares to speak on something that he wants to speak on, not necessarily what he wants us to vote on. You have to understand, if you do not understand that, Mr. Chairman, and I know you do, the parliamentary process.

The Prime Minister did not speak in here today about the ADC. The Prime Minister spoke for one hour and some minutes, seven or thirteen minutes on the state of agriculture, particularly sugar cane agriculture in Barbados, and what he would like certain financial institutions not necessarily in Barbados and not necessarily connected with the Barbados National Bank to do for him at some time in the near future so that he can make his path straight with them, but he also has to

make his path straight with us, because the people in here are going to vote for it, but the record is going to be there and I want to deal with the Agricultural Development Corporation and not with sugar cane agriculture, its adequacies and inadequacies or whether it is going to be the life-blood of Barbados.

I have my views. I tell everybody and I suppose this will be hurled at me at some future occasion on a political platform, that I was born in the middle of a cane field and therefore I feel myself qualified to speak. I was born in the middle of a 26 acre cane field. The house is still there. I believe I was born inside the house at 2 o'clock in the morning. Some of my best friends are sugar producers. My grandfather was a sugar producer; he ran his own sugar factory. I used to go up in your land and break cane, not cut them, in St. George; so I am familiar. When you talk about sugar cane, sugar cane is part of my second nature, but I have never disguised what my feeling is about the sugar producers of Barbados and the social and economic disaster that they have been and the psychological disaster to the people of this island. So I would do everything possible when I was Minister or when I am a member of the Opposition to try to bolster the economy of Barbados in every particular sector. I am not going to do anything to run it down.

I heard all this talk today about the ADC and sugar cane. What are the facts? Up to 1976 the ADC was probably the largest land owner in Barbados. We were not a conquered colony, we were a settled colony and everything that ADC was vested with by this Parliament was bought with the taxpayers' money, over 5,000 acres of agricultural land and buildings in this island. One private family with their base in the parish in which I was born, the second largest owner with over 4,000 acres and then the Barbados Shipping and Trading and their subsidiaries with well over 4,000 acres as well, three entities alone in this island controlling very close to 15,000 acres of agricultural land, and the Barbados Development Corporation being amongst the largest land holders. My quarrel with the ADC is found within the four corners of the Act which has just been read out by the hon. member.

I am not going to criticise him, I do not think that what he said was relevant, but he said perhaps the only thing that has to do with the debate, what was the function of the Agricultural Development Corporation in Barbados vested by virtue of the provisions of Cap. 254 of the Laws of this Island. It was not to produce sugar cane, not to replace private capitalism by state capitalism. My quarrel with the plantation economy described by Mr. Beckword of the University of the West Indies as a persistent poverty is that it induces a state of military agriculture which leads to

persistent poverty of the masses of this country or in any other country in which the plantation system exists.

What the ADC has done during our time, during the time in which I happened to be Chairman of the Cabinet of Barbados, despite my protests, and during the time of the existence of this Government, a position which is now being vindicated and justified by no less a person than the Minister of Finance, is to perpetuate the plantation system in Barbados in which this island will never be happy. You will always have the unions being blamed for the state of the economy, for high prices of inflation as long as you have this dichotomy between ownership and workers on the plantation and on the productive lands of this island.

I just had the pleasure of returning from the South Pacific where we were privileged to go to some of the agricultural developments in that country. The country which we visited, like Barbados, formerly was a mono-culture. In 1951 there were only three motor cars with 682,000 people before Independence, but now they have a well established, well run sugar industry producing nearly 500,000 tons of sugar in the year 1981 with a very stable and happy situation because the people who are growing the sugar cane have a vested interest in it in that they are given ten acres of land, they are assisted in house building, they have roads, electricity and water and it is a pleasure for all of us to go and see the settlement that they have in Fiji in the agricultural belt. They are supplying canes to the Factory. Where the railways do not run, they have a cooperative system of transport.

We have military agriculture in Barbados with none of the efficiency of a military organisation. The first thing that we will have to do is to divorce ourselves from the ownership of the sugar cane growing lands. We must educate our peasantry in proper agricultural methods, but where you have this system of a general sitting down in an office and a field marshal somewhere overseas and then the captains and the majors occasionally visiting the troops who are out in the blazing sun, you are going to get trouble forever in this country, and you are not going to have proper social development in this country if the main instrument of agriculture and social diversification in this country is going to perpetuate an antiquated system that should have gone out 240 or 250 years ago.

But let us come to the main point now, Sir. All of the talk about sugar is going to be this and how sugar is going to be that, is 19th Century talk. We are now in the age of the mini processor and the chip, where instead of having specialisation to suit the market, you are going to have de-industrialisation. The developing countries are now coming to the stage where Britain and the European countries were in 1760 and these other countries are going ahead now and de-industrialising, putting the work

base back in the home where you have the correct social environment and so on, and we have women in Barbados being used as beasts of burden in the sugar cane fields doing the work that donkeys perform in Mexico, Antigua and other countries, that is heading canes in the fields.

6.00 p.m.

I was suddenly abused at my Party Conference because I said that the Barbados Workers' Union and the National Organisation of Women were doing nothing to take the mothers of the nation out of the sugar cane fields where the plantation owners continued to use them as beasts of burden. I will gladly be abused. You can stone me if you like. I still say you can have no pride getting off a plane in New York in your fancy silk dresses and the tourists who have been to Barbados look at you and turn aside because they know that your mother — I am not speaking about you, Sir, — is still being used in the burning sun as a beast of burden in Barbados.

There is no shelter for them to take their lunch. I hope the Minister of Labour realises this. There are no conveniences, all the trees are cut down from the side of the road. You talk about trees? They do not even plant pea trees now. That is why I am against the sugar owners, the owners of the sugar industry. I am not against the production of sugar provided it is done on humane grounds where all people can hold their heads up with pride.

Now the ADC owes the Barbados National Bank a sum of money which has not been disclosed because all we have been told is that it is to help them. The lock-ups, you know what a lock-up is because you come from St. George, the lock-ups which would have been in the Barbados Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, the lock-ups are over \$15 million. We are only bailing out the ADC.

The Prime Minister has told us that the cost of production of sugar is higher than what we are getting for sugar and he still claims that sugar is the salvation for Barbados or the micro-chip is going to be the salvation of Barbados or the micro-processor is going to be the salvation of Barbados. How can you be so inconsistent? How can one be so inconsistent to say in one breath that the cost of production is \$200 and still say that the Book of Common Prayer is the Annual Report of the Barbados Sugar Producers' Federation. That is our Book of Common Prayer because they have been preaching that we cannot do without sugar.

Why cannot we do without sugar. Sugar is not a tropical product, we have to learn to do without it. It only creates diabetics. It may have some purpose as an explosive. There are experimenting with that but in the United States of America there are even using corn now

to produce fructose, glucose and all the things that sugar is supposed to be a natural producer of.

We have to look at this thing now in a very, very broad context, in a very critical context, an industry that is costing us more than we received in revenue for the sale of its projects, I fail to see how that industry with the sad history, sociological and economical that it has had in this island could be getting the unqualified support which you are now asking us to give it.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say this. It is a great pity that we were not told more about the diversification. I heard an attempt by the member who sat down, who spoke just before me. He seemed to be a bit confused because he said the ADC was established to do all of these things and yet all the Prime Minister spoke about was sugar. Why cannot we vest the land in the people who have been sweating in the sun all of these years. We are making a great show of giving people who live on plantation tenancies 100 square metres of land for not less than \$300.

This morning a lady from my constituency went to the Ministry of Housing at Marine House to pay her rent. She is a tenant of Bath Plantation which belongs to the ADC. Her land is bare rock in Coach Hill. They increased her rent illegally 400% and she said, I am only occupying a house spot. The civil servant told her, we went up there, you have a three bedroom house on that house spot but it is still a house spot on one of the largest agricultural tenancies in Barbados and she said, well, I am not paying any more because I have been advised that as long as I am not occupying agricultural land that I can continue to pay the same rent as before under the Act, as she called it — the 1964 Act is what she meant — because I do not rent agricultural land.

Do you know the reply that she was given, Mr. Chairman? The reply that she was given by a civil servant — I have not given you notice that I will call his name but if the Minister ask me, I will supply his name — that we can make you holler so if you do not pay we will deal with you. That is how we are treating agricultural workers. If the Minister comes outside and asks the name, I am not going to break the rules of the House but I will give the name of that officer. We intend to deal with you if you do not pay the rent.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: So that is under the Agricultural Development Corporation and there are other things to be investigated.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE: I am very happy that I can stand to support this Resolution here this afternoon.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, in the 70s if the then Government was interested in agriculture, I am sure that with the sugar price that passed along in 1974, we would have had a little New York in this country.

I remember the hon. member for St. John who just sat down said that he was born some place in a cane field. I am wondering, to be born in a cane field and he is so desperate against canes..... I wonder, because when you think about 1972, I think it was, he said he did not want to see a cane blade in this country.

The next thing the hon. member said he passed laws, made laws to burn the poor canes. When I look through the district night after night and I see the burning of fire all through the island of Barbados, it really used to grieve my heart, week after week, the Democratic Labour Party made it law to burn canes. The last hon. member, the hon. member for St. Philip South, he spoke about the 1974 condition existing with sugar. I would say that in 1974 there was a demand for sugar. In a day like today we have the sugar but there is no demand for sugar and as he said that sugar is an up-and-down commodity so they never made any plans whatsoever as far as sugar was concerned.

I did a little research and I think my research comply very closely to the Hon. Prime Minister I listened to some bogus figures from the Other Side this afternoon. In 1975/76 the ADC Plantation reaped 28,646 tonnes of sugar cane. In 1976/77 when the Barbados Labour Party came into power, they reaped 33,719 tonnes of sugar. In 1977/78 they reaped 30,692 tonnes and in 1978/79 they reaped 41,924 tonnes.
6.10 p.m.

In 1979 - 80, 57 200 tons. So, Mr. Chairman, you can see the contrast here. So, you can see, these are the same estates that were under the Democratic Labour Party regime. They used to reap only 14 000 tons in 1974, 14 256 tons. So, you can see the contrast there. Mr. Chairman, the Corporation has put approximately 270 hectares of idle land back into cultivation at Spring-hall, Friendship and Bath plantation, which has been outstanding success in both financial and economical terms.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak a little about the price of vegetables and food in this country in 1974. Now, I remember in 1974, we had to import sweet potatoes from St. Vincent. (ASIDE: In 1981.) Not as far as I know. Mr. Chairman, as far as I know, we had to import sweet potatoes and sell them at the price of 75c and 80c per pound. Since 1976, instead of importing potatoes, we export potatoes. I am sure - I have the records - that this island has produced so much yams and potatoes and many various vegetables since 1976 up to now, that it is a reverse.

I was more than surprised to hear the Honourable Member for St. Philip South who said that sweet potatoes are being sold at a fantastic price. I do not know if it is that way in St. Philip, but I am sure it is not that way in St. Lucy. We also have to commend - I remember in 1978, the last two Honourable Ministers, we would have to commend them for the stand that they took in agriculture. Honourable Brathwaite and Honourable Bolden, I think they have done a fantastic job because they have transformed this country, as far as agriculture.

But, I realise that we made a small blunder in 1978, where we had more yams and potatoes than we could cope with, where there were many plantation owners who called people and they gave them yams and they gave them potatoes free because there was no sale for them. I would say, that the then Honourable Member for St. Michael West who is the Honourable Minister of Labour took it on him to go out to see markets where all the yams and potatoes that we can produce in this country, that we would have sale for them because you know it is a very difficult position. Many people believe that once you become a planter, you are a very wealthy, strong man, but I am a small planter. But, after you spend lots of money and grow produce and then, you do not have any place to get off this produce, it means it can be very difficult and hard and it does not encourage agriculture. But, thank God that we have formed a plan now, where we have an outlet for such a commodity.

Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry to hear that we have to delay the new BMC complex at Lower Estate because I am sure that that was a blessing in disguise to this country and to farmers and especially small farmers. I am sure that this island could gain a lot from that because a lot of wasted food, things that we waste in this country, I am sure that we could make much of it nowadays. Quite a lot of corn, peas, even potatoes and yams, I am sure can be tinned and all of these kinds of things, even fish. I am sure it would bring savings.

Mr. Chairman, as far as the Hope Dairy Farm, I would say, it is in the parish of St. Lucy. All the way, the Hope Dairy Farm was a paying concern. But, from the year 1978, I think the experts recommended that you should try feeding the cows on sugar cane and that really stopped the yield of milk at that farm from that time up to now. I would agree that the cows are in better condition. The equipment - they are in better condition, but they slowed up the milk and I think the folks stopped that procedure - I believe we have better equipment over there and everything.

I feel that to give the Hope Dairy Farm a chance, I believe Mr. Chairman it would succeed.

Now, this afternoon, I thought that Honourable Members from the Other Side would have gotten up and commended the Honourable Ministers on This Side for a job well done. But, instead, I was surprised to see the boldness of some of the Honourable Members and the kind of antics that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South was showing. But, I thank God to know that the people of this country are an educated electorate nowadays and they know right from wrong and they have reason. So, in a case like that, I have nothing to fear.

Mr. Chairman, I would say, that under the leadership of Mr. Bert Reece, Mr. Fields, and Mr. Franklin, I know who run the Springhall group and Mr. Power and the many others that I do not know, I think we all could commend them for a job well done, in this country. And, I definitely believe that every one in this country can see from every side that this Government is taking a very serious stock of agriculture in this country. When you think about the Fairy Valley district, someone said, Sir, that they can boast that there is better for vegetables. Now, I have tried all the years to grow vegetables, to grow canes, to do all sorts of things and the only time I saw that I could get the slightest thing from it, I still do better with the same cane that is so desperate than all those things you talked about because when you grow cane, the factory does not refuse cane, but when you grow vegetables, there is nobody to buy them, so it puts you on a spot.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am very happy that I can stand here this afternoon and support this Resolution and I believe that we can say, it is a job well done.

I thank you.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would really be very short. I am not replying to this debate finally, Sir. (ASIDE: Ten minutes left. Half and half.) I am not going to speak for very long and the Honourable Minister has a point, so I suppose his eye will be caught. But, I really am appalled at the speech of the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition and I am very sorry that he has left the Honourable House.

The Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition got in here and no doubt, hopes to capture a headline that he says that the sugar lands must be handed over to the people, when he voted against the plantation tenants being able to buy the land, on the grounds that you were taking away the property of the plantation owners. I have seldom heard a more cynical speech, a more cynical disregard of previously expressed views as on that occasion. He said we were abusing the Constitution to allow land to be taken away from people and that if you allowed this, you would be driving a hole in property rights in this island. Yet, he comes in here, with a cynical

disregard for our memories, as well as his own memory and say that.

And, if sugar has lost money this year, it made money last year. The whole point about sugar is that prices and success in sugar is cyclical and in the years you make, you generally make enough to cover the bad years. And, he also said something. I do not know how many Honourable Members heard it, but he said that sugar was not a tropical crop. The greatest nonsense I have ever heard talked in here for a very long time and I have had to listen to a lot of speeches by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South in this Parliament. He has already distinguished himself in that sphere, as well as, other Honourable Members during the 15 or 16 years that I have been in here. "Sugar is not a tropical product". That deserves to go down with the cane blade speech. When, if it is one thing that is well-known is that sugar beet cannot be produced to compete with sugar cane, unless the country producing it subsidises its production, and without fail, the production of sugar beet is subsidised in every single northern country in which it is grown. Go to Australia, where they have the climate to produce both beet and cane and search in vain for a sugar beet field. But, you will see square miles of sugar cane in the northern parts of Australia. A shameful speech, made all the more shameful for being delivered in a low key and apparently, with light and reason informing it. Ignorant from start to finish.
6.20 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I will also be very brief. Firstly, I thought the hon. member for St. Michael Central made a very unfortunate speech, and he should learn to shut up and not try to rake up things that he knows nothing about. If he wishes to reopen the Duffus Report, and if he wishes to criticise the findings of the Commission that was set up by the Government, which clearly established that in all those ventures which they investigated that the assets were reasonable to support the liabilities, then he can do so, but at least he can learn to give way when someone tries to inform him.

Certain remarks by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN at this stage.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like — I think it is important to go on record — that we on this side perceive that one of the problems with agriculture is that the people who have the money to buy the land are often the people not interested in working the land; the people who do not have money to buy the land are those who are interested in working the land. Consequently, I think the submissions by the Leader of the Opposition on the question of the distribution of the land resources of

this country in relation to productivity in agriculture are valid submissions.

The third point I want to reinforce is the point made by the Leader of the Opposition where he has pointed out that for donkeys' years, going back to the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, and what the Barbados National Bank has inherited from that particular organisation, that the soft financing provided for the sugar industry down the years, including special provisions made by the Central Bank earlier than five years ago, have probably contributed a little to inflation and the deterioration of balance of payments of Barbados, that probably you have not got the kind of return from the sugar industry when one takes those factors into consideration.

Fourthly, the question of the distribution of the land of the ADC to the people. If it is not being productively used by the ADC and we have to come in here year after year and produce money as a subsidy for the ADC, then you may consider some alternative usage for that land. It is quite unfair to try to compare the distribution of land owned by the ADC to individuals in the hope of greater productivity with the land tenancies arrangement by the present administration, because the people have now realised that if they had gone and bought the land which they were being offered under the Tenancies Act they would be paying far more now in land taxes than they were paying in rent anyhow. The people spotted that a long time ago. (ASIDES). They are paying about 10 or 15 cents a week in rent. How much do they pay now? Ten cents a week — \$5 or \$6 a year. Now they pay about \$50 or \$60 in taxes. Finally, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make this point. We talk a lot about agriculture in Barbados, and it is a fact that the agricultural output of this country was at its highest during the war, and since the war there was a substantial decline until the Democratic Labour Party came into power in 1961. There was a significant output between 1971 and about 1973, and there has been a progressive decline since then. In the area of diversification, that was at its maximum during the war and there has been a steady decline in the efforts at diversification in Barbados, and if the Chief Agricultural Officer takes the position that we have the soil and we have the expertise, and we have adequate rainfall in Barbados that we can effectively diversify our crops in this country, provided the will and organisation are there and not the kind of rubbish that we hear coming from certain quarters from time to time, it can be done.

Evidence is there that it has been done before, and what is even more important, when you talk about the performance of the Democratic Labour Party during the sixties in respect of agriculture, one must remember that you were dealing with a situation where the prices of imported foods were extremely stable and relatively low, and therefore the demand for increased domestic

productivity would not have been as great. So that you can have one accent in development strategy at one point and that does not necessarily hold for all time. The demand today for diversification and increased agricultural activity is greater than it has ever been. It is greater now than it was in 1976, in 1976 it was greater that it was in 1966.

The other point I was trying to make, I was not attacking R. L. Seale or anybody like that, I was making a very positive suggestion — that you cannot rely on one Government agency such as the BMC to handle the distributive sector in this country as far as locally produced agricultural goods are concerned. Our entire distributive sector should be involved in it. When you go to the United States and you go into the shops, they are selling pork, they are selling mutton, they are selling beef, they are selling potatoes produced in the United States. When you come here all our merchants in Bridgetown, almost without exception, are import oriented, they do not give a damn about what happens to the local products here in Barbados, and it is time that they recognise that they have a responsibility beyond importing items, making a profit on them, selling them to people and probably doing more damage to our foreign exchange.

If the Government — and I am very serious about this — if the Government should take a positive decision and explain to the merchants in this country that they have a responsibility, particularly people like Plantations Limited, General Traders, and so on, a responsibility to contribute to the marketing aspect of agriculture in Barbados, it would go a long way. I am sure the former Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, the Hon. Minister of Labour, would not in any way disagree with me on that. The BMC cannot do it alone. The capitalisation required to provide outlets to significantly influence agricultural marketing in Barbados would cost millions of dollars, and you already have that infrastructure here, it existed once you know, Mr. Chairman. In the days of J. O. Tudor, James A. Tudor, when you had a whole lot of people looking like me around in the distributive centres they used to make their contribution by buying from the small man, and the Hon. Minister of Health would know that that situation existed in this country at one stage, and he would know and would have to get up and admit that from his experience that if he could have got those people involved in the marketing of the produce of the big man, that we would go a long way. Because there is no point talking about diversification unless you start talking about marketing and guaranteed markets.

The point made by the hon. member for St. Lucy, the one valid point that he made, and he probably did not realise what he was saying, that when he grew his canes he knew his canes would always be bought, except for this year. What he was in fact saying was that he had

more confidence in his investment, in his labour in canes, because he knew he had a guaranteed market, so you cannot start talking about a diversification until you start talking about marketing arrangements.

Those people should also be thinking in terms of agro-industrial development in this country. They have the capital, but they prefer to deploy the capital in a way that is non-productive and is probably counterproductive to the best interest of Barbados. It is time that somebody gets up and tells them that. I was not attacking them, I am inviting them to direct their interest and their energies, at least a proportion of it, in a direction that could be in the overall interest in this country. They might find they might make as much money by being partially importers and partially exporters of agricultural products.

I do not care how much money R. L. Seale makes, he could make \$10 million a year, it makes no difference to me, once it is made in a manner that is in the overall public interest of Barbados.

6.30 p.m.

If it is made exclusively out of imports, I am very sorry, I do not think it is made in the overall public interest of Barbados. If they make \$5 million in imports and profits and \$5 million in stimulating agriculture in Barbados, they deserve it. That is their effort; so get straight what I am trying to say. I hope I have hammered home that point because I feel that one of the big weaknesses of agriculture in this country is that those people in the distributive area would not contribute in any way to providing a market for the small man, the medium man and the big man, and they could make a much greater contribution in that area. There will be a major debate in agriculture in this Honourable House in due course. I did not come down here prepared to speak on this matter here today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have the Estimates.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: We look forward to your allowing me to speak for much longer periods during the Estimates as you have just promised, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. L. R. TULL rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must tell you that our time is getting short.

Hon. L. R. TULL: How much time do we have, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clerk, may I check with you? We have five minutes.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I think it is a disgusting piece of effrontery for any hon. member to get

up in here and attack the Plantation Tenancies Scheme that makes it possible for people on Plantation tenancies to own the land they live on. The debate has ranged far and wide and I had no intentions of getting into it, but the point made by the hon. member who has just sat down really stirred me into action. We heard that people are regretting that they are buying the land because they have to pay more land tax than the rent they were paying. I cannot say it is a lie. They tell me I must not say that. I am familiar with land rents in the plantation tenancies in Barbados perhaps better than any hon. member of this Chamber. I have as you know, Mr. Chairman, the honour of representing the biggest agricultural constituency in Barbados. I have a constituency that is made up almost entirely of all plantation tenancies and what I am hearing in here is entirely the opposite to what is the true situation. It smacks of patronisation that is so common coming from the mouths of the members of the Opposition particularly the hon. member who just made that statement.

I would have thought that in the context of this debate a responsible Opposition if they were concerned about all these small people I am hearing about, would have taken a look at what has been happening to peasant farmers in sugar and other crops during the last year. We know, and I do not need to repeat like everybody has been saying, what the weather did and what it did not do. I know that one of the problems of the peasant farmers this year, and I would expect the Opposition to pick that up if they were worth their salt, was that they could not get their canes reaped and a lot of the canes of the peasant farmers rotted in this country. That concerns me, Sir, because they are the people I represent and I am hoping that that type of situation will never again be seen in Barbados. In short I want to see that all the powers in this country be brought to bear on the reaping of these crops. I know that the big plantations can reap their own crops and get them to the factories. What I want the Minister of Agriculture to do is to make sure whether by legislative fiat or otherwise that the canes of the peasant farmers are reaped early in the crop — they need the money a lot more, Sir — and then the land ploughed.

Let me get to the plans because the Opposition does not know what is going on, if not they would raise these things. One of the biggest problems this year, and there is going to be a big peasant farmers' crop is the fact that they cannot get their lands ploughed because you have agricultural stations that are ill-equipped to deal with the ploughing and harrowing of the fields of peasant farmers throughout the countryside, and they are going to feel the difficulty later this year, because I know for a fact that large numbers of them would not be able to get their fields ploughed.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition saying that you should give the lands to the people, and I heard the hon. member who has just sat down get up tongue in cheek, I can only consider it is tongue in cheek, and make the same point. The hon. member himself has bought plantation land in this country and cut it up and sought to sell it to poor people at \$10,000 an acre.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, I never bought any plantation land in this country and cut it up. I was a partner in the purchase of the Hope Plantation in St. George from a Barbados Labour Party supporter, a man called Davis who had already acquired sub-division permission and sub-divided years before it was sold from a man called Gale, so do not accuse me of that foolishness.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! This is a personal matter and I do not think it is in keeping with the dignity of this House for us to continue in this vein. The hon. member for St. George South may continue.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, you and I have an interest in the Hope Plantation because it runs between your constituency and mine, and I am saying categorically, I do not care what the hon. member says because I know his record for veracity, that the Hope Plantation was bought by the hon. member. He says not by him alone but by himself and other people, was sub-divided and sold to poor people for \$10,000 an acre.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time has run out. I must put the question. There will be no further debate.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, with amendment.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I inform my own colleagues on the Government benches that when I am speaking and putting a motion, I cannot be interrupted?

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. L. SISNETT, the Resolution as amended was read a first and second time and agreed to. 6.40 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask and I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that the reply to Question No. 10 is now ready.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael West is not now in his place so let the reply be laid.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: So shall it be, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Question Time and also to the end of Government Business. I beg to move Sir, that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday 24th November, 1981 at 12 o'clock noon.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 6.50 p.m.