
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th October, 1981.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House); Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.; 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. (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.); Hon. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A., (Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs); Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, (Minister of Housing and Lands); Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.), (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. P. M. GREAVES; Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE; Mr. M. A. KING; Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.A.S., J.P.; Mr. N. K. SIMMONS; Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN and Mr. A. TRUSS.

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

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

PAPERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Welfare Department for the year April, 1979 to March, 1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Sinckler Road, St. Michael.

A Bill to repeal the Vaccination Act.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:—

WHEREAS the cost of electricity has contributed significantly to inflationary and recessionary trends within the Barbados' economy, and

WHEREAS the existing electricity rates have had an adverse influence on the export potential of the economy;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House call upon the Government to undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of price-fixing mechanisms for electricity in Barbados.

Mr. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, a Bill to repeal the Vaccination Act was read a first time.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, during the early hours of Saturday, 10th October, 1981, one hundred and fifty millimetres or just over six inches of rain was recorded at the Grantley Adams International Airport with the result of flooding in some areas, particularly Wotton, Rendezvous Terrace, Lodge Road in Christ Church, Haggatt Hall and Bayville in St. Michael, and at Husbands in St. James.

The flooding created an emergency situation at Wotton where the rising water entered 15 houses requiring emergency shelter for some families and the subsequent re-location of 9 families to temporary lodgings in vacant accommodation of the National Housing Corporation at Wildey, St. Michael.

An assessment of damage to houses and personal effects was effected by the National Housing Corporation. There was found to be no major damage to structures though the damage to furniture and other personal effects was substantial in some instances. The Corporation has started to carry out minor repairs to 13 houses affected by the flood waters.

One existing well has been cleaned and is being further sunk and one other well in the critical area of the water flow will also be cleaned and sunk. Three new wells will also be sunk.
12.25 p.m.

In general however the technical advice available to the Ministry indicates that the problem of flooding in Wotton is due largely to poor drainage upstream in areas of development not under the control of the National Housing Corporation. In this connection, the Chief Town Planner has been requested to ensure that certificates of compliance should not be granted to developers in general, and in particular in respect of areas which are subject to flooding including Plum Grove, Lodge Road and Kingsland Stage III; without his being entirely satisfied that adequate provision for drainage has been carried out.

On the matter of compensation for the loss or damage of personal effects, the committee administering the Central Emergency Relief Fund will consider the

grant of immediate assistance to persons affected by the floods. Items of food, clothing and other essentials were however made available from Welfare funds as were required.

Persons relocated to Wildey may return to their homes at Wotton during the week ending 1981-10-31 and they will be assisted in this regard by the Barbados Defence Force. The Ministry of Health has advised that the area is habitable from the point of view of health and sanitation.

While some of the inconvenience of flooding is attributable to the immediately localised nature of the Wotton area, it should be noted that, whenever or wherever a deluge of the magnitude experienced on that occasion occurs, it could lead to similar problems.

The Government is appreciative of the sterling and ready assistance rendered by the Defence Force, the National Housing Corporation, CERO and individuals who also swung into action without delay in responding to the situation. Their effort and the public-spiritedness of residents of Wotton and the immediate environs are no less appreciated.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that Item Number 3 be the Instant Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order Number 3.

TREES (PRESERVATION) ACT, 1981

Order Number 3 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to make provisions for the preservation of trees.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving that this Bill be read a second time, I wish to make a few comments.

This Bill seeks to put an end to the indiscriminate cutting down of trees. When I introduced an amendment to the Town Planning Act, a few Sittings ago, I said, on that occasion, that there were areas in the Town Planning Act that were attracting the attention of the Government and that the Government was particularly concerned with. Not only has this Government been concerned with certain aspects of the Act, in relation to development as a whole, but I would like to inform Honourable Members, that during the past Administration, that of the Democratic Labour Party, they too were

concerned with the indiscriminate felling of trees, but, for some reason or another, the Act did not find its way to this Honourable Chamber.

The Barbados Labour Party Government, on assuming office, established, on the instruction of Cabinet, a Committee to look at how best it could be advised on legislation affecting this practice, indiscriminate practice of cutting down trees. We, as a Government feel that the environment ought to be protected from people who are not fully aware of the enhancement which trees, generally could bring to this country. Conservationists, Mr. Speaker, too support the view that too often, people have been cutting down trees which form part of the beauty of this island Barbados and they have expressed their concern on this particular matter.

The environmentalists, as well as, the conservationists, have supported the idea that a Bill should be brought into effect, so that, a better policing of trees, planting of trees, and preserving trees could be had. The Government is mindful, that under the Town and Country Planning Act, that the Chief Town Planner has power to supervise or to make certain impositions in respect of trees. But, it was also considered by this Government that that particular Section, Section 27 of that Act was not adequate enough to deal with this particular problem and, therefore, the bringing down of this Bill is the result of that decision taken by Cabinet.

The Bill, Mr. Speaker, will place in the hands of the Chief Town Planner, the responsibility and the prerogative to see that the further indiscriminate destruction of trees is forbidden. The Act sets out to determine and to explain what is considered to be a tree. A tree being one that measures half a metre away from the ground. The circumference of this tree — I hope that Honourable Members from that Side, it seems as though they are wondering what is meant by circumference, but it is the measurement right around the tree. If that is one and a half metres, that constitutes a tree.

So. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, this Bill is to further tighten up on development and to ensure that orderly development is preserved in this country. We have had recommendations from the Parks and Beaches Commission, the Caribbean Conservation, as well, as the Barbados National Trust. All of them have made their input in this Bill and they have all supported the introduction of this Bill in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is not very much more that I wish to say at this point, other than to say, that the Government has looked at other legislation which was passed in Singapore and the United Kingdom and we have adopted the most relevant parts of those particular Bills, or particular Acts of those countries. So that, we are in

line with those environmentalists and conservationists who feel that the wanton destruction of trees should be put to an end.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is....The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.
12.35 p.m.

Mr. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, there are certain sections of this Bill that I am a little concerned about, and the section which causes me the most concern is section 12. Section 12 of the Bill gives the Town Planner the authority to ask for a deposit of funds from any person whose permission has been granted to carry out development before that person can actually carry out that development. The idea behind the fund is that in case the applicant does not carry out the requested planting of the required trees by the Chief Town Planner, he may use these funds to carry out the work. If there is any shortfall he can claim it through the courts, if there is any surplus the funds have to be refunded.

Two things concern me here. First of all, why is the Town Planner selected as the Government Officer to determine the types of trees, the variety, etc. that should be planted in a development? Secondly, why should you put an additional burden like this, which would obviously involve some bookkeeping and additional administrative responsibility, on the Chief Town Planner, when all of us who are acquainted with that Department are very well aware that at the moment they are functioning under some very heavy loads, and even getting back your permission in time is proving quite fruitless.

I am saying that this provision should be looked at very carefully, since in my opinion it begins to infringe on one's rights and we should be very careful when we go into this type of legislation. As far as I am aware it is the first time that one is asked to deposit funds before a permission is actually granted to carry out any works at all, and when you consider what are the penalties involved, where it is quite possible that the person can be gaoled for six months for not depositing the funds as instructed by the planner, one has to wonder whether this particular inclusion in the proposal is right and correct at this time.

The other one, as I said, if you notice the definition we are only speaking of trees that are one metre or more at a point and half a metre from the ground, which would mean that these are very big trees we are speaking of. I agree that trees like these take quite a bit of time to mature and we should not be wantonly destroying them. My other contention is that the provisions are

quite adequate that if one who has applied for permission and is given instruction to carry out certain amenity works, the provisions are quite adequate to punish that person if these works are not carried out. I am not in agreement with the provision where he has to deposit the funds, because it is very likely that the man could have his funds deposited for up to two and a half years, because we know you have up to two years to carry out a development before it is cancelled, and the Government can well be holding funds belonging to a prospective developer for two and a half years, funds that he could jolly well use, and he would not be getting any interest or anything on them, so I personally, Mr. Speaker, would suggest to the Minister that he should have a very close look at those provisions under this particular Bill that is before the House.

I am glad to see that we are introducing an Act which would allow us to improve the amenities around us, and I can only hope that the other Acts that give powers also to improve the amenities will be policed properly. For argument's sake, if you approach one of the main accesses to our sea port, from the Lower Broad Street and, it is a very pleasing sight when you pass through Trevor's Way, but if you approach it from the Eagle Hall end I am certain that the sight is not so pleasing at all. Far from having nice greenery like Trevor's Way you have one of the ugliest sights in the supposed old car museum we have, and I can only hope that the Minister would have a look at it, because in our approaches to our main ports of entry it is really the thing that we should have them all cleaned up. As I said, Trevor's Way is really a nice place to approach the Deep Water Harbour from and I am certain there are lots of us who prefer to make a detour in order not to pass the other way.

In keeping with the amenities by planting, I think we should also improve them by removing any such eyesores like these that have been dotting the countryside and the port wherever you go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, my contribution to this particular debate will be fairly brief. I had hoped that the Minister in introducing the Bill would have given us perhaps a more broad based and in-depth indication of the policy of the Government regarding the preservation of trees. What he has done is to indicate to us that after some agitation on the part of a number of distinguished organisations the Government apparently to satisfy the requirement looked at some legislation in Singapore and elsewhere and has come up with this Bill.

My colleague has indicated one of the areas of difficulty, but I am not concerned with the details of the Bill so much as with the basic policy guidelines which the Government ought to take the opportunity of the introduction of this particular piece of legislation

to let the citizens at large understand what is the broad policy regarding the preservation of trees.

One talks of the preservation of trees. To a person who has grown up in Barbados there are some trees which have never had any redeeming value as far as they are concerned and they might not be too keen to preserve such trees. I think that the concept of trees for the sake of beauty is something which we have to instil into the community at large, especially in more recent times. And more particularly I think the Government ought to indicate what attitude Government itself will take in this whole business of the destruction of trees. I will make bold to say, Sir, that from the public sector, the governmental sector, more destruction of trees has occurred than from perhaps the individual person with a plot of land who has been clearing it away.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that this piece of legislation did not come before the destruction of a number of trees at Ilaro Court, for example. A substantial number of very important trees were indiscriminately destroyed in the area of Ilaro Court and the surrounding areas. It is unfortunate that the large flamboyant tree at Fitts Village which has provided a measure of relief to the eye, to say nothing of a high appreciation of the aesthetic value of the sea coast as it relates to the water, Sir, that flamboyant tree was systematically destroyed when I am not sure what is going there, Sir — but a project at Fitts Village. I am agreeing that the project, the band stand, etc., despite the fact that some people say it is too small, I am agreeing that the concept is a good one.

12.45 p.m.

I am saying that there should have been some thought given to the incorporation of that flamboyant tree into the total plan. I am certain that if the former Minister responsible for the environment had had enough time to give it his personal attention in that regard, because I have heard him in this Honourable House and I have reason to believe that he is an environmentalist at heart, he would not have subscribed to the destruction of that beautiful tree.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that hot and sweaty a Government Ministry indicated that there would be a debushing campaign. There were no guidelines given to the citizens for debushing, and Mr. Speaker, that stretch of property which runs between Paradise and the Lazaretto suffered a devastation, and there are trees in that areas which had been obviously part of the scenery of Barbados for a substantial number of years that had been systematically destroyed. We can point to a number of areas arising out of that so-called debushing programme where trees were destroyed indiscriminately, and what is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, — I am being asked to deal with the Minister, but I cannot deal with the Minister —

what is unfortunate is that after that debushing campaign which lasted like the proverbial grass in the Bible that withered, the campaign lasted for a few weeks, since then Barbados has seen more bush than it has ever seen before; so we have more bush and less trees.

Mr. Speaker, what I am saying basically is that one had hoped that the Minister would have indicated that a consultation with the said organisations which he named had resulted in the decision to establish a tree preservation department within the Ministry of the Environment which would have seen, for example, the placing on the staff of a tree surgeon or a series of tree surgeons, persons whose business it is to deal with trees, persons who can advise on the best kind of tree that ought to be preserved as compared with some trees that should be destroyed for "a" reason or "b" reason, and that this department would in fact form a new thrust on the part of the Government; and I am not even specifically thinking of that Government; I am talking about the public sector which would in fact lead the way for the rest of the citizens in the whole context of beautifying the environment of Barbados.

Our environment is considerably small, Mr. Speaker, and with the influx of additional persons by way of the tourist industry, with the influx of sometimes indiscriminate developers, it is very important that there be a policy for the environment for which there is no doubt in the minds of anyone that is concerned with development in this country, and that is why I would have preferred to hear of the setting up of a Department or a sub-committee in the Ministry of Environment.

I suspect, Sir, that the Hon. Minister who headed this portfolio just previous to the present Minister had given an indication to this House that that in fact was his thinking. I recall when we discussed the beautification of the Harbour area that he indicated a very strong interest in the preservation of trees and the preservation of the environment, and I think he gave an undertaking to this Honourable House that it was his intention to create within the Ministry a Department of the Environment that would have gone more specifically into these areas.

The whole question of the destruction of the trees on the coast, Mr. Speaker, is a matter which has not as yet attracted perhaps as much attention as it should. Very often if one is a regular traverser of the beach, one can go on a given morning and discover that a very large beach tree, for want of a better term, has suddenly fallen prey to the agents of denudation, and that tree will lie across the sea for some significant time until either it is washed out to sea or it is destroyed in some other way, and one more tree from around our coast is lost. So I am suggesting to the Government that this is not a matter on which there is going to be any controversy; it is not a matter on which we will take

a position opposite to them in the preservation of trees, because the preservation of trees in Barbados must be for the generations to come, and therefore there ought to be no difficulty with the concept. But we are saying that the Government needs to do more or if it is doing more, it needs to let us know what it is doing in this total area of the preservation of the environment. It is not merely the question of the introduction of a piece of hybrid legislation which seeks to give the Town Planner specific powers. The Town Planner in my opinion is probably the least qualified officer, not person, because the holder of that office at the moment may very well be a man of exquisite taste, but the Chief Town Planner as an officer is perhaps the least likely person to deal with this piece of legislation. Given the provisions outlined in this Bill, it is going to be some twenty-eight days after application that a decision is required, and it does not say what happens if the Town Planner does not give a decision within the 28 days which is all very interesting when you are dealing with a Government Department, because, Mr. Speaker, you and I know that with the best will in the world a Government Department where it is required to give a decision in 28 days could very well find itself giving that decision in 280 days. What happens in those circumstances to the person who makes the application and has a particular tree killed? I suspect that the kind of interest which would be demonstrated in a Department like Town and Country Planning in the killing or otherwise of a tree will be of less priority as compared with the other decisions which have to be made concerning development if a specially qualified group of persons had been garnered within the confines of the Ministry of the Environment to deal specifically with this whole question of the preservation of trees and other matters related thereto.

I therefore offer the Minister for what it is worth those few comments in the hope that despite the fact that he has attached it to the Town Planner that at some time he would be able perhaps to encompass within the circumference of his Ministry a Department that would allow the preservation of trees to form a more positive part of the thrust of our development in Barbados.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the comments made by the hon. members on the other side indicate quite clearly that there is a degree of unanimity on both sides of this House with respect to the need for Government to ensure that more attention is paid to the environment in Barbados. I think it is useful at this stage to point out the efforts that have been made by both political parties in this country while they were in Government, and in particular the efforts in the last five years. It seems to me, however, that we are coming around to the point of view that we need to have a comprehensive look at the whole structure of the Town Planning Act in Barbados. I always held the view that a fundamental mistake was made when Town and

Country Planning legislation was introduced permanently as opposed to the Interim Control Act of 1959 when we placed in the hands of one person, one officer, all of these powers. It is a unique situation to give an individual as an officer the totality of powers that have been granted to the Town Planner in any country. What we need is a planning authority in which the total powers are placed in the planning authority with the Chief Town Planner being the principal technical officer of that authority. Within that authority you would be able to compile a variety of interests which should be brought to bear upon the administration of any Town Planning law.

12.55 p.m.

This is a fundamental point. I know that we have copied the Town Planning Legislation from Great Britain but I well remember when it was first introduced. I used to be a Legal Adviser to a local authority and from the very beginning I foresaw that these difficulties would arise. Our scheme of operation places the Town Planner in a position where he has to make a decision but before he makes this decision, he is mandatorily required by statute to consult with a number of bodies which bodies in other countries would be present on the authority and participate in the decision making power.

We have tried by the activation of the Section which allows a Town Planning Advisory Committee to ensure that general norms are brought into existence so that the public would be able to know the criteria that the Town Planner would take into account in the exercise of this absolute discretion that is granted in the Act that has mitigated to a certain extent, the arbitrary nature of some of the decisions which have been granted and, of course, they have been supplemented by certain policy directives which have been announced from time to time by Cabinet but we are still, Mr. Speaker, in the position in which the full impact of the Town Planning Legislation is not honoured in its observance as we would like to see.

Now, I am very glad that the hon. member has raised the question of debushing and things of that kind and the indiscriminate cutting down of trees. We have appointed a Special Committee, a Cabinet Sub-Committee, chaired by the previous Minister of Lands because we were so concerned with the fact that there is such a total indifference on the part of some landowners in Barbados and I repeat, some landowners, and in particular from our own observations and from our own independent investigations within our constituencies, we found that these landowners were not even resident in Barbados. These were people who decided in their minds that the pastures were greener on another part of the World. They have total indifference to their social obligations here in Barbados.

There are others who have bought land here purely for the purpose of land speculation and they, too carried out their obligations in their country of permanent residence so this Sub-Committee was charged with the responsibility of recommending such reforms in the relevant Laws, under the Health Services Act, under the Sanitation Act, under the Parks and Beaches Act and under the Town Planning Act to ensure that these eye-sores that all of us have to tolerate would be removed. When the Hon. Minister of Health at that time tried through moral persuasion and exhortation to get people to be aware of the need to clean up unbushed lands, to clean up derelict buildings and things of that kind, there was a howl of protest from the so-called well-meaners in this community, the special interests in this community, about the fact that trees were being cut down indiscriminately.

Well, Sir, I still believe that far from abandoning that campaign, we need a more vigorous pursuit of the campaign and prosecutions under the Health Services Act and demolitions under the relevant Section of the Town Planning Act. That is what we need. We need that because hon. members on the Other Side do not suffer the misfortunes like many people suffer in this country of having bought a lot in a development, having expended money to build a lot to be surrounded by lots that other people have bought who refuse even to clean up the lots and they are surrounded when the nights come with rats and things running all around them.

Go and look at any of the developments that have taken place here and you will see large numbers of lots which have been bought and which owners have no obligation at all, no sense of social obligation to the community.

The hon. member represents a constituency which is well built-up but those of us who represent constituents in Christ Church, certain parts, particularly the Eastern part of Christ Church and East Central, will recognise the problem that you get being beseeched all the time by your constituents about what to do and when you go to the Health Service Department you get such a feeling of total indifference. (ASIDES).

I am saying it on the floor of this House. I have letters from my constituents where they have written to the Chief Medical Officer of Health, months and months and months asking them to take action under the Health Services Regulations because they have dumps on these unsold lots and they get nothing, absolutely nothing, and I make no bones about this.

I have raised it at Cabinet. I have raised it on platforms and I raised it in the House of Assembly and I have told both successive Ministers of Health, in my opinion, the Public Health Inspectors are not doing

their duty in this country for the amount that they are paid of the taxpayers' money in this respect. I say that openly, without any fear of contradiction with all the seriousness that I am known for, Sir. I challenge them again for not carrying out their duties. It is a very serious thing and when you complain to the Medical Officer of Health, what do you get? Only a statement about they have to be trained. Trained what?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we had a Vestry system, the Public Health Inspectors used to visit peoples' houses periodically. I challenge any hon. member in this country to state the last days when they have seen or heard of a Public Health Inspector around their place — (ASIDES). They must have received a complaint about the state of the hon. member's house (LAUGHTER) and the impact of the complaints that I make to the present Hon. Minister of Health because I know that the present Hon. Minister of Health has already summoned meetings with his Department Heads saying that he feels the same way as I feel. The Hon. Minister of Health has given us that assurance and I know that it has been done.

We have set up a whole Inter-Departmental Committee under a Cabinet Minister, under a Senior Minister to deal with this problem. That is the seriousness with which we regard this. That is the seriousness so that I would like the hon. members on the Other Side to know that the Government is not in anyway delinquent about this as to the destruction of the trees.

The hon. member should recognise — go and have a look around Queen's Park. Go and have a look around St. Michael's new playground there by the Hospital and you will see the degree of concern and feeling that the Government has in this respect. We want to have from the Globe Theatre right down, a proper greenery. I believe that in a City it is necessary for peace of mind that people can be able now and again to walk and talk to themselves in a very good atmosphere.

Look at what we are doing there? We would like to carry that right up to Glendairy, right through the Gully side there. It is possible. We envisaged this as long ago as in the 1966 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. As long ago as that. We talked about that, a walk-way running right along the River side, right through Gully House going right up. We would like to see that....

1.05 p.m.

The Parks and Beaches Commission are taking positive steps, in relation to this.

Now, on the question of the trees on the beach side. I know more on that because I have seen it with my own two eyes what happened with the cutting down of grape trees on Welches Beach in Christ Church. When I

was a boy, along Welches beach, the whole of that was a large beach. You could walk from Welches right down to Half Moon Fort and some bright person came along and cut down all the grape trees along there and it eroded the whole area. If you go there now, had it not been for the beach works that we did — we had to commission a study from Kendall point right down to St. Lawrence Church because the sea was coming to the road, over the road. I raised this in here in 1966, when the Honourable Minister of Communications at the time was Mr. Boxill, because we saw, the haunching exposed. The haunching was exposed there just above Cashel.

But, I would also point out to the Honourable Member, that there are other problems, in relation to Manchineel trees. There are problems in relation to the movement on the coast and on the west coast. We have commissioned a study with the help of the American Development Bank whose terms of reference will be to study the whole of the coastline between the Deep Water Harbour and Six Men's or Sherman's or somewhere in that area. That study — the consultants have been appointed for that study. So that, we are very, very serious about the question of coastal erosion and the question of trees.

Now, if you have a history, a real history in which, there is a lack of respect for planning authority in Barbados, there is a lack of respect for it, the remedies that were in the Town Planning Act were so drastic, until it was lately amended, namely, that your only remedy if a person did not carry out the terms of the planning permission was a demolition notice. Now, if a person knocks down a tree, the tree is down already, what is the use of the remedy of a demolition notice? We have now amended that Act to fine a person where the Town Planner finds him carrying out work, he can issue a stop order.

But, in relation to things like trees, you have to have an additional remedy, because what you want to ensure now is that if permission is granted and a condition of the permission is that he does not destroy trees, or that if he destroys trees, he must replant a tree. Because, let us make no mistake about it, some of the trees in the past have been planted in such a way that it is impossible even to widen highways, because every Honourable Member would be aware that in the past, before Town Planning, the Barbadian's sense of ownership was that he would build his guard wall right up to the public road. There was no set back requirements and the Government now, has been systematically trying to remedy some of that. (ASIDES) We are trying to do that. We are trying to remedy it. The Democratic Labour Party in 15 years did not do much to remedy it.

We took down the St. Mary's wall, all along the area. Do you not see sidewalks built and things like that? All of this is happening. (ASIDES) The Honourable Member for St. Michael, I think it is, North West will tell

you that all during the 15 years when he was a strong advocate of the Democratic Labour Party, he had to suffer near where he carried on his business with a situation in which there was a very bad corner, just before St. Stephen's Church, and there used to be accident after accident. I know that he pleaded with his Government to do something to cut out that corner and put in a sidewalk. But, he had to wait until our Government, this Government, his Government too, got into power to get that done. It is a fact. St. Stephen's corner had to be done, during the course of the Barbados Labour Party Regime. We have a number more. There are some bad ones. There is one so bad at Dover corner that there is an accident every day.

Now, in these situations, very often a Barbadian in the past would plant a tree right within his guard wall. So, it is obvious, that if we are to carry out the necessary improvement, some trees would have to be destroyed. But, the reason for the Section that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North raises doubts about is to ensure that if permission is granted to take down a tree, as part of a condition, but with the obligations to put back up one, and if you do not put back up one that the monitoring means is there for them to go and put it back in, in accordance with the planning permission. But, this is something that we must remember when we are in a reform zeal, we must remember that you come up against all kinds of practical difficulties to implement what you want to implement because of the history, the tradition, the conservatism of this thing and of course, the lack of the will, on the part of some people to carry out their duty. We know that. Politicians have to stumble with that all the time. They have to face that fact. You can make all kinds of statements, you can ask for all kinds of policies to be implemented, but the actual people can frustrate you.

So that, the position is, Sir, we are very glad to ensure that there is a bi-partisan political attitude to this.

On the question of the eyesore on the Harbour Road, Honourable Members would be surprised to know that at least 200 times, in the course of the last five years, all the authorities who were responsible for carrying out the Law, in respect of the removal of that car museum have been requested, begged, cursed, exhorted to carry out the Law and up to now, it still cannot be done.

I well remember now, the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition who is not present, saying and voicing these kinds of frustrations, too. I remember, there was a man called "King James" at the corner of Constitution Road and that the Government acquired that land and it took them 13 years to get him off the spot. I well remember that and the Honourable Member getting in here — I was in here in 1966 — and saying, what do you expect him to

do. The position is, that in my opinion, the old car museum is a breach of all the rules related to Town Planning. All rules. I hope now that the Law has been amended that a notice will be served and that the \$1 500 a day or \$500 a day fine will now run. I do not mind whose friend he is. The Government has gone so far as to charge the Ministry of Communications and Works with the responsibility of finding an alternative site for a man who is operating illegally. We are in a position now, where some people feel that all they have to do is to break the Laws, make a big, human cry in this community and then clasp upon the taxpayers, the obligation to provide property for them so that they cannot break the Law. That is what we have come to. That is why, I am very glad to hear the complaints raised in respect of the old car museum coming from the Other Side because I know now that when this Side moves, it cannot be any question of political controversy. They are not the only ones who have to move either. There are a lot of people setting up illegal mobile canteens all about Barbados without reference to the Town Planning Laws, too. It happens. This is what we are dealing with. In my own constituency there is a man who wants to set up a garage on Government property, right next to the main road. That happens.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North came in here — I have a good political memory — and he brought down the Law amending the Crown Properties Vesting Act to allow the Minister for Lands to make regulations dealing with who can occupy Government lands and the terms and conditions on which you can occupy Government lands. The Honourable Member will remember that. I even remember his speech, in which he said it was the same garage that motivated it. The garage is still there. Now and again, you have to run him off all the time. That is the persistent type of person that we have to deal with. You have to deal with people whose intention is to break the Law on a number of these points.
1.15 p.m.

It appears to me that once you indicate that you are a persistent type, that the people who have to enforce the law feel that they must back off then, because they say 'I want to be a nice boy, somebody will knock me down when I am passing at night' or something like that.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is but another attempt on the part of the Government to make sure that the environment of Barbados is protected, but recognising at the same time that we must have progress and when we have to interfere with the environment we are seeking a mechanism to ensure that we enhance the environment by the type of measures which we regard as a condition of permit to destroy.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief in my intervention. The Hon. Deputy Leader of the Government did indicate that there was nothing controversial in this particular measure as such, and he is indeed right on this, because from this side we have not spoken, nor are we speaking, against the basic principles underlined in the Bill. None of the two speakers who spoke from this side has voiced opposition to the principles of the Bill and I will not do that either, because the objects basically are laudible. That is, that certain trees should be preserved since those trees may be beneficial either from an economic or from an aesthetic point of view in this country.

While I am at it, Mr. Speaker, may I take note of the presence of the Prime Minister and member for St. Thomas. He went on a long journey and we are very glad that he is back, having worked on behalf of Barbados outside of Barbados. We are very happy to welcome him back to work for Barbados inside Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, this particular measure that we have before us is one that we must pay especial attention to, and if we make comments it is not because we are disagreeing with the principles in the piece of legislation, but it may be because we may question the capacity of the Government to implement some of the laudible proposals that they place on the national agenda of this country, and when I make that point I am fortified in that comment when I listen to the Hon. Deputy Leader of the Government, because he himself has voiced some of the frustrations which the Government experiences in getting its policies implemented.

He has launched a broadside against the Public Health Inspectorate. I would hardly think that the Public Health Inspectorate of this country deserves such a total condemnation, because we would believe that they make a substantial contribution towards preserving the health of this country, and I am certain that on reflection the Minister might wish to modify.....

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I am very glad the hon. member gives way, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: The hon. member said that I would wish to modify. I do not want to modify anything, I say that in respect of enforcing the Public Health Regulations for debushing that the Public Health Inspectorate in Barbados has been guilty of gross negligence.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Now we see that hardliner in the Government. He is emerging every day more and more as the hardliner in the Government and I am certain

the Press will have that statement. There will be no misquotations, they are bound to have them.

Mr. Speaker, it appears to us that this is an overloaded Government, overloaded from the point of view that it may have very good intentions, and in the amount of legislation that it has brought down to this Parliament that that legislation may not meet with opposition because the objects are laudible. However, there must be a serious question about the capacity of the Government to implement the proposals that they bring down, and I am certain that this is going to be one of those measures. It is an overloaded Government because in a large number of measures it is attempting to do more than the resources and the capacity of this country is capable of doing.

Take this particular measure here for instance. We have proposals for dealing with the protection and the preservation of trees. We are talking about trees which measure one metre in circumference and about a half metre up from the base. These are very large trees, and they exclude most of the fruit trees in this country. Maybe these are protected under other pieces of legislation, but these are some very large trees that we are talking about, and maybe it is good to protect them. Some trees I know are beneficial, but there is no point fooling ourselves, some trees are also harmful, and this particular piece of legislation does not prevent one from killing a tree that is considered harmful or which may bring imminent danger to someone.

But I am questioning the capacity of the Government. There is no point trying to separate the political executive from the administrative executive and the administrative machinery. There is no point trying to separate the Cabinet in this particular regard from the Civil Service, because there is no point passing these laudible objectives unless the machinery of Government is capable of implementing the objectives set out, and even now on Government property itself there are trees which are harmful to individuals. Branches and other parts of the trees become rotten, they fall and create dangers to citizens of this country and the Government seems to be incapable, or does not have the necessary resources and facilities to deal with such problems. I would like the Minister to tell me what equipment and facilities are available to the Government in a working order to preserve these trees which are already there and to come readily within 28 days, within 10 days or within 50 days in order to protect trees which are already growing so that they would not be a danger to the citizens of this country.

I have a situation in my own constituency. One of my constituents called me and complained about falling branches from large trees, and I am hoping that the

Government will be able to respond to these particular matters.

1.25 p.m.

Here we are talking also about the preservation of trees, but still throughout this country we can see destructive growth which may in fact kill trees, and very little seems to be done about it. We want to protect trees from the human agents, but we seem not to want to protect them from other natural growth. I am amazed in spite of legislation on the Statute Book that vines such as lovevine seems to be growing unchecked in this country, and very visibly to those who have responsibility in this country for dealing with such matters. I may be wrong but I see very little positive action.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that trees may be destroyed through natural growth, and here we have legislation already on the Statute Books, but we do not see the action being taken in order to carry out the necessary control. As I have said, this is not really a controversial matter. Like my colleague the hon. member for St. Philip North, I myself question why the Chief Town Planner who is not competent is given this particular authority in respect of trees. When I say "not competent" I do not mean that he does not have a love for trees, but the whole drift and purpose of the Town Planning Department may not have that particular expertise in it to deal with these matters, but I will take the explanation of the Deputy Leader of the House that the intention may be to create or to move towards one planning authority in which such matters are vested. I myself was wondering about the allocation of that particular authority.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am making the point that it is a laudible objective to have such trees as are identified by definition in this Act preserved. I am however questioning the capacity of the governmental machinery and the resources and equipment and facilities available to the Government in order to implement the proposals in this particular measure, because it is clear that without the necessary equipment and without the necessary personnel provided in order to carry out the implications and the exquisite statements in this Act, it will just be a number of words printed on paper. We come down here with a lot of legislation, but we do not look at the personnel implications and we do not look closely at the resource implications for the measures which we bring down, and it is in this particular regard that I say the Government may be overloaded.

I therefore end by saying we accept the proposals in this measure, but we have made certain observations which we hope the Government will take into account and realise that the comments we have made are meant for the improvement of measures which are brought down to this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, anyone who has taken the trouble to read the debates of this Honourable House and of the Other Place going back for over 100 years may indeed be surprised today to learn that a subject that was debated at that time in that House is again occupying the attention of this House. Unfortunately I do not think that many people take the opportunity to look through the old laws of Barbados to discover that many of the things that recur in our Island from time to time have occurred before, and that some of the solutions which are being posited today as new solutions are solutions which have been tried before, but for several reasons have failed.

We have had on the Statute Book of Barbados back in the 18th Century legislation dealing with the cutting down of trees as well as legislation dealing with the preservation of trees. Unfortunately this legislation has lapsed for several reasons. I think there were about three separate bits of legislation prior to the beginning of this century which deal with the issue of the preservation of trees and the cultivation of trees, and indeed soon after the settlement an effort was made to try to preserve natural areas, although of course at the time of the settlement there was the necessity to develop Barbados, and many of the early settlers, many of the early inhabitants of Barbados were perhaps more concerned then with development rather than preservation as such, but there came a time when it was necessary to preserve because otherwise the land became bare, and we were losing by slippage the land areas, and indeed as well we needed afforestation to improve in general the rainfall of Barbados.

We have come full circle, Mr. Speaker, in that today we are now once again passing legislation to prevent people from wantonly destroying trees which have not only an aesthetic value but which in themselves may well have an environmental value as well; environmentally not only in improving what we see as the amenities of the area, but environmentally in ensuring that we cease the destruction of the natural vegetation and resources of Barbados, and the significance of this legislation must be seen in that light. There is legislation similar to this on the Statute Book of some of the Commonwealth countries which have of course recognised the necessity for environmental control, and I believe that you will find very similar legislation in almost identical terms as this one in the laws of Singapore, for example, Mr. Speaker; but I think it would be remiss of me if I did not remind this House that we already have on the Statute Book other bits of legislation that should have gone a long way towards preservation of trees in this Island.

I think it is a little bit unkind of the hon. member for St. Michael South to suggest that this Government has neither the capacity to deal with the problem of keeping

Barbados in a position where there are sufficient trees that may be attractive enough not only to the eye but vital to our environmental protection, because it was this Government in the 1950s which had the honour to implement the Cultivation of Trees Act of 1950 and which commenced in 1951, and that Act saw the Barbados Labour Party Government of those days paying out subsidies to encourage people to plant fruit trees. There was such a thing as a fruit tree subsidy, as well as for planting casuarinas and mahogany, Mr. Speaker. The Act is still on the Statute Book. It is Cap. 259 of the Laws of Barbados, and the Chief Agricultural Officer still has the power — whether he exercises it or not I do not know to make grants to people to encourage them to cultivate more trees, both fruit trees and mahogany and casuarina trees.

1.35 p.m.

And the idea as early as that was towards preservation. Amendments were made in this Law in 1957 and 1958 and a mere cosmetic amendment in 1967.

The point I am making here is that if the hon. member would look at the history of Barbados, the Labour Party had, on its proven record, a historical commitment to the preservation of the environment in this Island and has taken steps during its first tenure as the Government of this country to encourage people to preserve and develop the natural environment by way of growing trees.

Now there were two other reasons why, in the 1950's, this Legislation was passed. The first was that we were coming out of a war situation, for one thing, and we had been depending on firewood at that time in the place of oil and coal and we needed to replace a lot of the casuarinas and mahogany which had been used.

In the second place, we rely very heavily on mahogany for furniture. I am going to return to this, Sir, because very few people understand that it takes a long time for a mahogany tree to reach the maturity at which the wood is sufficiently cured that it has an economic use and not merely a decorative use for the development of small industry, in particular, and the furniture industry specifically.

The Labour Party recognise and I think it takes something like 21 years to have a full tree in bloom to maturity and therefore it paid people subsidies to plant mahogany trees and to plant casuarina trees.

Now, people have fallen out of the habit of doing this but there is no reason why they should not continue to do it because there is machinery and money has been provided in the Estimates for this purpose and if Barbadians are not using existing machinery, I think it is

hardly fair to place it at the doors of politicians all the time.

Sometimes we politicians are our worst enemies. We make the people believe that we have to be unduly soft and unduly courting their efforts and afraid to say when something is wrong and where they too have a responsibility to themselves and to the country to do something about some of the wrong things in the community.

I for one never accept it no matter how much people may write in the Press or state that everything in this country must wait until a politician has set an example or has done something about it. I am saying that Barbadians must get up themselves and recognise that they have a primary responsibility for protecting their own environment and that that responsibility does not reside with the 24 people in the House of Assembly, the 21 in the Senate and a few people in a political party and that the sooner that we can make this understood.....

Mr. SPEAKER: We are now 27 in this Honourable House.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Twenty-seven, Sir. I take that correction but there must be some regard to this and it does not do us any good on a measure that is supposed to be bi-partisan to be scared because the Deputy Prime Minister is prepared to stand up and make strongly felt his views on issues such as these. There is such a thing as false courting of the electorate.

I have never hesitated to state my views to the electorate on any issue at all and tell them if they do not want to vote for me, vote for somebody else because I repeat that we must get into the minds of the people that holding power at any cost is a bad philosophy for the country and for the preservation of the future of the country. (ASIDES).

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central says to tell somebody called "Tom" that, but there is no bigger power seeker than himself who would set out at every angle to use any example in the country because he wants some political favour and it is that sort of politics that he knows I have attacked him for consistently. It is that he is power crazy. That is the problem with him, Sir. I want him to understand this, Sir, that I not only say this to the hon. member. I would say it to his Leader as I would say it to my Leader because I am not afraid to talk to anybody on issues such as this, Sir, and the hon. member knows this. I have consistently said it, Sir.

The point is that I think we have reached a stage in Barbados where we all have to tell the people that

the people themselves owe themselves a primary responsibility. It is nonsense for us to come in here talking about the administrative wing only must see after preserving trees when what can 48 of us seriously do about something if the mass of people do not care less whether their land is washed away, whether they have proper environmental protection and preservation and never seem to be interested in doing that at all. I think we have to appeal to them and make them understand that they have a duty to do something about it.

That goes as much for the Government property in which we see vandalism of property that is built as well as on Government estates. The hon. member for St. Michael West, I think, made the point about trees on Government land but people must recognise it is their property. It is not the property of the Opposition or the property of the Government benches. It is the people's property and if they continue not to care about how they treat their properties when they are bought on Government plantations or even when we build schools, what can we do about it.

They must understand that they have this duty, Sir, and regardless of whether we are returned in a seat or not, I will tell them. I do not know about the others and I still will get the most votes of any member of Parliament. I will tell them. I always told them, Sir, and I still will get the most votes because people understand when you come to them straight and level with them and when you are wrong you should have the guts to get up here and say that you are wrong too. That is one of the things that we have to do, Sir.

I am saying that I would like to say to the Government, Sir, we must use the Cultivation of Trees Act a little bit more effectively to the extent that I believe that more money should at this stage be provided for the Chief Agricultural Officer to extend to the category of trees which should be cultivated to extend the category beyond mere casuarinas and mahoganys.

Mr. Speaker, we are reaching a very bad stage where we are losing and not replacing a lot of the mahogany trees in this country and the Furniture Industry, before the turn of this century, might well find itself having to import mahogany from places as far afield as Belize, Honduras and even Miami, Florida, if we are not careful because very few people these days replace the mahogany tree.

As for the casuarinas, one is amazed at the amount of casuarinas that are wantonly burnt down with the indiscriminate cane fires that we have had in this country and the result is that it affects the rainfall. We are lucky that we have gone through a slight period of high rainfall but it affects the rainfall and affects the retention of

the necessary softness and water in the soils of Barbados and we have to be careful about that as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in my constituency, Christ Church West, I have perhaps one of the largest collections of trees of a type known to the Island, that is in the area of the Graeme Hall Swamp. I know the Government's policy on this. It has been written into the Government's Manifesto.....

1.45 p.m.

It has been enunciated, both by the present Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, as well as, by the present Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands and by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. But, I believe that we should be very anxious about developing the Graeme Hall Swamp in such a way that its natural beauty is not disturbed and that it remains not only a place of beauty and a place of recreation, but a very vital part of the environment of Barbados. That is why I have welcomed this legislation, because I am aware, that some people already go into the Graeme Hall Swamp and without the permission of the Government, who owns part of the area, or the owners, who own the other adjoining land have been cutting down the wood in the swamp and felling it indiscriminately. I would ask the Honourable Minister to give early consideration to those areas which are owned by Government to ensure that the area is properly policed, so that its development can be done in an orderly and sensible fashion preserving the natural life of the area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that legislation is not the only bit of legislation on the Statute Book which deals with the preservation of trees and encouraging growing trees for the environment. Once again, it was the Labour Party Government, back in the fifties again, which passed the Soil Conservation Scotland District Act. It is timely to remind the Honourable Members, you know, because they do not often think of the history of this great Party. At that time, I think they had just split from the rib because the Democratic Labour Party was part of our rib, Sir. The present Rt. Hon. Leader was a member. He disagreed on his principle and he left. But, some of the legislation was passed during the time that he was a member of the Barbados Labour Party. But, we passed the Soil Conservation Scotland District Act in 1958. It is now Cap. 267 of the Laws. In that Act, we gave power to the Chief Agricultural Officer to make orders so that he would encourage the growing of crops, trees, grasses, shrubs and plants to be grown in the area, and orders to restrict people from destroying these things and we also gave him powers to make grants and loans to persons for purchasing, planting and maintaining trees, shrubs, plants or grasses for the purpose of conserving the Scotland District. That is part of existing legislation.

Successive Governments have taken steps about it. If you are going down Joes River, the hill just before you get to Joes River and you look behind you, you will see on the ridge a large number of Casuarinas. That was part of the re-afforestation carried out back in the 1950s and there are other areas of re-afforestation. Only a few days ago, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, following on the goodly work done by my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew was able to sign a \$4.5 million Loan with the Inter-American Development Bank for the further conservation of the Scotland District. Again, positive steps, by the Barbados Labour Party Government to do something about an important part of the Island of Barbados to which trees are vital.

Mr. Speaker, we are losing 1/7 of the land mass of Barbados, a very small island, 1/7 of the land mass of the Scotland area is in danger of slipping into the sea. We lose some 12 million gallons of water a day out to the sea in that area. One of the ways of binding the land together is by growing trees which can hold the natural, different soils in that area together to a composite hold. That is what we are losing. So, there is a tremendous duty on this generation of Barbados, if it cares about its island and its 1/7 to pay the price. The price may only in some cases be people being less selfish to preserve the natural area in St. Andrew, St. Joseph, parts of St. John area, Sir, and St. Thomas. We have to be less selfish on these issues and that is why I am stressing it.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South spoke about the Love Vine Act. Quite right. The Love Vine Act is on the Statute Book. It was passed prior to a Government — the sort of Party Government such as that — it was passed first in 1943. But, it does not only put the obligation on the Chief Agricultural Officer or the Administration to do anything. It also puts an obligation on the owners and occupiers of land. Now, our duty in here will be to appeal to them because, Sir, we could never pay for the number of policemen or enforcement officers to enforce every statute. You have to recognise that people themselves must obey Law and Order. My Jurisprudential friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would say eventually, that you have to apply to the feelings of people because if the governed no longer want to be governed, as has been found in some countries, no matter how much force you apply, you still cannot govern the country, as a whole. For a time, but not for ever. People have to recognise their own interest here in seeing that these Laws are enforced. I am hoping that this bit of legislation, together with the existing Laws will go somewhere towards making people conscious of their own environment and what they must do about it.

I am not going to talk, Sir, too much on the snow cone situation. But, let me say as well, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that if we are looking at trees, that is one aspect of the

environment. There is no point people littering under the trees indiscriminately with snow cone and disfiguring the area, Sir. No point, at all, if we preserve the trees, Sir. No point in their doing that. No point, Sir, when the trees are cut down, those that should be cut down, in people leaving them to disfigure the whole environment, as well, Sir. No point in that, either. Therefore, we have to keep educating the public, keep appealing to the public on these issues.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South mentioned another aspect of the matter, Sir, which I should like to agree with him on. The necessity for a proper tree cutting service. Part of the problem is that we do not have a firm of entrepreneurs who provide the facilities for trimming trees, so that they are aesthetically presentable. Too few of our people have looked at landscape architecture as a profession, but, it is a very serious profession in other parts of the world holding its own among professions, such as architecture or quantity surveying proper, as indeed, with Interior Decorating.

A lot of our young people should now devote their attention to that. I am also going to ask the Honourable Minister of Education, if she has not already done so, to try to put in at the Polytechnic and probably also raise to the level of the Community College, a subject such as landscape architecture, (ASIDE: It is there already) so that people have better homes and better areas. It is there already. Well, not enough people are going into it, Sir. But, that is a true role of a Community College. To focus attention on this, Sir. A Community College should not be an extra Sixth Form school. We have tended to use it too much as a Sixth Form College, rather than using it for the purposes for which it should be, because true landscape architecture — we tended to call them gardeners. Nobody wanted to be a gardener in Barbados because it had a social connotation that was derogatory — but landscape architecture is one of the best paying of the professions in other countries, Sir.

I am appealing to some of the young women in particular — and it is among that segment that we have perhaps the highest range of unemployment — to look at it, as a profession as noble as quantity surveying, or as noble as architecture, Sir. (ASIDES) Sir, I always look after the women, when it comes to that, Sir. I do not want to see the profession taken over by the men only because I think, when it comes to appreciation of the artistic and of the aesthetic, women excel in this field and I am sure that they will bring excellence in this part of our affairs as well, Sir. That is what I want to say, Sir. (CHEERS).

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think, that although this bill may look in itself, as an insignificant bill and its purpose may not be clearly seen, in itself, it has tremendous importance for the future of preserving our Island home.

We are still one of the most densely populated parts of the Globe. We rank something like the fifth most densely populated area and although you do not see the Barbadians in the way perhaps, as you would see the Chinese, if you were in Beijing or Peking, yet, when you go off the roads, be it in Emmerton, be it in Bonnetts, or what not, you see where they live.

1.55 p.m.

We have a bounden duty to improve the environment for them and to preserve this Island for the future generations of Barbados to come in the centuries ahead, and I strongly support this measure. I give it my full support here from the back bench, Sir, and I will tell the Government I am prepared to defend the Government through the length and breadth of this Island once it brings down legislation such as this.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting now stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

On Resumption:—

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, there are some notices which came down late and at this point I believe it would be appropriate for me to seek the leave of the House to give notice of these measures.

Mr. SPEAKER: How many are they?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: It is really one Resolution, Mr. Speaker, and then some Replies to Parliamentary Questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: No objection. Leave is granted.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice 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.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No.2 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Question No.2:

“To ask the Minister of Finance: Is the Minister aware that there is no natural gas service available to the residents of Radcliffe Gardens and Reece Land, Brittons Hill, St. Michael South? Will the Minister indicate his plans for making such a service available to the residents of the areas indicated?”

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The reply to Parliamentary Question No. 2, Sir, is as follows:

“Yes, Sir. The Government is currently studying the results of exploration drilling for petroleum and natural gas within Barbados. When these results have been fully analysed, a decision will be taken as to whether sufficient quantities of natural gas exist for a major project of bringing natural gas to the majority of the homes in Barbados to be undertaken.

In the meantime, districts which are adjacent or near to existing natural gas supply lines will be considered for such supplies if there is sufficient demand and that demand can be satisfied economically.

The districts referred to in the hon. member's Question will be considered at an early opportunity.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 9.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 9:

“To ask the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that there is no natural gas service in Free Hill, Black Rock, St. Michael and certain areas of Bridge Gap, Black Rock, St. Michael? Will the Minister indicate his plans for making such a service available, to the residents of the above mentioned areas?”

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member's attention is drawn to the Reply which I have just given to Parliamentary Question No. 2.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 6.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 6:

“To ask the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that there is an urgent need for toilet and bath facilities for the fishermen at Pile Bay, Black Rock, St. Michael? Will the Minister indicate what plans he has for providing such facilities?”

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The answer is not yet ready, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Likewise, Reply to Question No. 7 is not yet ready, I am advised, and will be held over until a subsequent date. This brings us to the end of Question Time. It is now time for Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THANKS TO HIS EXCEL- LENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR THE THRONE SPEECH OF TUESDAY, 21ST JULY, 1981

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. James South was addressing the Chair when the time for Private Members' Business expired on the last occasion. The hon. member is entitled to continue if he so desires.

Mr. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I sat down on the last occasion I was making the point that I felt the Government should take over the Challenor Home, which is a Home for the Mentally Retarded, and also make substantial contribution to the running of the Learning Centre which is a learning centre for the handicapped. But also commenting on the area of education I would like at this time to make comment too on the discipline which is now exhibited in the schools not only by the children themselves but by many a parent who sometimes go to the school and molest our teachers, and I hope that this is an area in which the Hon. Minister will take a firm hand in trying to safeguard those who have the education of our children in their hands.

Also, Mr. Speaker, one area which I am concerned about is the education of our deaf and dumb, and I would like to suggest if possible that at news time at least there be some trained person who can assist in helping the deaf and dumb to understand what is going on in our country. I do not believe that it is too difficult a task, and obviously on television it might present no great problem when the newscaster is bringing the news that certain items can be translated, as it were, in sign language so that the deaf and dumb could play a more useful role in our community. As far as I know, in this area I have not seen any such programmes and no doubt they are deprived seriously from understanding a lot of what is going on. Indeed, it is a treat to see them walking the road coming from school and communicating among themselves, but sometimes I wonder how much they understand as to what is going on when we do not have the type of programmes which cater to them.

That is all I really wanted to say in terms of education, and from this I would like to make comment on the question of youth as it is laid out, I believe, on page 12 of the Throne Speech. Much time was not

devoted to it, but sometimes I wonder how many people realise that more than a third of our population is between the ages of 16 and 25, and indeed this is an area which causes most of us great concern, and indeed a lot of time, effort and money should be spent in trying to guide these youngsters in the correct paths.
3.00 p.m.

I take note that the Government has started a skills training programme, but although I have no real quarrel with that programme, I believe the time has come when we should try to have these youngsters trained in buildings or places which are built for the purpose. I know from my own experience how difficult it is to have them trained in centres, and indeed centres as I understand them are built for other community purposes and are not equipped with the type of machinery, space, etc. for the training which is carried on, and very often what happens is that groups now using the centres are deprived of the use, or indeed they tend to believe that because classes are being conducted there or because the equipment is in these centres that they can no longer use the centres. I know that we have some financial constraints at the present time, but wherever possible I believe that the Government should try its best to provide centres for the training of youths. I believe that possibly two or three large youth training centres in areas of the country might be better suited for what is being done at the present moment.

In talking of the youths as well, I have always advocated that looking at what is happening in our community at present, there is dire need for a national service scheme, and I would venture to say that this scheme must be compulsory if we are to benefit not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of quality, because you will find that if we do not have that type of system that we would only get those who, to put it bluntly, will not be able to help themselves. If it were compulsory, and compulsory does not mean that it needs to be full time, it can be part time, it can be three afternoons a week as is done in Bermuda, and for those who are not working it can be full time as possibly it is done now, we would then get those people who would benefit most from the experience. I would venture to say that in so doing, the type of discipline which would be imposed or which the youngsters might learn might prevent the prisons from becoming overcrowded, the Government Industrial School from becoming overcrowded. Indeed it might prevent the Mental Hospital from becoming overcrowded.

The point I am trying to make here is that we need to make sure that our youngsters are always busy. This is half of the problem. The problem is that our youngsters are not that busy; they are strong and healthy and as the old adage says, the devil always finds work for idle hands. If we are going to look at a national

service scheme as I envisage it, I would like to think that there can be a combination of things which these young people would have to do. Of course, in my estimation it should be military, although that would be played down as far as possible. I think that they should have more skills training and indeed it is my belief that all youngsters in Barbados should learn some skill or other. They should be used to using their hands. Not only would it be useful for them, but it would cut down the expenses which their parents have at home, and indeed when they become family men themselves it would cut down their expenses.

An essential part of this service would have to be community service. I think that those who administer Parks and Beaches must feel somewhat embarrassed, having spent so much time, energy and labour on beautifying the park, to get up one morning and find that all the pots and plants are in the pool they have there. Now it is my contention that this only comes about because those who have done it do not even understand what it is all about. Young people are inexperienced people. Very often they do not know what is right from what is wrong. It is we the older ones who have got to show them what is right and what is wrong. Of course in doing that we need to discuss with them, not to impose our own thoughts upon them. These are just some of the thoughts that are going through my mind, and the details would have to be worked out, because of course you might find that there are some institutions which might believe that you are trying to take away work from the working people or from their employees, but I am quite sure that some system can be developed whereby there could be a happy medium arrived at in developing this type of organisation. At some of the roundabouts and in some of the housing areas which because of our financial constraints are not as beautiful as they should be, if the youngsters living in them were made to beautify them, I am quite sure they would not treat them as they are being treated at this present time. We are a poor country and all of us must understand this and all of us must make a contribution to this country to ensure it is a better place for all of us to live in.

We have heard complaints about the youngsters who are on the beaches causing problems. They too must become involved in this operation so that they will no longer destroy, but they will build; and this is essential. If we are dealing with young people, of necessity it means that they will become involved in sport. All youngsters like to know that they can play games well, and they would have people who are expert in these areas to help them along the way. Indeed youngsters who are out of work, who are 20 and 21 years of age and want to play sport find it difficult to play under the present conditions. Food is a problem, gear is a problem. What is going to happen in the future is a problem. In a scheme such as this they would know they

are learning a trade after which they can move on to something better. They would be properly fed, their gear would be looked after and they would be properly coached, and therefore they would have nothing to worry about in that regard.

I believe also that it is time we expose our young people to some of our culture. I believe this is a problem. Those of us who sometimes have the opportunity to go to the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts would understand what I am talking about, because it is a shame at times when the young are trying to develop their cultural instincts etc. that there are other young people in the audience who are crying them down, not through their own fault, but because of their ignorance, and if we can expose them to some of our cultural activities to make sure they will be wiser and better off for it.

As I said earlier on, you will not do this by means of spending money in other areas which are not in themselves designed to create the type of psychological effect on the youngster which will make him believe that he is a reject from places like Her Majesty's Prison or the Government Industrial School. Once someone goes there, when he comes back out he feels he is no longer wanted in the society. If that youngster goes into a national service scheme and returns to the society, he will feel proud that he has contributed something to this country, and that is important.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn briefly now to the question of law and order and the police force as we term it in the detection of crime. It seems to me that our police force has been doing an admirable job from the time it was formed and continues to do so, but it also seems to me that the policemen of this country are working under some severe disadvantages. The conditions under which they live are sub-normal; the conditions in which they work are not of the best. Their training can be improved and indeed I would say, in terms of training that I would like to see that they are trained in how to approach people. Attitudes are important. The police depend upon information to crack crimes.

In terms of their working conditions, the time is ripe when I believe our police force should be working on a forty hour week. It can be two shifts of eight hours and one of twelve. There is no need whatsoever at this present time for the uniformed policeman to be living in. I can understand a detective living in, but to have all these policemen living in is to my mind a waste of capital because you have to build huge buildings for 50, 60 and 70 people. It would be better if the uniformed branch were to live out and come into work at the start of the day like a civil servant or a nurse goes in on her shift and leaves at the end of the shift. Indeed when you can provide facilities which will make it encouraging for

policemen to remain behind and enjoy themselves, and be able to invite the public in to have a drink or something like that, it would make their work better. Of course a habit of now having our policemen mobilised in itself is creating a problem. A policeman has got to be able to talk to people in the normal course of his duty so that when something happens he knows on whom he can call.
3.10 p.m.

When the police are removed from the community, when there is no contact, when there is no communication, then the investigation of crime becomes a problem and indeed the policeman looks like a target of many a person. These are some of my thoughts on policing and I believe that as my time runs out I would just like to say one thing more on the question of social care, etc.

I have said time and time again that although our old people might seem to be better off, I would like to see the day when pensions would be transferable. I say this because there are a number of spouses in this country whose husbands and indeed whose wives sometimes are not blessed with good jobs when the one is deceased, then the other is left to suffer.

In other words, what I am saying is this that if a man who is working in Government retires, at his death, his pension should go to the existing spouse for the simple reason that I believe we should try to maintain the level of living so that when the spouse dies, that the survivor does not have to suffer and in many instances you still have the same water bills, electricity bills, etc., to pay without any income except the old age pension which could probably be only a tenth of what your spouse was getting when he was alive and that lowers the standard of living.

I hope in these days when children are finding it difficult now to subscribe to the old people because things have become so difficult even for children that this provision would make it even better for our older people to enjoy the rest of their days.

As I sit down I want to again say that I support the motion which calls for the establishment of a competent and impartial task force because it seems to me that in every area of Government we are having difficulties. It is not only in Barbados. It is throughout the country and with this kind of force it might bring together the best days for the best of Barbados. I thank you. (APPLAUSE).

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Resolution now before this House and to address myself particularly to two aspects of the Resolution, firstly, calling for an expression of thanks to His Excellency

the Governor General for the Throne Speech on Tuesday 21st July, 1981 and secondly, calling for the establishment of a competent and impartial task force to study the conditions prevailing in Barbados and to make recommendations for their amelioration. Indeed, Sir, I think this House should be grateful and congratulate the erudite and distinguished Deputy Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition whom I must join in deploring the bad manners of the Government in not bringing this particular Resolution and leaving it to the Opposition to do so and in doing so we reaffirm our belief in the best traditions of Parliamentary democracy and indeed our commitment to the principle that good manners displayed in the highest offices of the land constitutes a beneficial factor in the social development of our society and therefore I wish to associate myself very firmly with the position taken by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in calling on this Honourable House to express thanks to His Excellency.

I do not think that anyone would vote against that aspect of this Resolution, not even the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, who apparently, has now become the most vocal, defender of the mismanagement of the past Administration, the one immediately preceding this.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the second part of this Resolution should be taken with equal seriousness because, I believe, that firstly, it will go a long way to demonstrate to all of us to view the situation in Barbados, whether on the economic or social front, as having deteriorated somewhat over recent years.

I think it will go a long way in taking the politics out of economic management of this country and, indeed, there is ample evidence that the heavy dilution of political thinking that has gone into economic decisions in Barbados, particularly in this year, 1981, has contributed substantially to the economic crisis now facing this country.

It will also, Mr. Speaker, that is, the establishment of such a task force, will also go a long way towards harnessing those human resources which we are going to need to take us out of this situation and propel this country along the path to economic growth which it experienced between 1961 to 1976. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons to believe that this country needs a completely new development strategy and I believe, a task force, given the proper range of activity can contribute considerably to this.

I do not wish today, Mr. Speaker, to enter into any argument as to whether a price exist, in economic term, exist in Barbados or not. That is a matter of degree, as far as I can see, and one can take the view expressed to me not so long ago by an intelligent observer that the prices only exist when our human intervention is

no longer possible and you throw up your hands and ask for a divine intervention. If that is the definition that you are going by, I will say that even at this stage human intervention is possible in the better management of Barbados' economic affairs.

But, Sir, when you have a conjecture of a decline in Tourism, where you have at the same time a massive short-fall in production and in the prices of sugar, where you have a decline in your manufacture in the first half of this year, where you have falling Government revenue and increase in expenditure, where you have the expanding of your monetary base in the face of declining foreign exchange earnings, the equivalent or the creation of the printing of money, where you have prohibitively high interest rates, where you have the wiping out of credit to almost every sector of Barbados, where you have excessive borrowing to the extent that the borrower now comes to admit that he cannot get himself out of trouble by borrowing when we have been telling him for years that he can get himself into trouble by borrowing....

3.20 p.m.

We accept that you cannot get out by borrowing, but you can get yourself into trouble by excessive borrowing, when indeed, you borrow, in a situation where you have to go to the Euro dollar market to obtain a loan at high, prohibitively high interest rates, not disclosed to this Honourable House. A loan, Sir, which in effect, is a balance of payments support loan and even more immediately, to provide backing to the extent of the money that was created earlier this year. When you have, Sir, a situation enforced on you, where at the same time, you have to cut back on your capital programmes and then, you have to enforce a further contraction on the one remaining, significant sector in Barbados, namely, the commercial sector; where you have, Sir, to introduce measures which would even lead to further contraction of your revenue base, at a time, when you have shortfalls in your revenue. When you have, Sir, the introduction of those kinds of emergency measures, I believe, that any reasonable person would at least come to the conclusion, that a serious, economic situation exists in this country. They can call it by what term they like, but, no Government could be so wicked as to introduce those measures, unless they had good reasons for doing so and believing that they were in serious trouble.

If the word "crisis" could be used to one small sector of Government, namely, Transport Board which could be solved overnight by effective management and proper financing, then, surely it can be used in wider context of this economy where such simple solutions cannot be found overnight. Indeed, Sir, I formed the impression that Honourable Members on the Other Side are divided, as to whether or not, they

should support the concept of a Task Force. I saw somewhere in the press, and I want to be exact, that the Honourable Leader of this Honourable House stated that all men and women should come together in one common front for the purpose. Now, that is the Honourable Leader of the Honourable House. Clearly, he supports the concept of a Task Force and I do not see how he can vote against the Resolution.

On the other hand, you get the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, whose native arrogance has now assumed more arrant expression, since becoming an Honourable Minister, rejecting the concept, out of hand, without even thinking about it, and seeking to equate it, Mr. Speaker, with an attempt to form a coalition Government. We seek no coalition Government. What we are asking you to do is to mobilise the human resources in the country and bring them to bear to assist you in bailing you out of the trouble that you have inflicted upon this nation.

Mr. Speaker, the mere establishment of a Task Force, if that decision were taken today, it would have a beneficial effect, even before it started working. I will tell you why. It would bridge the credibility gap, the wide credibility gap that now exists, in relation to this Administration. The people out there want to know, how is it they had it so good in June and now, they have it so bad in September of the same year, a few months later. Mr. Speaker, they want to know how it is that this Government, during the months of April, May and June could run up an overall deficit of over \$50 million, when in the previous corresponding period in 1980, they ended up with a surplus and in 1979, a deficit of some \$16 million. What took place in Barbados between April and June that was unusual this year? What took place in Barbados? (ASIDE: Tax reductions. We called for them and got all). The only unusual thing that took place in Barbados during that period was an Election this year, as distinct from the previous years.

Now, you know, I have charged again and again that there has been creation or printing of money in Barbados, during that period and I have challenged the Government to get up and deny it and they have not denied it so far. But, what I am saying is this that it is important that the public should understand that printing of money or creation of money does not mean in the context of the Barbados economy, that you have a publication or it is an increased circulation in dollar bills and coins because most of the transactions in this country would take place by cheques and by other instruments. So that, the amount of circulated notes and coins can remain the same and yet, you can have a very significant expansion in your monetary mix. However, I do not think that the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance would attempt to deny that and destroy any vestige of

confidence or credibility that might be left to him in the international and local financial community.

Mr. Speaker, I think that people in this country are concerned about the approach of this Government to the economic management of this country and I think the establishment of that Task Force, as I said would reassure those many people whether they are supporters of the Barbados Labour Party, or supporters of the Democratic Labour Party or whether they are neutral because if we are going down the drain, then we will all go down the drain together. There is a very good case and I am going to pursue and identify those areas, where I believe a Task Force can have a major impact on the overall management of this country.

You take the area of revenue, Mr. Speaker. The question arises — first, the overriding question is the maximum amount of revenue that we should seek to extract from this economy which would not, at the same time cause a slowing down in economic growth. That is one question we have to address ourselves to. We have, Sir, to look at the question of the distribution of the revenue burden. We have to look at the totality of the impact of the shift away from direct to indirect taxation in Barbados. We have to look at the efficiency of our collecting system and we have to look at the impact of monetary policies introduced by the Government itself, on your revenue position. I would say that these are areas requiring long-term study, long-term considerations and I believe that a Task Force can address themselves to that question of Government revenue to help deal with the particular problem.

For example, it can be reasonably argued that if the Government embarks on excessive revenue measures either immediately or next year, when the times comes that that can worsen the situation that we are now in rather than cure it. Already, you have a cash flow problem. It is possible that by trying to solve that, by putting too much stress on further revenue collecting that you can have problems elsewhere within this economy.

On the question of expenditures, Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear to me, that there has to be some long-term planning of certain matters relating to expenditure in Barbados both Current and Capital. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, if you were to look at the Capital projects embarked upon by this Administration, there are few people who would realise that when each and every one of those projects is completed that they would be contributing to demand for further Current Revenue expenditure. It is part of your long-term planning.

I have heard it said that we should have a model, welfare state in Barbados. Has there been a close analysis of the impact on that, in relation to projected expenditures in Barbados, over a 10, 15 or 20 year

period vis-a-vis revenue and in relation to what level of welfare the economy of Barbados can be projected to cope with over a 20 year period? I am saying this could be an important area of study for a Task Force. That does not, in any way, say that the Government is incompetent. Not in any way. All it is saying is this, here we are going to bring other minds to bear on these important dimensions of national policy. (ASIDES)

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is another major area. It is a critical analysis of the long-term export/import position of the Government itself. This can be subject to a proper analysis and proper study by a Task Force.
3.30 p.m.

I believe the balance of payments problems that we have had which have been a dominating influence over the management of this economy, that that can certainly be looked at by a task force. For example, it would appear that there are certain cyclical patterns in relation to our balance of payments position and there is some evidence that we create those problems ourselves, and if I have time I will probably advert to a particular area which is occupying my attention at the moment, that is, the relationship of incomes generally speaking to the balance of payments of Barbados and to the cyclical problems related here, and I may be able to demonstrate how in our attitudes towards incomes we might be helping to perpetuate this cyclical problem rather than trying to smooth it out. That is an area that again could be the subject of detailed examination.

The public debt of Barbados, Mr. Speaker. There are considerable differences of opinion as to what particularly the foreign component — I do not bother too much about the domestic component of it now, because that has been reduced to monopoly money — but you are shifting from advancement to Treasury Bills and back the next way, but although it is monopoly money it is just going gradually upwards. That is what it has been reduced to at the moment, but particularly the more dangerous is the foreign component. Many people would argue that the criteria used, namely your debt service in relation to your exports might not be adequate for Barbados, and I would suggest that it might be an important area of study to look at the impact of foreign borrowing on the economy of Barbados and see whether one of these individual indices or taken together or in what circumstances one might apply more than the other. For example, to establish a relationship with GDP, a relationship with your revenue position or your projected revenue position over a ten year period, whether that might not be a better and safer index in the context of an open market economy like Barbados which is subject to remarkable fluctuations in its export earnings from year to year. I think that that is a reasonable job to put to the task force and the information coming out of that task force can be of great assistance

either to this administration or to any other future administration of Barbados.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to go into too much detail. The Governor of the Central Bank in his report has adverted to the creation of money in this country earlier this year and he has also pointed out that this has had a significant effect on the worsening of Barbados' economic position both internally and externally. The evidence is all there, if you look you can see the massive increases in borrowings from the Central Bank, particularly during the months of May and June of this year. You can look and you can see the steady decline in the foreign assets of the Central Bank itself and in the foreign reserves of Barbados. I will say this, that in June of this year this administration should have known, and must have known, that our foreign exchange earnings position was not satisfactory, that it was declining, yet they went ahead and expanded the monetary base despite the fact that they had clear evidence of a fall in the foreign exchange earnings. Why did you do it? What did you expect? What did you expect would happen in July and August? Are you surprised now that you have to rush to the Orion Bank to help deal with that problem? Because intrinsic in that loan is a question of washing the dye of printed money off your hands, but it will remain for quite a long time, and I will tell you that if we ever come to a situation, and God forbid, and that is why I am hoping and praying and I am calling here from the floor of this House for every Barbadian to make a special effort to make sure that we have a good tourist season, because in the absence of a good tourist season and we were forced to a devaluation of that dollar, then the thread, the linkage can be seen, expansion of money supply, creation of money against a declining foreign exchange earning base. You can see it right through the measures that have been implemented, right through your balance of payments deterioration position, right through to the Orion Bank loan, and eventually if you do not start earning foreign exchange you are going to be put in a very serious position.

I only hope and pray that we have a good tourist season. If any single measure apart from the recessionary trends in the economy, you will have contributed to it by your monetary policy earlier this year, and I am saying that a task force may be able to come up with sufficient information over time to give you better information on which to base your monetary policy.

We have had lots of quarrels in this House, Mr. Speaker, on the question of inflation. Thinking through, what could be the quarrel? Inflation, as I perceive it, might be different and will indeed be different from the perceptions of a \$100,000 Prime Minister with two cars and a housing allowance, and I believe that the argument surrounds the fact that it might be reasonable to look

very carefully at that basket of goods and see whether or not within the context of the overall figures we cannot select out specific target groups because of their expenditure patterns, their consumption patterns might be different and you might find that when you do it sub-sectorally you may find the figures for inflation would vary very much from group to group, particularly in a society of this nature.

I would not like to deal with unemployment now, but I think that the task force could also address itself to that.

Agriculture. I heard the Minister of Agriculture and I agree with him on the question of incentives for agriculture. I have said again and again that I agree with it, but it is important for the Minister to understand that incentives without looking very closely at the distribution of the resources for agriculture in Barbados and the ownership of those resources might lead to a reinforcement of social positions in this country that successive generations since adult suffrage have fought against very bitterly. Look very carefully and see what will be the impact of fiscal incentives in that area. (ASIDE). Do not try to put anything in my mouth, I have not mentioned the words "land reform" and I do not intend to mention them, so do not get up and say I said so.

Housing, Mr. Speaker, the question of the relationship of housing to agriculture in the context of what I have just adverted to, namely the distribution of your resources. (ASIDE). Mr. Speaker, I continue.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have less than a minute in which to continue.

Dr. HAYNES: There are three things, Sir. The question of energy and the cost of energy, the question of the impact of gambling on the economic life of this community, and finally, income levels and our balance of payments. I believe that there seems to be a close connection between the income levels in this society and our foreign exchange earnings, and you may find yourself like in the 197.....

Mr. SPEAKER: taking your seat.

Dr. HAYNES: Thank you very much.
3.40 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, for some reason I had formed the impression that today in the House of Assembly was going to be almost a perfunctory day in terms of what was going to be discussed, but I have sat here and I have listened to a debate on trees which has excited the violence of the oratory of some of our more fervent hon. members, and now once

again I have been treated to a speech of some violence from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, and I listened not very carefully at first because I have been listening to the hon. member for a number of years, and he made the same speech virtually from the day he entered Parliament until the day Parliament was dissolved. Without fail he mentioned inflation, the Prime Minister's salary, gambling, the public debt and so on. But then as I listened I realised that there was a difference today. Previously he used to attack us from the left and now he is attacking us from the right, because in the course of his speech I heard him attack welfare in phrases that would have done justice to President Reagan. Indeed I believe if President Reagan has said some of the things that he said today his advisers would have held him back and said "give me a chance skipper" or whatever phrase is used in the East Wing.

I hope that hon. members realise that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is questioning whether Barbados can afford unemployment insurance, a national health scheme, better old age pensions and the welfare package to which the Government on this side is pledged. I know that these policies are very popular. Mrs. Thatcher is associated with them and to an even greater extent President Reagan is questioning whether the economic ills that beset the world today cannot be cured by a reduction of welfare. Whether in Barbados the old ladies of Railway Road, Carrington Village and whether the children whom on another occasion the hon. member would describe as starving children of Martindales Road really want to hear that the Government is doing too much for them and that we cannot afford it and that we will get into financial problems because we are doing it, and that that indeed is why we are in financial problems is a different matter, but the hon. member says he wants a task force to investigate whether Barbados can afford welfare. I wish the hon. member for St. Michael East who is responsible for community services was in here to deal with him fully.

He said he was not going to touch on unemployment. I suppose that is a tribute to the Government's policy because if the hon. member could find it possible to say unemployment was increasing, he would have said it. But he does not talk about unemployment; he talks about development spending and the speed of projects. Now one of the reasons why unemployment was 22% in 1975 and is 10% now is because the Government has undertaken a programme of reflation over the five years to reduce unemployment and maintain levels of domestic economic activity which are keeping unemployment at a low level. So the hon. member attacks spending for development purposes. Without spending for development purposes we would not have 10,000 people employed in the construction business; we would not have the virtual elimination of unemployment among adult males in

Barbados, and we might have the deep dissatisfaction such as existed five or six years ago, because let us not forget that in 1976 the foreign reserves declined steadily all through the year and at the same time there was unemployment and all of the policies which the hon. member is talking about, there was no attempt at expanding the welfare state, there was no attempt at reflation or capital spending of a productive sort, all of the policies that the hon. member talks about were in force and you still had a worse situation than exists today.

In terms of public financing you had very weak economic activity at the same time. The hon. member had one or two grains of truth in his speech. He said Barbados suffers from a remarkable fluctuation of its export earnings. This is perfectly true, and this is the reason why we are in difficulties at the moment, because two of our three principal earners of exports are in sharper decline than could have been predicted. At one time the hon. member said that we could have looked at long range weather forecasts and we should have known that we were going to get bad weather during June — he did not say so today, Sir, but on another occasion — as the election came out, and therefore we should not have spent so much money since we should be in a position to know that we were not going to get a good sugar crop. I put that in the same class of wild, not wild, foolish statements as the statement by the hon. member for St. Philip South to the effect that \$43 million is no big thing, that you could have let that go. What is \$43 million here or there? It may not be very much for the hon. member for St. Philip South, but I must tell you that it is a lot to the Minister of Finance. But fools rush in where angels fear to tread and we must be tolerant of the hon. member for the present.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has made his speech, and what can you say about it? He has for the first time since he has been Shadow Minister of Finance been taking advice and he obviously has a tremendous capacity to repeat advice in much the same form as he heard it. Much of what he has said is the sort of thing that a sane economist, not Frank Alleyne, might advise him if he met him over a luncheon table, and the hon. member has revealed something important to us today. He has revealed that he now understands what is meant by printing money, and he has turned it over and over, an elementary economic lecture on what is meant by creating money, and he has produced it to the House of Assembly as if this is a word of wisdom coming down from Mount Sinai heard for the first time, and he has heard it for the first time. Some hon. members have not heard it for the first time. (*Asides*) What is the hon. member saying? To answer if there was printing of money? I believe he said somewhere that we waited until Dr. Blackman went on vacation to print the money so he

would not know. I wish the hon. member would read the reply to the letter that Dr. Blackman sent him when he wrote and asked if he could consult with him on the economic situation of Barbados and on the measures recently taken.

I am going to come and deal with that. As long as a country is running a deficit, the deficit has to be financed by borrowing. If you borrow from foreigners or from private domestic financial institutions, it goes into the public debt. If you borrow from the Central Bank it is the equivalent of money creation. When the cash flow of Government is as weak as it was during the second quarter of this year, if you want to pay civil servants and if you want to meet the ordinary programmes of Government, you may have to borrow from the Central Bank. Parliament in 1971 under the Democratic Labour Party authorised the Government to borrow a certain proportion of its anticipated revenue from the Central Bank. It is in the nature of bridging finance.

The hon. member is perfectly correct when he says that if it gets too great it creates pressure on the foreign reserves, because you are expanding — this is the monetarist theory, Mrs. Thatcher's theory — you are expanding supplies of money more than the capacity of the economy can absorb. We do not need a task force to tell us that, Mr. Speaker. We have had to say it in here before. We have had to warn the public servants' unions that the Government Treasury is not bottomless and that you cannot print money to pay civil servants' increases, and indeed the orthodox remedy in a country such as our for excessive money creation by the Central Bank and consequent pressure on the foreign reserves is a foreign loan if the economy is in good enough shape to stand a foreign loan.

3.50 p.m.

Now our economy, Sir, happens to be at the moment in model shape to stand the foreign loan because our debt service ratio is very small. The documents which the Governor of the Central Bank supplied to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, if he can read and understand them, he will see that the international institutions have year after year pointed out that the debt service ratio of Barbados is very modest and that foreign borrowing can be resorted to.

Before the hon. member was in the House, speaking from this chair, the hon. member for St. John in the course of his speech on economics indicated that he had been advised that Barbados' foreign debt situation was so modest that it was desirable that there should be some more borrowing. This is perhaps 1973/74. 1974 it was.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West asked if I can remember my reply. The hon. member for St. Michael South West was not in the House at the time so I

doubt, somehow, that he can remember my reply. Nevertheless, I have no doubt that he will attempt to repeat it at some later stage in the proceedings, true or false.

We have decided Mr. Speaker, that facing the difficulties, the analyses of the economists who are advising the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, perhaps the most recent and the newest of the economists, I do not mean Mr. Howard or foolish Alleyne, I mean the economists who are speaking to the hon. member, are accurate, theoretical analyses but to apply them to the situation in Barbados is a different matter.

Unfortunately, of course, Sir, in this country panic seems to spread very easily and a few violent speeches like those of the hon. member may have the very effect of damaging the confidence of the public and the vested community but one will deal with that in another stage.

The analyses are correct but so are the remedies which we are attempting to apply. I do not know what the hon. member is going on about except to prove that he now knows a little bit more of economics than he has known for indeed the last 43 years. The effect of the hon. member's speech is to say no more than that.

Money creation is bad because it feeds into the foreign reserves. When we said this in 1976, members on the Other Side said that we were trying to fool people with a lot of talk about balance of payments, about foreign reserves and they had never heard anything about balance of payments until Tom Adams came into power. That was said in here by the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member has now revealed that his side has learned the effects of deficits on the balance of payments. Remember the Democratic Labour Party ran current account deficits for the three years before we came into power, not just capital debts.

Now, we come to the capital question. The hon. member is saying that in June we must have known that things were bad. Now, I want to refute totally and utterly any suggestion that this speaker, at least me, ever got on any political platform, in here, on television, or anywhere and suggested during 1981 that everything was perfect in the economy.

I have had to say in here before. I have been warning people since last November that the international recession was going to catch up with Barbados sooner or later. I did not expect to have to make this speech today and at my Office at this moment an exercise is going on. Extracts are being made from all of the speeches that I have made since last November. On television I specifically warned the public of Barbados that 1981 was not a year when we could expect an increase in consumption, this was in my New Year's Message, an increase in consumption, that they would have to hold strain.

During the Budget in April I pointed out that things could not be expected to be as rosy during 1981 as in the past five years. The whole point of the performance of the past five years is this. The economy has been expanded but with a prudent marginal reserve to absorb the recession that affect any economy in the World. The performance of the last five years goes to the creation of resilience when things get bad and remember that things were not good in the outside World in the last five years but we kept our heads above water. Things now have suddenly got bad.

There is absolutely no way and certainly not on nomination day could anybody in here know that the sugar crop was going to fail to the tune of \$43 million. There is no way that could be known. There is no way that anybody could have known that President Reagan would take steps to devalue every currency in the World, exactly the opposite policy that would be needed to deal with Barbados' problems during this year. There is no way that we would have known that our dollar would get immensely strong and the cost of goods exported from Barbados in services would rise by 30% in a matter of two months. That is not anything that anybody would have known at election time or in January.

The hon. member must be serious when he examines charges. He does not make as much as others. I see there were made by people in the Senate who, unfortunately, do not yet know better but may learn better as their term of office continues. These are all things that happen suddenly in economies such as this.

The hon. member for St. James North is reminding me that at our Party Conference in January of this year I emphasised that we had to hold strain. I believe that is the very expression that I used. I will have to get out that speech so that it can be made clear. If the Press of this country and the public do not have ears to hear I cannot push the information into their heads.

I have been making a constant effort as any of my Cabinet colleagues can tell you from since 1980 to emphasise that there had to be a period of, I said then 12 to 18 months, of holding strain and not undertaking new projects.

The decision to postpone the building of the Supreme Court was taken last year. The decision to postpone the Land Registry — to introduce a system of land registration. The decision to expand the Ministry of Housing at a cost of \$1 million a year in current alone was taken when I was out of the Island and when I came back I had to reverse it on the grounds that the country could not afford it at the present time.

There are matters which obviously you would not have heard about because there are part of the general

process of managing the country. The Fishing Harbour in Bridgetown which we had pledged to do. We understand that we cannot expect to have it in place by 1985 as we hoped.

We have been taking the decisions to cut our suit to fit our cloth now for 9 months and an example of this is that in the last few months capital spending has been held down to under \$10 million a month. We have cut the capital spending right back so that all the points which the hon. member is making, when in three months, I get the figures daily, but he gets them three months after. At least I hope he gets them three months after. When in three months' time the hon. member gets the figures, he would realise that perhaps even during the period when the election campaign itself was on, that steps were being taken to ameliorate the difficulties of our situation.

4.00 p.m.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister will not allow me to forget that we have postponed the building of Wotton School, and despite pleas from my constituents, who tell me that St. Thomas is the only parish without a secondary school, we have not undertaken any such development because we are trying to trim to stay within our means and not to destroy the country. Now, there are ways that the country can be destroyed. If people who confuse the downfall, who do not understand that to bring about the downfall of the Government you may be bringing about the downfall of Barbados, persist in violent scare tactics and try to frighten away investors from the island to make things worse, things will get worse.

I heard the Honourable Member say something about devaluation. For the first time, since 1977, I have heard that word used. We have not the slightest intention of pursuing that, as a remedy. It is not even worth denying. (ASIDE: Deny it, anyhow.) It is not a matter that has been considered at all. It is not even worth denying and I would go further, since the Honourable Member would have seen — I would refer to the page of a particular document which he has been sent. He may not understand it, because there is a lot of shorthand that is used, at the level at which I am talking. But, there is a form of words which indicates that not even the IMF is contemplating advising Barbados to take any steps relating to devalue of its currency — read the document — that the Honourable Member talks about it and I have little doubt that if it is reported in the press, that we are going to hear of money moving out of the island or merchants not paying bills, or something. In 1977, we had it too. Sir, there is no sign, at the moment of that, although the differential interest rate which the Honourable Member has not touched on — he has not mentioned that. (ASIDE: He criticised the interest rate) — He has not criticised the differential, I

do not think. (ASIDE: He does not understand it). He has not understood also, that the impact of a 22% rate in New York is just as damaging to Barbados, as it is to London, Paris, Hamburg, Frankfurt or anywhere else. Undoubtedly, it is very difficult to persuade Barbadian holders of foreign assets to bring the assets to Barbados and very difficult to persuade foreign holders of Barbadian assets not to realise them. There is a lot of that. Companies that have never sent money, remitted money back to overseas countries. I see applications coming, occasionally, on my desk because they exceed the Central Bank's limit for remittals of this type and I cannot blame them. If you can get 16% on a deposit account with no trouble in New York, why keep it in Barbados at 9%? This is something we have had to live with now for a year.

If you want to know where we have had some pressure from the IMF — perhaps for two years — that is where we have had some pressure from the IMF to raise interest rates in Barbados, to an extent where we do not have this kind of difficulty of money leaving the economy in search of better investment opportunities abroad. But, Barbadian businessmen, they do not want to pay the high interest rates and the Central Bank has insisted, and I have gone along with them a lot of the way, that you will do damage to employment in Barbados, as soon as you make money more expensive. I am doing the best I can, Mr. Speaker.

Just this week, a very substantial business group in this island refused to pay the interest rates demanded by its bankers. Its bankers said they could not lend them money themselves, but they could negotiate a Euro dollar loan for them at Euro dollar rates of interest. The employment of a large number of people was at stake in this matter. It is a substantial development, but in the end, I allowed the Barbados National Bank to lend them a substantial sum of money. We are not talking about \$100 000 or \$200 000. I allowed the Barbados National Bank to lend them these funds in the interest of domestic, political, economic activity. (Aside)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know my time must be very nearly up and I do not really want to let my speech merely descend into the day to day measures that are being taken. But, I would say this, underneath all the rhetoric and the violence which is intended to impress the Honourable Members on his left and behind him, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is not really saying much against the Government, you know, Sir. He is saying all the things that we have tried to make the public understand for years, which constitute prudent, economic management. It is only one small area and he is still betraying the advice that he has given, by talking nonsense about gambling and about the cost of energy and so on because that is the same nonsense, as it has been, over the last few years. Where the gambling is con-

cerned, I heard somebody say the gamblers must be making a lot of money, since, look they are investing and they are putting up factories. I wonder what you really want. If a man — I thought that private enterprise was about making money to create more development in the country. That is what I thought.

I do not know how the Honourable Member is going to say that gambling has any impact on the situation Barbados finds itself in. I would have thought that if you withdraw money from buying foreign goods by gambling with it and that the man who gambled gets the money, then uses it for productive purposes, that would be an economic advantage not a disadvantage, I would have thought. As a matter of fact, Sir, it may very well be that there are countries which feel that gambling is a useful means of reducing consumption, but I do not think that the incidence of gambling in Barbados is such that any of these matters could sensibly be canvassed in the sort of debate that we are now undertaking today. And, we are talking about trivialities. Trivialities that have been rejected by the electorate comprehensively already. Foolishness. (ASIDE: You are original on that) Quite unique. The first time that argument was put anywhere in the world.) The Honourable Member for St. Michael West has discovered yet another area of his own ignorance, in an aside, Sir. I think, if I do nothing else in my political life in this country, the educational job that I will have done for the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and the opening of his eyes to matters which I sometimes think God has closed them, I will have achieved something.

Now, the task force, Sir, just to wind up. I cannot accept any task force, even though it comes from the eloquent and golden tongue of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. "Softy, softy catches the monkey", but it would not catch this monkey, on this occasion. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central realising the depths of his lack of knowledge of economics over the last three years has been seeking to expand the bounds of that knowledge. (ASIDE) He speaks to particular persons at the University, he speaks to particular persons at the Central Bank and how, he wants to speak to the Governor of the Central Bank and now, he wants access to the brains which exist in the present structure of economic management on this Side of the Honourable House, because he wants a joint approach to economic affairs in this country.

4.10 p.m.

I have never myself heard of the Opposition setting up a task force to help the Government manage the economy. The electorate put us here to manage it. They put neither the Democratic Labour Party nor a task force. The hon. member wrote to the Governor of the Central Bank to invite the Governor to explain himself to him. I have never been so impertinent, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order. The hon. member is inadvertently, I am sure inadvertently, he must be, misleading this House to say I wrote the Governor of the Central Bank to ask him to explain himself to me. That is completely and totally untrue.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, please, please. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central. I think you are following the trend of one or possibly two other members who ought to have known better and seem bent on not knowing better until something really happens in this House. Please, I invite you to try and learn what it means by rising on the floor of the House and accusing not only now a member, but a Minister, of misleading this House, and in this instance of accusing the Prime Minister. In a matter of this sort you go to the extent of saying that *something* is untrue. Kindly withdraw it now. Kindly withdraw it, please.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Withdraw it, please.

Dr. HAYNES: What do you wish me to withdraw, just to be clear in my own mind? Misleading? I withdraw the word "misleading", if that is what you wish me to withdraw. I just want to be clear what you wish me to withdraw. That is all I am asking for. I said "inadvertently misleading" and if that is offensive I beg to withdraw those two words.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In due course no doubt the House will have the opportunity of seeing the exchange of correspondence, but like the Governor of the Central Bank I would advise the hon. member to consider the Official Secrets Act, and also consider the fact that not even a member of the Cabinet can write to the Governor of the Central Bank to ask him to discuss any of the policies that he has carried out. There is not one member on this front bench who can put pen on paper to ask the Governor of the Central Bank any questions that come within his competence under the Central Bank Act, and yet we have reached the stage in Barbados where a member of the Opposition is impertinent enough to write to the Governor of the Central Bank to ask him to discuss his policies. But in due course all that will be dealt with. If you have delusions of grandeur and do not understand what happened on June 18, 1981, you will just have to suffer until some future time when they can perhaps once again put those delusions to the public of Barbados. I have never heard in life of a Leader of the Opposition, an Opposition member in any parliamentary system writing to one of the Government's principal advisers on any subject to seek from him expositions of policy. We are here to govern, you are there to oppose, not to seek expositions. If you want to hear something from the Governor of the Central Bank and it does not

form a part of the unpublished papers of Government, Parliament has a Committee that can do it, and the Governor of the Central Bank will be bound in that Committee by the Central Bank Act, by the Official Secrets Act and by the Rules of Parliament itself relating to the Public Accounts Committee. But no individual member can interrogate any adviser of Government as to the advice he has given the Government and as to the reasons for that advice. Let us get this quite clear.

Mr. Speaker, I really cannot deal with the speech of the hon. member for St. James South, except to say that he has got his figures wrong as to the number of people between the ages of 16 and 25. The speech had so little to do with the Resolution that it is not worth replying to, and I believe that the hon. member for Christ Church West Central has dealt with speeches of other hon. members.

While I appreciate the goodwill of the member for St. Michael South, the points which have been made in this debate do not persuade me that the Government is wallowing in such a trough of ignorance that it requires the assistance of a task force to deal in general terms with the economy. The economy is very well examined inside Parliament in the cut and thrust of Parliamentary debate. We have had sound economic sense talked on both sides of the House from time to time, we hear good debates at the time of Estimates, not such good debates at the time perhaps of the Budget, and I have heard some words of truth in the debate here today. When the time comes, if the time should ever come for joint action of both sides of Parliament in particular matters, we are not adverse to such joint action. Indeed in the last Parliament we did invite in respect of the Statutory Corporation, first of all, and in respect of Foreign Affairs activities secondly, the cooperation of the Opposition. It was rejected on both occasions. The Opposition has also consistently rejected the offer of the Government to call the Heads of Estimates so that we could analyse those Departments which they are particularly interested in dealing with. The Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition in particular, has consistently hardly ever replied to a letter written on any subject by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Government.

Hon. members have made some wild charges on the other side. Hon. members like Dr. Caddle who are not in the House now have made some desperately wicked charges and have refused to cooperate in assisting the Government to investigate them. I cannot therefore take it particularly seriously when hon. members want a task force in a matter which has been the subject of so much debate over so long a period of time, and I therefore, Mr. Speaker, while thanking hon. members for their contributions to the debate, am not in a position to advise my colleagues to support that part of the Resolution which

deals with a task force. In due course I have no doubt that the Government will move an appropriate amendment, because we will not wish to refuse to express thanks to His Excellency the Governor General and to note the contents of his speech. Perhaps, Sir, we may just have to remove the final part of the Resolution in due course.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, in making my contribution to this debate, and in listening to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I was almost persuaded to be the 18th member on that side when I listened to the first half, but in following the second half of his speech I started to lose the feeling of being joyous.

4.20 p.m.

To my mind the words of a famous calypsonian came to the fore, words in part which said "it will be a long, long summer". And as you know, Mr. Speaker, in summer there is little growth, and so says the Throne Speech: "There will be little growth in the economy for a long period." And the verse continues "some will cry". Are we not hearing the cries of the lower income group who are now trying to resist the pressures of the Mini-budget? And are we not hearing from the business sector the cries that this Christmas may not be the best and that they may not be able to offer the traditional employment which would give so many people at Christmas a happy Christmas?

Mr. Speaker, the more pessimistic ones are saying that they may have to resort to the sale of coal pots and lamps because stoves and fridges are now a luxury. And, Mr. Speaker, if we take a long time to give the people of Barbados a national health service, according to that calypso, we shall die.

Mr. Speaker, that seems to be to my mind the seriousness of the Throne Speech, and in supporting this Resolution, I want to commend the hon. member for St. Michael South for such an appropriate and most timely Resolution. It is because of a series of events over the last six months or so that one has been able to follow the seriousness of the present difficulties that the Government has now been experiencing.

Mr. Speaker, remember in March we had the Budget and we heard the good stories. This was part of the election campaign, but then, Sir, on 21st July the Throne Speech seemed to have revealed the entire story and that Throne Speech gave us the Mini-budget, and that Mini-budget provided us with the opportunity to discuss in this House the economy of this country, and it was then that we knew it was not so good after all.

Mr. Speaker, what seems to come to my mind is that we hear many biblical quotations in here, and only today we heard that those who have ears to hear, let

them hear. But is it like the scene when the Democratic Labour Party who sowed on good ground and in the years of 1973 and on when the strains and stresses were there they were able to withstand the pressures at that time? Or is it that the present Government like the sower sowed on stony ground and enjoyed for a short time and now in times of strain and stress they have had to carry their burdens to the working class people?

Mr. Speaker, it is rather disturbing to read in the Throne Speech that the economy of this country will decline from 5% to 2% in the next two years or so, and that Government will have to institute measures to restrain consumption and at the same time control wages over that same period. I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that this will have a very depressing effect on the lower income group and to a lesser extent those who are better off as well. I also believe it will have a similar effect in the Government, in the public sector where activity will be in some way depressed. For instance, Sir, the actions and the measures from the Mini-Budget have in some way caused unemployment to rise. Already the Housing Corporation has curtailed some of its projects and this has thrown some people out of employment. Parks and Beaches have adopted a similar method and some people are also thrown out of employment. IDC has done its part already, and Mr. Speaker, we are not to know the ones and the twos because of this measure who may also be thrown on to the unemployment market. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the one thing that emerges from this Throne Speech is the unemployment effect and most of us know that unemployment is almost a scourge. It is like an octopus with its dangerous tentacles reaching into the core of the society, and possibly, Mr. Speaker, it may capsize the social infrastructure that we have built up over the years.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that not only will the people themselves feel this effect, but some Government Departments will also be feeling some of the pressures. Already there are no unemployment benefits available and with the rise in unemployment, with the increase of bus fares for children and adults, increased house rents and already not enough houses to house our people, increased credit restrictions, gasoline increase after the general election, the already increased water rates and the fluctuating increases in electricity, and never to forget the ever daily increases in the prices of food, and now there is restraint, the sum total of this development suggests to me that we are looking very much nearer to the old Poor Law Board where we had plenty of poverty and many people suffered indignity there. Because of the Democratic Labour Party's social programmes and economic development in those days, we got rid of that department and we had a functioning Welfare Department operating within its own resources, but, Mr. Speaker, having heard the past Minister who was responsible for

Welfare and how he was highly critical of that department, one gets the impression that this department may not be able to carry that load. As a result it means that some other departments as well may feel this effect.

Mr. Speaker, it is not only the Welfare Department that will carry that load. What about those people who are maintained through the courts. They too are likely to suffer if there is any rise in employment. It may even reach the stage, Mr. Speaker, where I would like to know if the present Minister of Housing would still be telling these people who have been dismissed that they would have to pay or else. I have known of people who have been employed by the National Housing Corporation and the Parks and Beaches Commission who are now out of employment and at this moment are not in a position to pay their rents. Would the Minister carry out the policy that he thinks he should? And even education will not be missed, because as I understand it, some teachers are saying that there seems to be some close connection between the performance of the workers in tourism and the school children in school. It is a week on week off situation, and if this were to persist, Sir, one would get the impression or one would be bound to know in a period of time that rather than producing the kind of literacy in this country, you may be producing some illiterate people, and then Mr. Speaker, it will not only end there.

4.30 p.m.

Health will be another Department which would feel the effects of such measures. I will say a little later on, on the Health as it affects medicine, but, Mr. Speaker, those services are hard-pressed and if, as the Minister has recently started to feel the effects of teenage pregnancies, there will all be the result or to a large extent of some of the idleness and the inability to go to school day-by-day that would cause some of these children to fall into this difficulty and you will have another problem on your hands.

But, Mr. Speaker, the present Minister of Health in his familiarisation tour made some interesting comments and, as always, the Hospital never seems to escape some form of criticism and it always seems to be the Casualty. I hope that he was not at that time reflecting on the ability of the past Minister to handle the question but what comes forcibly to my mind, Sir, is that this Resolution is calling for a task force and a task force in itself means to use what is available to you and use it.

And, Mr. Speaker, if you have, and I believe this is a document of the House, the 1969/72 Development Plan, you will see that the present Minister himself did not wait for this Resolution but perhaps, being a member of the Democratic Labour Party, he must have been able to understand that good plans and ideas usually

come from them and as far back as 1969/72, Sir, I would like just to refresh your memory on this.

In dealing with the Casualty then in that Development Programme, Sir, on page 137 and we are speaking about remedying the situation at the Casualty — “In order to remedy the situation, a central out-patient clinic will be constructed near the Queen Elizabeth Hospital” and, Sir, the consistent good planning and the policy of the Democratic Labour Party continued right through and if you go to the 1971 Manifesto, I hope this is a document of the House as well, Sir, you will see, Sir, the task force is what I am talking about, whether a thing was good 50 years ago and you use it. That is what we are talking about. We are using it and that is what we are giving.

We also said in this Manifesto, Sir, that “speedy attention for persons attending the Casualty Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital by restricting the services of that Department, non-emergency cases now dealt with in the Casualty will be treated by a large out-patient clinic.” The voice is clear. The assistance is there, the task force, and this continued right through until 1981, Sir.

In 1981, I would like to know if the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto carried the same programmes as well and in this same programme, Sir, we went further. Not only did we say that we would construct this Hospital near the Hospital but we would seek the assistance of the St. Joseph Hospital to help.

Mr. Speaker, the case has been made out for the task force by the Hon. Minister of Health. He has sought the help from this side and this is what we are saying. We are not dividing in our country. We are saying that whatever help we can give and I am proud to feel that our plans, whether we have implemented them or not, 2 years after, or 50 years after, that they are still valid.

Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech it says “the first phase of the National Health Service.” As I have said before, Mr. Speaker, you cannot take an extraordinary length of time to deal with Health. Health is something that must be done with and dealt with speedily. Health cannot be taken in terms like the School Meals Programme or a Development Programme like the School Buildings Programme.

Health is a very vital and necessary thing to a healthy body and requires immediate help. Therefore, Sir, by example, if you had a patient who had sugar, blood pressure and heart disease you cannot phase them out. They need immediate cure and any Health Service that is presented to this country must be presented in a form in which the people will benefit almost immediately so that the phasing out of the programme may say

what the calypso says, some will die because you will have to stay too long to do that.

One of the main problems confronting the National Health Service, Sir, is the attitude of our people to this service and the attitude of these people stem from a long way back and I am just quoting this to highlight what we are experiencing in this particular service, the wrong attitude.

This, Sir, is the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party of 1976 and it was accepted. Just as I believe that a good thing will last forever no matter where it starts, it will continue to last forever and in this Manifesto, the real problem here is interpretation, "that the BLP Government will establish a Free National Health Service" and so much bent on having "free" in the people's mind, they went on to say that they will, for example, in Europe where free medical schemes exists, and a little further down they said they will have the right to free medical care.

What I am trying to say is this. If the wrong attitude has been adopted because of some form of misunderstanding, then your service will start off at that disadvantage.

What is happening in the Drug Plan at the moment is that there are many people who cannot understand if it is free or not because their main problem is that under the old Democratic Labour Party Government, the same people who are attending clinics were getting drugs free. In other words, 65 year old people were getting medicine free and children were getting them free.

I work at some of the clinics and I see them and if the Minister wants to have a clearer example of what I am trying to point out, there is an evening clinic at Bayville and you will go there and you will see that there are more people than that clinic can handle. The reason is that that clinic has been going on for a long time and people have been going there and getting it free.

Now that you have been involved in the private sector, some of these people who normally would have been able to get their medicine free, under the National Health Service they have to pay.
4.40 p.m.

Many of them turn up with the belief that they were having a free Health Service. And so, Mr. Speaker, that attitude needs to be corrected. It needs to be corrected, from the point of view, that your service will not reach the high point, if the people are not co-operating with the right understanding.

The next point which I want to raise, under the National Health Service, Sir, is that of the pharmacists. Would you believe, Sir, that a scheme, as important as this, a major plank of victory for a Government starts off by inducing pharmacists to enter a Scheme on a gentleman's agreement? Mr. Speaker, I believe that that is one of the problems that they will have to sort out very early. The pharmacists must be treated in a way which they will accept. I would like to say this, that most of us are willing to go and serve that service for the benefits it will have. (*Asides*) But, Sir, that is an area in which I think you need to look at. And then, what about the Pharmacy Act? That is another important aspect of that area. Under that Act, it will provide a lot of assistance, by ways of discipline and at the same time trying to provide the country with a very efficient service. I hope that the Honourable Minister, even though he might have been aware of the fact that a lot has been done, in order to get this Act before now, I hope that he will act speedily in getting that Act put forward.

Mr. Speaker, the polyclinics in my view, are about the same thing as what used to exist before. The complaints are there. They go to the clinics — and I am saying this, from the point of view, that the Throne Speech says that the Government pays very serious attention to the health service of this country. It is alright to have a nice building, but then, what about your services? Are you getting the maximum services at your clinics? Do you know that people go to the clinics and very rarely will they get good, medical service? Very often, Sir, some of the old people who go to those clinics may not get the medicine and they have to come outside and buy it. The service only provides for half of that cost. You need to do that, from that point of view, to make sure that these clinics function effectively, that they function to their fullest.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the main contention with me and the Service, at the moment is this, that during the mini Budget it was said that \$8 million was made available for this Service and by the Report before us, Sir, that \$8 million should have been spent, or rather the people in Barbados should have been enjoying part of that service. And, Sir, that \$8 million would have provided for the National Health Service the primary health care.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Private Member's Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a contribution to the debate on the legislation to do with the preservation of trees. Honourable Members have said earlier in the day that — there is consensus on both Sides on this matter of preservation of trees. But, I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I detect that there is a lot of hypocrisy on both Sides and a lot of lip service on both Sides. Yes. Honourable Members who spoke in this Honourable House today about trees and could not remember the name of the trees have concrete backyards. They would not recognise a tree, if they saw one face to face, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Yes, Sir.

There are trees in Barbados, Mr. Speaker, Sir, which are dying of old age, which are dying of disease, which are being felled, so that we can build housing developments and housing estates and the Government is one of the offenders in this matter, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Felled out of pure lawlessness and as has been said before, trees are not being replaced or replanted.

I live in a very small development. It is getting bigger now, more people are building. But, I am the only person who has planted trees and where I have sought to plant trees on other people's land, they have cut them down. I do not understand what it is in our national psyche, Mr. Speaker, Sir, which abominates a tree in the way that it happens in Barbados. I do not understand it. I sit down in my house and watch the rain clouds pass right over it, Mr. Speaker, as I am sure other Honourable Members do, and the rain falls in the sea and not on the land, because we are denuding the land. There is not a sufficient number of trees to attract the rain. We do not seem to understand the importance of trees in the eco system.

People are talking a great deal of the environment, using the word and having no understanding of the environment. They do not know what it means. They do not know how critical it is to our own survival, on this planet, that we should encourage the growth of trees and that we should plant trees. There needs to be a National Tree Planting Programme. I have never presided over the building of any structure in Barbados, since 1976, in my capacity as a Minister, without planting more than one tree, not even upon the completion of it, without adorning it with some work of art. Our buildings are ugly, our architecture is unattractive.

We only see trees, Mr. Speaker, Sir, as objects which afford us shade, from time to time, and now that our western attitudes are becoming more acute, we see trees now as some part of the landscape and some part of the aesthetic and artistic aspect of the landscape. But a tree is a far more important object than that. Somebody once said that only God can make a tree. In Barbados, we

have men and unfortunately women too, who make it their business to unmake trees.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I admit freely, that I was the initiator of the debushing programme in 1976. I am unrepentant and unapologetic for that. It says something terrible about us in Barbados and we claim to be highly educated, Sir, we claim to be highly intelligent and to be highly sophisticated people and it is passing pathetic, that Barbadians cannot know the difference between what is bush and what is a tree. What is worthy of preservation, what is worthy of care and what is not. The people who cut down trees, during the debushing campaign in 1976 are the people who cut down trees before 1976 and will continue to cut down trees, but for legislation like that which we are embarked upon enacting today.
4.50 p.m.

I think it is also passing pathetic too, Mr. Speaker, that Barbadians should have to be told every year like children that they should debush their premises. The hon. member for Christ Church West said it, and I want to repeat it. This should not be a matter for the Government only. There is this feeling that the Government must do everything. Sparrow once wrote a calypso about this kind of thing. Somebody's trousers falling, they want the Doctor to help them with that. Everything the Government must be responsible for, but this is an area where people have an individual responsibility.

Now a great deal was said about the responsibility of the Ministry of Health in this matter and about Public Health Inspectors, and I wish to say something in defence of this. It is not every overrun vacant lot that is necessarily a health hazard. I believe that the majority of our Public Health Inspectors do an exceedingly important and good job in Barbados. Our public health statistics would not be as good as they are if this were not true. I will concede that there are some very poor Public Health Inspectors who are in serious dereliction of their duties, who neglect their jobs, and I understand the agony of the hon. member for Christ Church East Central, because there is a nest of very negligent Public Health Inspectors in his constituency. It took the Public Service Commission 16 years to dismiss one member who carried on a private business on the Government's land at the side of the highway for the whole world to see when he should have been out doing the business of the Ministry of Health. For years this has gone on, he did it during the Vestry days and he did it in the days of Central Government, and his example has really destroyed all morale in the Public Health Inspectorate in the Southern Division.

In the Southern District of this country the Public Health Inspectorate always did the fewest inspections, they always registered the fewest institutions which had to be registered under the Public Health Regulations.

They were always home sick, more than any other Inspectors in any other Division. In fact, a good comparison is to be made with the Public Health Inspectorate of the Northern Division under Mr. Mottley, Chief Public Health Inspector for the North, an example to be held up to Public Health Inspectors in this country. At the beginning of the year all the salons, the hotels, the guest houses and wherever else inspections had to be made are properly made and investigated. That is a dedicated team, and that is why there is a different look in the north and the west coasts than there is in the south coast of this country.

So I perfectly well understand the anger and the difficulty being experienced by the hon. member for Christ Church East Central, and perhaps the hon. member for Christ Church East. I understand their constituents have been writing them letters on this matter, but for the large part, Mr. Speaker, they do a good job and they give a dedicated service to this country.

What we also have to recognise, Mr. Speaker, too is that the Public Health Inspector has not got any brigade of casual or any other kind of workers to assist them in their job, and I will go down and say that it cannot be part of the function of the Public Health Inspector to clean up vacant lots. It cannot be part of the function of any officer of Government to go on to your private land or my private land and clean up the mess because we will not do it. The law must find a way to penalise you. If it comes to the point in this country, then it will have to come to legislation that non-nationals who are non-resident should not own land. Land comes at such a high premium in this country, it is so valuable and precious in this country because we have such a small land mass, that anyone who owns land and will not care it and plant it or build on it and treat it with respect does not deserve to own it, and that is my attitude, and always has been.

The Public Health Inspectors, Mr. Speaker, since 1969 when Local Government was abolished had not had their numbers increased until three years ago. It is like the Police Force. We have heard the Attorney General crying in here about the fact that the Police Force lacked numbers, and if it had to cope with a more sophisticated and more developed society in Barbados, you would have to increase numbers. So too the Public Health Inspectors have not been increased. Barely 70 odd Public Health Inspectors we have had all through the seventies to police a population of 245 odd thousand people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, like I said, we have become a more developed and a more sophisticated society. There are more and more vital and critical and important functions that the Public Health Inspectors have to carry out. They have more extended duties at both the sea port and the

airport, we have more and more processing industries growing up in this country. They too have to be inspected by the Public Health Inspectorate. We have more and more trades requiring inspection which are proliferating in this country. We have more and more sewerage systems at hotels and other large establishments like banks and so on which also have to be monitored by the Public Health Inspectorate. Other aspects of the environment, the air has to be monitored, water samples have to be taken, all of these things fall within the purview of the Public Health Inspectorate.

To what end are we spending the largest chunk of our national budget on education if in 1981 a man has to knock on your door every few weeks and tell you to clean your backyard? This says something awful about the level of intelligence and the attitude to self care in this country. It was never the case that that was the job of the Public Health Inspector, and those people who stand up in here and say they do not see a Public Health Inspector are not being fair to the Inspectorate. More people are out working today, fewer people have domestics in their homes today, so that when the Public Health Inspector visits more often than not there is no one at home.

I will concede the point that less home visiting is done because there are other functions which are more critical, but it must come to a point in this country where fewer home visits should be done, because of our sense of civic responsibility, of civic duty should be such that we would not need a man to come to the door to tell us to empty the vase and to take up the old bottles in the backyard. We behave as though we are in one of these underprivileged, underdeveloped Third World countries where we live in thatched huts, and children dig about in the mud and have to be told not to eat dirt. We are one of the more developed countries of the Third World, Mr. Speaker, and it is time that we start to behave like that. Do we go on and on and on in a country like this with people having to point the finger and saying in the bad old colonial days they did it when the white man told them to do it? But in 1981 a man must knock at your front door and tell you to clean up your front garden and to put out your garbage. Where is this education that we boast about? Where is this intelligence that we boast about?

We are never by legislation alone, Mr. Speaker, going to change these basic attitudes, and this is part of the conservatism that lies in the national temperament of Barbadians. We saw what a public outcry there was when daylight saving time was introduced, yet in all the north-south conferences, in all the other big conferences going on we are hearing that we must increase productivity in the Third World, and yet still we are sleeping when the

sun is up, because we are too conservative to take advantage of what God has given to us.
5.00 p.m.

I said it in another forum and I choose to say it in here again, Mr. Speaker, because since I said it two young children have lost their lives on our roads. We teach our children to walk backing on-coming traffic. We are fighting an ingrained attitude. Lives would be saved, especially the lives of young children, if we would only teach our children to walk facing the on-coming traffic. It costs no money. You do not need to have a whole new curriculum in school to teach anybody that. It is just those little attitudes.

The last hon. member who spoke referred to our attitudes, and that is part of our problem in this country. Now if I may get back to trees, Mr. Speaker, but before I get back to trees, I just want to make one point too about a man who is now my constituent, and I refer to Mr. Bowen who runs the old car museum on the President Kennedy Drive. Members may say that it is a junk yard, but Mr. Bowen would not be carrying on business there so successfully if he were not fulfilling a need in this community, and Mr. Bowen is fulfilling a need. I know, because I have discussed it with the gentleman, that nobody is more willing than he to move his premises to somewhere that is more suitable. He has been told that the Government is preparing a site to which it will invite most, if not all, of the dealers who handle this second-hand and old car business to go and run their business, so that there will be one big village and you will be able to move from one to the other with a certain amount of ease, and all this parts exchanging and cannibalising that goes on will be done in proper surroundings.

Now that site is being prepared and Mr. Bowen knows of it, and Mr. Bowen wishes to be the first person to move on to it; so it is not as though he wilfully does it. I know of my own knowledge because I too have sent the Public Health Inspectors to deal with Mr. Bowen, that he would clear his side walks tonight and by tomorrow morning they are covered with old cars again. This society is more affluent than we are giving credit for. Old cars do not start out as old cars; they start out as new cars and our standard of living is so opulent that we can write them off every day at the side of the road. We have to be careful Mr. Speaker, that we do not continue to poison the landscape and to poison the eco-system because it will vomit back on us and the generations to come after us, and I think we have a responsibility, especially the people who sit in this Honourable Chamber as legislators not to mortgage the future that we are expecting our children and their children to inherit.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest possible pleasure in supporting this. Trees are perhaps the most

important form of vegetation that we can encourage to grow in this Island. I do not think enough people understand that if there were not trees Barbados would be like the Sahara Desert and it would not support life, either of the animal or the human kind, and I would like to appeal to the Minister of Housing and Lands that he should perhaps use the passing of this legislation as a launching pad to embark upon a national tree planting programme. People should be encouraged to plant trees both flowering and fruit.

Mr. Speaker, when we were all children there were a number of trees some of which we perhaps do not any longer remember because they are dwindling in numbers now. There are very few Black Willow trees left in Barbados. You do not see as many flambuoyant trees as one used to see when I was a child. The Spathodia tree which is a very beautiful tree and also attracts water with its roots is not seen on our landscape as much as it used to be. The Cassias, the Pride of India, the Giovannica we do not see them in any large numbers anymore.

Mr. Speaker, when that Government Headquarters was built at Bay Street, I know, because I know intimately the gentleman who had a say in it, that every tree that is planted there that adds to the beauty, the prospect that one has across that part of Bay Street and the esplanade was chosen and planted with care. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, when the Maurice Byer Polyclinic was opened, not one but three trees were planted. I planted one myself and invited you and Maurice Byer to plant one, and I have had other trees chosen by me planted down there. Somehow we have to find a way of inculcating into Barbadians not only the importance of trees but perhaps of trying to teach them how to love trees, because without them we are not going to survive.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Health has been subject to a great examination today, and I am certainly indebted to the last hon. member, the Minister of Education, for the defence which she gave to the Public Health Inspectors in the Ministry. Serving so long in that Ministry I have no doubt whatever in my mind that she would have some regard for the Ministry and some love for its personnel. The duty of the Public Health Inspector today is not an easy duty. The Public Health Inspector is not like the writserver of the past or the person who was always around the corner to arrest a delinquent individual. The Public Health Inspector today is one in the form of an educator. They try more by moral suasion to get people to do things than to prosecute them in court.

Only recently at a handing over ceremony by PAHO of a van to assist in the eradication of rodents, I had to talk to some Public Health Inspectors there with respect to the problems which we are encountering, and in that

regard I should like to make mention of the fact that the Deputy Prime Minister's constituency is to me the one which complains most. He said it is a poor constituency, but I consider it to be a very affluent constituency. Because of the people who live there, I believe they certainly believe people must come to do things for them. I will touch upon that a little later. The Public Health Inspector is not a worker out there who is going to cut down trees, and as the Hon. Minister of Education said, the Ministry of Health does not have a task force as the Opposition would wish to put out who will go out there and debush. It is a different type of task force from what they are thinking of. We do not have the material to go out there and cut down bush from around people's land and houses. The Public Inspector comes in where there are problems that affect public health. If there are mosquitos, if there are *Aedes Egypti*, if there are problems that affect the environment from a public health point of view and they are called in, they go in and they take action. If bush is there and it does not create a public health problem, the Public Health Inspector does not necessarily have to act.

A Public Health Inspector is not like the Public Health Inspector of the past fifteen years ago, where he only had to go from house to house to see if watering pots or cans had any larvae or something of that kind, or if there were bottles around the houses or if there were coconut shells which were not cut open, or the stuff was not brought out. I remember the bad days of the past when the Public Health Inspector had to go into the house itself to make sure that things were good. Thank God we have passed those days in this country. Now the Public Health Inspector goes around to make an occasional check and mostly to look for the deadly type of mosquito and things that would create a public health hazard.

We are fortunate in Barbados that despite the fact that you will get complaints occasionally about bush, about paper, about the plastic cups that are thrown about that we do not have any real major public health problems. As a matter of fact, we do not have any serious public health problems. I recall very vividly, Mr. Speaker, that when we were to have the CARIFESTA here that it was thought we should not even have it because there was a great possibility of the country being affected by people bringing in this type of disease.

5.10 p.m.

It was very good fortune to have advised the Cabinet and we agreed that we should continue and as a result there was no dengue as a result of the Carifesta Programme which took place here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the whole position is this. There are some people who have very strange attitudes about

things. When I was Minister of Agriculture, I remember putting forward the idea that we should carry out a campaign against love vines. An hon. member on the Other Side talked about love vines.

When I had a discussion with the Technical Division of the Administrative Section of the Ministry, the Chief Technical Officer said to me that he did not regard it as a problem which would affect anybody. He said you may not like it but it does not stop crops from growing. I said but this is something we do not want. Love vines are a disaster. Can you give me a reason why we should not rid the country of love vines? Up to now, except for the fact of saying that he did not agree with me that we should carry out a programme of elimination of love vines, he has not come up with a single programme to do anything about it.

Although I told him that it was my view and the view of the Ministry should prevail in these matters of policy, up to this moment, at least up to the time I left there, he did not come up with a programme but what I do know is that as a result of the Smut Disease which was discovered in this country, Dr. Small from the Ministry of Agriculture, carried out a study and came up with an Act which the Cabinet supported, which will take care of these matters in the fullness of time that if there is any disease like Smut or whatever it might be, love vine, any kind of bush, that the Ministry of Agriculture can act.

Similarly, the Ministry of Health has a number of very wide powers but these powers have limitations to some extent. You must have people to police areas. The Public Health Inspectors must today examine all of these new processing factories that are coming on stream and I can tell you in respect of BARPAC which is now doing a very good job, my predecessor in Office and myself carried out a survey of BARPAC and as a result she installed permanent Public Health Inspectors at BARPAC.

The Public Health Inspector is not a person who has time to run around, with the exception of a few like one of them in Christ Church who is too busy doing other things and who never has time to do the Government's work and whenever you write him on matters, he writes back and tells you stupidity about Public Health Inspectors not having any means of transportation. They are not given cars. They are not given gasoline and they are not given a host of other things.

With the exception of certain personnel, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the Public Health Inspector today is an extremely hard working, intelligent person and that is what I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker. I have given instructions that the days of moral suasions are over and examples must be made of people, especially those people who are able to do it, because I must add here, Mr. Speaker, there are a

number of poor people in this society, old women and men who have found themselves with a property who are not even able to keep their lives together, soul and body, let alone to repair their own houses, let alone to clean up around them. Those are the people you have to give special consideration to and if anything has to be done for people, it must be done for these people by this Ministry.

Those people who are able, I do not only mean able to pay, but I mean able to get up and go out there with a hoe or a hatchet and cut down some of the bush themselves because it will do their health a lot of good rather than sitting down all night watching television and eating the very best that life can offer and suffering from gout as a result.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that those people get up and go outside and do a measure of work. Man's duty or man's right on earth is to be useful. They have to get out there and do something. We will not be writing letters anymore. Letters that go to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and hon. members on the Other Side come to me. They are sent to me and copied to the other people and I have got to satisfy them. Whenever they come to me, I take remedial action and they are dealt with but the resources are limited, very limited.

There is something I noticed in the Ministry of Health and I saw it in the Ministry of Agriculture as well. A lot of Officers rather than get up off their sit-downs and going out and seeing what is going on, use the telephones to inform themselves and that is the worst media of information. It is better to get out there and see what is going on.

What I will do and I hope if the National Union of Public Workers decide to cry, that the Opposition will not join them in their cries that when they fail to act in the South, I will send them to the North and *vice-versa*. The job must be done. Health standards must be maintained. The country must be kept free of diseases. We have found it a reasonably healthy country and we must keep it so and leave it so. That is our duty.

As far as the trees are concerned, when Barbados was first discovered, and the hon. member for St. Michael South will agree with me, the bearded fig tree was then the tree which was seen by the first settlers and the name was given in accordance with the tree which they saw. Now, we have had too much of these dissertations.

We are now suffering from the same problems which the people in Africa are suffering from because in Africa, as you know, they are not blessed with fossil fuel and therefore they have got to use the tree as firewood and they have been cutting down all the trees to the point today where rain is hardly falling in certain parts of Africa, and a number of other places.

The Sahara is another area that you can think of as well, Mr. Speaker, where a very great job is being done today in order to re-afforest the Sahara and to bring it back to life because it was there lying doing nothing for anybody. It all created a nuisance for other people and for us here too in Barbados since we are the next people of that wide expanse of sea, between Africa and Barbados, over 5,000 miles.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to tackle these problems in a serious way. It is the duty of Government and by Government I do not mean the Party in power alone but a Government with a democracy as a system of Government and Opposition and in truth and in fact when Parliament meets it meets as a Parliament and not as two Parliaments. We as a Government must decide to see issues as national issues and if we discover that the environment is being destroyed, if we discover that people are destroying trees in this country willy-nilly.....
5.20 p.m.

If we discover that the cause of fires which we get, year after year, destroying several thousands of sugar canes and affecting fruit trees and not only fruit trees, but other valuable mahogany trees and other trees as well. Casuarina trees was referred to, in this debate. The Casuarina tree is a tree which can be burnt very easily. As a matter of fact, it burns while it is still green and it can burn. We need to conserve our whole environment. All of us must say, Government, Opposition and Union alike, employers' group alike, that we would stop this indiscriminate burning of sugar cane. In doing that, in having the canes burnt, valuable fruit trees are being destroyed.

The Scotland District and the Soil Conservation have been propagating thousands of fruit trees, year after year, at little or no cost. I believe that this year, they would have put out, in the region of 30,000 fruit trees. But, if on an average of 16,000 per annum, you would agree with me that in 10 years, all over Barbados should normally have fruit trees. But, there is a problem. Because of the cheap price of the fruit trees, people do not tend to treat them kindly and they do not care them, which is a very serious thing. The tree which you pay one dollar for at Soil Conservation costs the Government in the region of \$10 and I do not know if Government can go on to do it that way, if people are going to allow them to die for lack of care.

This Bill before us will give the Honourable Minister certain powers and will also give certain powers to the Chief Town Planner, in order to preserve certain trees. The Act makes provision whereby, if a tree must of necessity be cut down from a particular place, an order can be made for a tree to be replanted. The problem with us is, we have only been cutting down, but we have not been replanting. We have a situation in Bar-

bados where old mahogany — and many people are crying now because the Government has taken some firm measures in order to control our old furniture. They are saying that there can be other means whereby it can be done, our antiques. The antiques are made of mahogany, good old mahogany. But, if you look around well, you will see that there is very little mahogany around, Mr. Speaker. Very little mahogany. We should have been doing a replanting programme for a long period now. The amount of mahogany furnitures that we have allowed to go out of this country, good antique mahogany, allowing the cheap stuff which comes in here and being sold by the people in Bridgetown for a fortune, we should have allowed ours to remain and make sure that heavy sanctions, by way of taxes are put on the cheap type of furniture which people have been buying and neglecting the old mahogany.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, very vividly passing by a dump heap one day, a few years ago and seeing a lovely piece of mahogany furniture and was reluctant to take it up, although I wanted it, but eased back and took it up from the dump heap because it was there to be thrown out and it made a lovely piece of furniture. I am happy to say, that people today are taking a different view, with respect to our mahogany furniture and they are now seeing it again and forgetting the cheap stuff.

We need to have trees planted for the attraction of weather which is vital for agricultural development because one of the greatest hindrances to agriculture is the lack of rain or the very seasonal rainfall. I would hope to see the day, when in every home in this country, some of the very expensive concrete which is put down in the yards is taken up and you have a green patch in every home. There is no harm in having that. Too many people have resorted to the concrete. Wherever you go, a piece of land that can bear fruits, you can have a breadfruit tree, you can have an avocado, you can have a mango tree, they have dug it up and they have put concrete there. Mr. Speaker, if they had put lawn grass, it would have looked better.

The Ministry of Health, Mr. Speaker, will continue to monitor the situation with respect to bush in the country, with respect to the effects of bush on the environment and on the health standards of the people in this country. The Ministry of Health will not flinch from its determination to ensure that proper standards are maintained. And now that we have taken all the measures and we have tried all the means of persuading people to upgrade their standards of health, we will now have to take the alternative measures.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this Government is so determined to see that Government standards are but the same, as standards which they demand of other people, that in all the new legislation coming down to do with

health standards and the environment, the Government is bound in these matters. In the past, the Government was not bound. All legislation now, is binding the Crown and that is a very good thing. It is for that reason that those places that cater to food and other matters to do generally with the public will be closed down, unless they conform to the standards in this country set by public health. (APPLAUSE).

Mr. SPEAKER: The question.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I never thought that something, which according to the speakers on both Sides, appears to be non controversial — preservation of trees — would have engaged the attention of the Honourable House for such a long time. I do not myself intend to prolong the agony of the passage of the Bill, but I just wish to draw the attention of the Honourable House to one or two things.

It is perfectly true that in 1950, a former Government passed legislation dealing with the preservation of certain types of trees. Honourable Members can get in here and make a lot of speeches congratulating themselves, congratulating previous Governments, if the views of that particular Government tend to coincide with their own present conventional wisdom, although at the particular time they may be the opponents of the Government. But, I think that the Honourable Members of the Honourable House ought to know that despite the fact that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West spoke about the Act of 1950 which specifically mentioned two types of trees, Mahogany trees and Casuarina trees that the purpose of the Act of 1950, insofar as Casuarina trees were concerned — and if any Honourable Member refers to the debates on the subject, he will see that the main thrust of debate was the usefulness of Casuarina trees for the purpose of burning fire wood for bakeries and for people at that time, Sir had coal pots — fire wood purposes generally. It was, in my humble opinion, far from a preservation of Casuarina trees. An Act for the planting of Casuarina trees for the purpose of reaping the product.

5.30 p.m.

Also, it was at one time construed as an Act which gave the plantations in Barbados who had a large amount of what is described as rab land an opportunity to escape paying taxes on that part of the rab land on which they planted casuarina trees. I remember very well in 1950 certain ridges in the parish of St. George, which I started to represent in 1951, were rapidly planted up in casuarina trees, but the Act had a stipulation that the trees had to come to a certain amount of maturity before the owners, and the owner was described as the person who also received the rent for the land, would be entitled to approach the Head of the Agricultural Department, the

Chief Agricultural Officer as he is now described, in order to qualify for the payment.

Section 6 of the Act said that every owner of land on which approved trees or fruit trees are being grown shall be entitled to receive at the end of each financial year a payment called a Fruit Tree Subsidy Payment in respect of each fruit tree. That was in 1950. I wonder if any of the members on the other side who are interested in agriculture can identify a single person who has ever received this subsidy. That is why I say that if we pass legislation we must carry out all the necessary steps to ensure that the intentions of the Legislature and the hopes and aspirations of the general agricultural community, farmers or otherwise, may be fulfilled. Because certainly in 1967 when the law was amended, and certainly when the law revision took place in the seventies, the footnote to section 6 says that this section is not in force. So we did a little research from 1967 onwards under the Ministry of Agriculture which was supposed to make the payments, up to and including the financial year 1981-82, and, Mr. Speaker, no allocation has been made or sought from Parliament for the payment of this subsidy for trees. So what is the point of our coming in here and having this big long winded debate if we are not going to make proper provision not only for payment for people who are entitled to subsidies, if we are not going to make proper provision for inspection, proper provision for control by people who are trained in control procedures, so that the intention of the Legislature when the proposals come before the House and are passed by Parliament that those intentions are carried out? This is the point I am making.

I understand that reference was made here earlier to love vine. For years in and out of Government I have tried to get something done about love vine. The first thing I drew it to the attention of Parliament way back in about 1952 that policemen are not qualified to go and report on the presence of love vine. The nature of their duties is not to go into people's backyards, even if they could identify love vine. We had a Love Vine Eradication Act on the Statute Book for donkey's years, must be over 60 or 70 years. The Act said that the policemen in the districts were responsible for reporting the presence of love vine, like if the love vine was committing a crime. The proper function of a policeman is to go around and maintain law and order. I pointed out that time that we had mosaic disease inspectors, we had all kinds of people employed by the Ministry of Agriculture under the days of Sir John Saint and all kinds of inspectors went out doing work in the field, and we had another group of people whose duty it was to visit every hereditament, every habitation, every premises in Barbados. Once a month the Public Health Inspectors had a statutory duty which used to be a standard, what we would call music hall joke in Barbados, that a Public Health In-

spector was a man with a big white ladle and a white cork hat and a khaki suit, but when I was growing up the Public Health Inspectors visited every house in the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church with monotonous regularity on their bicycles or whatever means of conveyance they had, inspected for malaria or for breeding places for mosquitoes, and made reports every single month, and I said it would not be difficult to get the Public Health Inspectors to do things. We used to call them Sanitary Inspectors too under the Local Government administration, but under the Central Government they were called Public Health Inspectors, so when I say Public Health Inspectors I mean the Sanitary Inspectors employed by the Vestries of the various parishes as well.

I said there were two things they could effectively do to improve the level of the administration of this country. Number one, report on love vine, advise the householders also and the land owners, whether it was agricultural land, kitchen garden or just a dwelling house with a few beds or a small dunks tree to get rid of the love vine. Report the persons if on their next visit the love vine had not been eradicated after the occupiers of the premises had been instructed to do it. And the other thing I said they could usefully do would be to carry out an agricultural census in Barbados to find out how many sheep, goats, pigs and chickens and so there were so, we could do a proper planning job of agriculture in this country.

It was very easy, because if you are going to look for mosquitoes you could take account of the number of livestock that there were in the island. Absolutely nothing has been done about that and love vine proliferates all over this country, so what is the point of our coming in here and having a debate from as soon as Government Business starts and everybody congratulating himself about what they put on the Statute Book and you do not follow it up by proper administration? There is no point in all that, everybody agrees. There was no need for any long winded debate here today. Mr. Speaker, they only kept you back from doing something more useful, as far as I am concerned. It is a matter of opinion, you do not have to pass any opinion on it. I am not out of order in saying that this is my personal opinion, because you could be doing something more useful.

We believe that we should do something about preserving trees. The first thing people do in Barbados when they are about to build a house is to level everything off the land, put in a bulldozer and level it and then they go and plant back trees after they have finished. Nowadays they say it is difficult to get a gardener, so they concrete everything and put asphalt down because it is easier to wash that down than to plant a few trees. Some people then go and dig holes then and get the idea they would like to have a pear tree or a mango tree or a lime tree

near to where the kitchen water is running out. Instead of preserving the trees that were there before they go and level everything and then think of planting back. That is happening right opposite our office there in George Street. I came back and found bamboo trees, mahogany trees, dunks trees, bread and cheese tree and everything razed to the ground and disappeared.

5.40 p.m.

Every single tree has been cut down and the same office that I see in its present location could have been constructed without touching a single tree that was there. Anyhow I do not want the gentleman to think that I am critical. I only say that even up to today I had this experience.

Now I do not know if this particular aspect of it is behind the Bill, but quite apart from the utilitarian aspect of trees in that they can provide fruit, there is also the aspect that trees help you with rainfall. Now what I should like to ask is what about all the plantations that in order to get every one of the 1,700 holes of cane out of an acre of land destroyed all the trees that used to border some of the sugar cane fields? Why shouldn't every five to ten acres have trees planted around them as they do in other countries, except in Canada of course, Manitoba and those places where you can see 10,000 acres only with wheat growing, but there are no human beings living or working around there, and when they are ready to reap they put in a combined harvester and they drive the harvester for fifteen miles and everything is done in one operation and they go back home. But we have human beings working in fields without the benefit of any kind of shelter or anywhere to go and eat their lunch or cool out, as they would say, because the canes come right up to the edge of the road, and the only thing between the canes and the road would be some khus-khus grass, and the only reason why they plant khus-khus grass, Mr. Speaker, is to prevent the mould from washing into the road, because they do not want to lose the mould. There was a time when they used to plant pea trees even. Now the pea tree is not a big tree, it is true. It is not of the kind of the spreading flambuoyant or mahogany tree, but a pea tree planted along the hedgerow used to be a common sight. You do not see these nowadays. They are not planting pea trees because they say people charge them too much for picking the peas and the people only pick the peas for themselves and not for the plantation.

That is something that the Ministry of Agriculture should look into, but as I said, I am only highlighting a couple of points because not one single proposal in the Cultivation of Trees Act of 1950 has been implemented. The people who are responsible are not interested. I could not get the Ministry of Agriculture interested in eradicating lovevine. I came in here and spoke time after time on why you are having policemen to eradicate

lovevine. In the final section of the Act, Section 12 says "Section 6 and all references in sections 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10..." it only has 12 sections – "to fruit trees and fruit tree subsidy payments shall come into operation on such date as the Governor may appoint by proclamation." Where is the proclamation? We have not had it. So the upshot of the whole thing is that casuarina trees have been cut down for fire wood. Nowadays they are just cut down and thrown one-side because nobody is interested in fire wood. They have not even investigated the possibility of using that, a very quick growing tree, for fencing posts instead of importing wallaba posts; and in other countries the gluricidia which people here call growing fence and the casuarina have been used effectively for fencing around paddocks where cattle and horses may be grazing. Nothing has been done about that.

In the Scotland district a lot of terracing has gone on. A couple of acres, not up on the hills, but down in the flat around the Agricultural Station have been planted up in trees. Some teak trees have been planted, but by now the length of time that we have had a soil conservation scheme, and it is not five or ten years, it must be twenty years, you should not be able to see the land slipping at all. It should be all green if they are just planting trees. But there are theories that the trees are not going to prevent the soil from slipping. It is the first time and the first country in the world that I have heard that. If they planted trees with good root systems instead of just scraping the land and terracing and scraping and terracing, maybe we would not be spending all this money on the trees in the Scotland district area.

So, Mr. Speaker, I promised when I rose that I would not prolong the debate because I do not think it is really necessary, but I only hope that those who are in charge of the particular department will see that we get some kind of administration and we just do not come in here making a lot of pretty speeches which have no cumulative effect in preserving the flora and the general agricultural beauty of the island in which we live.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I wish first of all to thank all hon. members for the useful contributions which they have made to this debate. I do not quite agree with everything the last hon. member said, although he has made some very useful points in his contribution. I do feel that this trees legislation is very, very important, and therefore all contributions should be regarded in the light that all of us in here as legislators and people who have an interest in the environment of our country and the beautification of our country at heart ought to take part in such a debate.

I wish to clarify a few points that were raised during the course of the debate. The hon. member for St. Philip North did express his disagreement with the deposit which is required under the Act. I suppose that

the hon. member did not see this fund or this deposit in the context that it is being put in. The object of the fund is to ensure that in case there is a defaulting developer the Chief Town Planner would have the available funds so that he can have the work done, have trees planted and the expenses incurred will be met from this fund. I think it was necessary so as to ensure it being done, because all of us are fully aware that not every developer who gets planning permission carries out the conditions that are stipulated in the planning permission, and since we all regard the preservation and the conservation of trees as very fundamental and important to the development of our country and of enhancing the country's beauty, it is therefore necessary to ensure that the Chief Town Planner can carry out this particular function. The fund therefore should be seen not as mandatory. The Act is phrased or worded in such a way that the word "may" can be interpreted in some cases. In other words, the Chief Town Planner has a discretionary power, and according to the sort of planning permission or development, he may make this compulsory or a stipulation as far as the development or planning permission is concerned.

The hon. member for St. Michael West did raise the question of the appeals and what happens after 28 days and the Town Planner does not report. The hon. member ought to be aware, and if he had read the Act very carefully he would have seen that the Act gives the aggrieved person the right to appeal to the Minister, and the Minister will be taking guidance as is usual from those who are the authorities on the particular planning permission. So he need not worry very much about that particular aspect because everything will be done to see that the aggrieved person's appeal is attended to.
5.50 p.m.

Now, I do support the views that were expressed by hon. members on both sides that there should be a tree planting exercise. I too am very concerned about the cutting down of trees indiscriminately, people just bulldozing certain lots to make way for housing or in some cases office developments but we must not forget that the Town Planning Act also gives the Chief Town Planner the right to insist that developers either retain trees or replant trees.

The old Act, Section 27, gives the Chief Town Planner power to keep a plot or map of all trees within the country but all of us know that that is almost impossible for the Chief Town Planner to undertake this great task to see that a map of all the trees are being held so it was felt that rather than placing the onus on the Chief Town Planner, that the onus would now be on the developer to see that he gets permission for a licence to fell or get rid of a tree.

So I do hope that the Chief Town Planner and I am fully aware too that the man-power resources of

the Town Planning Office are not adequate to deal with all of these matters and I do hope that as more and more work and responsibility is placed on that Department that it becomes necessary for our Government to equip it with the necessary man-power.

I do understand and I fully appreciate the views that have been expressed that if you have laudable pieces of legislation that you should have the back-up man-power to ensure that the proper policing and supervision is carried out because there is no point in passing legislation, laudable as it is, and then to find that we do not have the staff or the competent people to ensure that a certain section of the Act is carried out. I take that point. It is a valid point and I do hope that this particular area will be corrected in due course.

As I said, all of us are aware that it is necessary to preserve trees and I have taken the point made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as well as the hon. member for St. Michael West that the question of casuarina trees and those trees ought to be preserved. I too am a little worried because as a little youngster coming up in the country I was always told that the reason for these mile trees or the casuarina trees was to bring rain and I think that I very well believe that up to this day.

I have seen most of them destroyed and you can hardly go around the country and see any record of these and I do hope that these trees can be replanted or something can be done to have trees planted. They help to beautify the area and at the same time they enhance the beauty of the country side. I will be paying close attention to see, as Minister, that the unwanton destruction of trees does not continue and wherever possible I will be alerting the Chief Town Planner to see that this habit or this practice is curtailed.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I hope that all hon. members will make an effort, not only paying lip service or making a contribution on the floor of this Honourable Chamber but by demonstrating in practical terms, even by planting a tree in their homes, so that other generations will see and other people in the community will see that we mean business. Of course, we should be setting the example and I look forward to seeing more and more trees that will lend to the enhancement of the beauty of Barbados.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 11 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 12 was called.

6.00 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the Honourable Minister if he can indicate, since in Clause 14, the Minister is going to be making Regulations. This particular Clause 12 indicated:

"before he begins development of any land, to deposit in a special account in the Treasury an amount of money as security against any failure to plant such trees," *et cetera*.

Now, Sir, the experience of persons who deposit money in the Treasury, since, if the money is deposited into the Treasury; it goes into the general account, is that it is always easier to deposit money into the Treasury than to withdraw money from the Treasury.

I would like the Honourable Minister to give some indication as to what is the current thinking, in terms of the Regulations to be made, as to whether there is going to be a scale, if there is going to be a fixed fee which can be known in advance. I think my colleague raised a very serious question relating to the length of time monies can be tied up, taking into account this particular Clause.

I wonder if the Honourable Minister could indicate.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, the money will be deposited in the Treasury and if the Honourable Member reads the Act carefully, he will see that the Chief Town Planner, in case the developer does not carry out the development as stipulated by the conditions that were granted to him, in the permission, then the Chief Town Planner will be able to withdraw this money and pay whatever expenses were incurred for planting of a tree or trees, he will be able to withdraw that money. Whatever money remains after that money is drawn by the Chief Town Planner is then refunded to the developer. (ASIDE: What kind of conditions of the deposit do you have in mind?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, he wants to know the conditions that will be given. Those are the conditions — I said they may vary according to what the Chief Town Planner feels. The Chief Town Planner will determine what conditions will be placed in the planning permission.

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

Clauses 13 to 14 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 3rd November, 1981 at 12.00 noon. (ASIDES) My colleagues have corrected me, Sir. They say it is now metric, 1200 hours. That was around for a long time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Pardon.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 3rd November, 1981 at 12.00 noon. My colleagues have corrected me and said that it is 1200 hours. They say it is metric. That was around for a very long time. They have just come.

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