
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 2, 1982.

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House); 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); Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, (Minister of Housing and Lands); Mr. L. L. SISNETT; Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE; Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, (Minister of Transport and Works); and Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.A.S., J.P.

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS, Mr. B. M. TAITT, Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD and Dr. R. C. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, January, 26, 1982.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, January 26, 1982, be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations from honourable Members, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received a copy of the Accounts and Statements for the month of December, 1981, as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The Airports (Miscellaneous Fees) Regulations, 1982.

The Air Navigation (Airport Charges) (Amendment) Regulations, 1982.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1980.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve of the Minister's guaranteeing to the European Investment Bank the repayment of the principal and of interest with respect to the loan of 4,000,000 European Community Units of Account.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,100,000 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. 18 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE
LAND AT KELLMAN'S LAND, UPPER
CARLTON, ST. JAMES

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing and Lands to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Kellman's Land, Upper Carlton, St. James.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, the Addendum to this Resolution is pretty clear and simple. However, it is my duty to inform this Honourable Chamber that the purpose for this acquisition is to provide recreational facilities for the youths of St. James. Kellman's Land is an area in Westmoreland, St. James so named after the owner.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, there is not much to say on this particular Resolution and it is left for me to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to know exactly where Kellman's Land is, if it is near an area where a pavilion or a community centre was built lately, if we can have some idea of how much land it is, for what specific purpose it is to be used for and what kind of recreational facilities are proposed for the area.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, before the Minister's response to those enquiries, I wonder if he is in a position, in light of a number of questions which are being asked by a number of citizens — some of whom have been engaged in negotiations and some of whom indicate that some time there seems to be a halt in negotiations for acquisition — to indicate to this Honourable House the general policy of the Government not of acquisitions *per se*, but the method used and the policies which the Government has indicated to those

whose responsibility it is to participate in the acquisition of land.

We have heard, Sir, that a number of people whose lands are required and deemed to be required for one or another public purpose had found themselves some long time after this Honourable House had passed the requisite Resolution in a position where either they have not agreed on a price or where they have agreed on a price, but have not been able to receive their funds.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

My understanding of the power of acquisition of the Government is that where the Government indicates that a particular piece of property is required for public purposes, that it would wish first of all to make contact with the owner of the land — if the owner is available, and a negotiation would be started with a view to reaching an amicable price or amicable settlement for the particular piece of land.

12.30 p.m.

If after protracted negotiations, Government is of the view that a price cannot be reached amicably and that the length of time it is taking would not be in the public interest, Government would revert to the Legislature for the purpose of acquiring the land. The second reason for the acquisition of land would be that where the title of the land is not sufficiently clear as to ensure no difficulties following the purchase of the land, Government might come to the Legislature for the primary purpose of ensuring that the land acquired has a proper title.

It would seem, however, that this Government has been operating the procedure somewhat differently — or perhaps within recent times somewhat differently — in that they seem to decide on acquisition of land, come to Parliament for the acquisition and then proceed to negotiate for the land. Now, Sir, I do not know if that is true but I think the Minister ought to indicate to this Honourable House — and by definition to the people of Barbados — what is the Government's policy on acquisitions so that persons would not feel aggrieved that the Legislature has acted lawfully in acquiring the land but at the same time they feel that the situation is not a just one because while the land is acquired they are not in a position to sell the land to anyone else and since in recent times we have had two or three Abandonment of Acquisition Bills that have been passed, it would seem to me necessary that we can clearly outline a specific policy as to what the Government proposes to do for citizens whose lands are considered to be required for public purposes.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to ask the Minister about another matter but surely I could not

really sit here without responding to both Members who just addressed the Chamber.

I think that I am a true believer in democracy and would always hope that this country remains that way but sometimes we have to ask ourselves if it is really true that the people can be saddled with political clowns at this time.

It is amazing how the honourable Member for St. James South could ask what are the measurements of the land at Kellman's Land when right here in the Schedule — and this was circulated.....he is supposed to be a practicing Attorney-at-Law and he comes in here and ask the Minister what are the measurements of the property at Kellman's Land which we set out to acquire.

Now this is a classic example of what you called people masquerading in politics. A lawyer, qualified Attorney-at-Law, Parliamentarian, campaigned while he was sitting on the Bench as a politician in the whole of St. James. While he was supposed to be handing justice, he was knocking on doors — from door to door — in all parts of St. James telling people that he was going to be a candidate. Born in St. James, went to school in St. James, won a seat in St. James and now is asking the Minister if the land to be acquired is the one they had the pavilion on.

Well, let me explain to the honourable Member for St. James South. The land that you see the pavilion on, built by this Government out of the land which that Party had set about to acquire without even paying a single cent to Mr. Massiah, put in roads and was offered the land, Sir, for sale. That was in 1976 when Mr. George Moe was the then Attorney General of Barbados. Now the honourable Member for St. Michael South West is asking what is government's policy and attempting to criticise this Government for taking the correct procedures in acquiring people's land when they, ...he was Minister, I think in the Senate at the time — Minister of Trade and Industry at the time in the Senate — sitting around the table making policy decisions and setting out to buy, without even coming to Parliament, from a lady by the name of Mrs. Gail — the then High Commissioner to London — a house known as Pine Plantation House for a sizable amount of the taxpayers money without even coming to Parliament. Now we have taken the correct procedure.

I know for sure that our policy is to write the owners. I mean, what sort of Government this could be to see you, Mr. Speaker, with your property in St. James and come and take it from you. I do not think that this is a Castro or a Bishop Government. Of course the honourable Member for St. James South is so much "a Castroite" that he may be able to send the then

Castro Simmons. You see that is how he is thinking and he has the gall to come here this morning, Sir, the gall to come in here a lawyer.

This was circulated — given notice of — circulated.....and a qualified Attorney-at-Law.....But you must have really passed down some foolish sentences and some misjudgements on the poor people of St. James. You must have made them wring because if you cannot understand a simple Addendum, how can you really interpret the true law as it is before you. But the hands of democracy are at work. You cannot stop it and I stand here again and I want it to go on record that the Prime Minister of Barbados is his true friend. He is responsible for him sitting there. Without taking a little advice from the honourable Minister to come and ask such a silly question about what is the measurement. It is right in the Schedule.....where is the land?.....and campaigned — born and campaigned — in St. James.... born in St. James 40 years ago.

The son a Police would have to be in the band at sometime — I know his brother would not be in the band, this I know for sure — passing through the district, arresting people, saying hello to them, wishing them a Merry Christmas and a blessed Easter and now he is asking where is Kellman's Land.

It is in Upper Carlton. That is right, it is in Upper Carlton. Born in Sion Hill. That is where it is, where there is a cricket team there and a youth club operating in there and it was known as the George Moe Cavaliers. That is where they play, — on that land and you campaigned and carried people to the polls for George Moe in my presence as a Magistrate.

This is what you called democracy at work and then you questioned that Barbados is a free country? It is not among the freest in the world — it is the freest in the world when a Magistrate can campaign, asking people to vote for him and go and sit on the Bench the following morning to discharge his public duties and the then Leader of the Opposition, the then Prime Minister knew this.

12.40 p.m.

I heard his speech in Haynesville when he had the motorcade — the minicade — when he said, "I am among you out here", ... dressed in shorts and some nonsense, ..."I am going to be your next Parliamentarian." That was the honourable Member's speech and there was the honourable Member for St. James South driving in the motorcade, and now coming in here.....I recall very well, the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition in that very speech saying, he was young and strong and did not fear a thing in town. In 1981, he is young and strong and did not fear any man in town. Something that Sparrow said since 1942, he has now come up with it.

As far as the Hon. Minister is concerned, Sir, I would like to draw to his attention that at Sion Hill where the whole programme was carried on sometime in 1980 a pavilion was built there and the people from Springhead and Deane's Town — I think is the name of the place, Sir — were all moved to that area. The policy of the Government, obviously, is to make sure that you provide the necessary facilities for the young and the old.

Now Sir, that pavilion was built and opened and is still closed. I beg your pardon, Sir, the playing field is still to be completed and, as the representative for St. James not North or South, for St. James — I sincerely hope that the Hon. Minister would find it possible to have those facilities there completed, Sir, and have the pavilion opened where the residents would be able to enjoy their evenings there, Sir. The Hon. Minister himself would be able to speak about it.

The Government's policy which he himself is charged with and I do not think it has changed — if so, it would have hardly changed very much and obviously only for them, Sir — I happen to know that the procedure is that if a Ministry is interested in a piece of land for public use, the appropriate Minister writes the Ministry of Land and says how much and for what purposes the land is needed. The Ministry of Lands, as I understand it, Sir, when I was in that Ministry, are only the executors of the policy for the purchasing and the negotiating for the individuals. I know that there has always been a very good liaison between the Ministry and the people, Sir.....(Mr. B. M. TAITT: When you were there.)

I like how we were left saddled with the Shamrock case. You talk about acquiring properties. This Government had to look for very near \$2 million — if I am not mistaken — to pay Shamrock Trading Company for something which they had completely messed up. And, I can call them.....Bath, that is now cold soup being warmed up but I just want to remind you, less you forget. You never had a policy, so, therefore, you are a little bothered about what is our policy.

After they have negotiated and they cannot come to any agreement on the price, after the Valuation Department gives the Ministry a price, if it is too high or too low, they try and negotiate, in between and, I believe, Sir, that in the five years that we were in office — and up to now — I cannot think of any matter which is to go before the court. But, I am subject to correction.

What I do know is this, that we were able to stop all the corruption, all of the corruption in the land deals which your Government used to acquire. That is what we were able to do.....all like Neils, and Rowens and taking agricultural land, acquiring it and selling it out into

four acre house spots when the Patsy Springers and Haloutes can build massive mansions and.....(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: David Simmons.).....that is your brother-in-law. You are married to David's sister or something so. I do not know about that. (Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Your party member.) that is a family affair. Do not bring me in your family affair.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, we have gone far enough astray. Speak to the Resolution and we will have no problem.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir. Still on the Resolution, Sir. All of the lands that you all bought up there.

I came into office, when I succeeded the Hon. Attorney General whose Ministry it was in at that time. When acquisition of lands came to us Mr. Speaker, I was sympathetic towards the Chief Town Planner. I was very sorry for them because the then Government had a special committee of Cabinet, a sub-committee of Cabinet you will recall very well — the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He does a lot of research. Yes, nod your head with approval. You had a sub-committee of Cabinet that used to deal with land alone. That was a special committee, a rip off committee, a vicious committee. We came into office and dumped such a committee. Now any acquisition at all, any single acquisition at all, must come before Cabinet and have the full approval of Cabinet. You had a special Committee that used to go and buy and bob and weave and pull back, like Mangrove.

I am still bewildered to know that Mr. Carlton Brathwaite had to buy Mangrove tonight and then sell it to the Barbados Workers Union tomorrow. I am still bewildered. I think that that is a master-piece. Mangrove Plantation up for sale and in the meantime the Barbados Workers Union interested in Mangrove and Mr. Carlton Brathwaite, Personal Aide, personal friend of then Rt. Hon. Leader of the Government, now Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Rt. Hon. Member for St. John, his very good friend was able to buy Mangrove Plantation and sell it to the Barbados Workers Union and the trade union boss was a member of your party. Now, that is what is a little wobbly. That one is very wobbly.

But, it is the voice of workers and Harcourt Blackett says, "the workers are not truly represented." The decision makers, they are the workers. They make the decision. In June of 1981, we had 17 seats before, in a 24 member Parliament and they told us we do not want you to work with a two-thirds majority. That is the voice of the workers. Give you 17 and give them 10, so that, you would be able to do a good job over there and look like the all purpose Government, in which year, I do not know. You always know when you are going to win that is why the people are always fooling you.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central should know. He would know. He is a real estate doctor. He is a doctor of real estate. So, when it comes on to land and so on, do not ask us our policy. It is clear cut. Every single thing that we have sought to acquire, we have come to Parliament, we have come here first to Parliament and seek parliamentary approval — and, sometimes, with the knowledge of the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition and with his experience as a lawyer, he would give us good advice. I would say, advice. Some times, it is good, I believe, and some times, it is bad. But, we are human and we are here to err. I do not think that when he gives us bad advice that it is intentionally done because he is still very patriotic. Barbados first, the others after.

12.50 p.m.

The Member for St. James South is a complete political joke, and I am going to keep the debate and let the people of St. James South know whenever I have to address them, that on the February 2, 1982 the Member for St. James South asked the Minister of Housing and Lands what are the measurements for the land at Upper Kellman's Land in the parish of St. James, and where is Kellman's Land. Imagine that, where is Kellman's Land, and he was born in St. James. I was not born in St. James, I represent St. James. It is clear here, "Gear Box" can read it.

Do you think that if I went downstairs and somebody stubbed their toe and needed a lawyer I could recommend him? I could not do that, because if he cannot read a simple Addendum, how can he put a case in court? The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will agree with me, both of them are from St. James and I am their representative.

I have no doubt both of them voted for me, I am sure about that, because you recognised for the first time in the history of St. James that you had a true, true representative. Look around St. James. It outpaces Christ Church and St. Michael, and I am sure both Members can be justly proud of that, to know they live in a parish that can outpace both Christ Church and St. Michael through my efforts at representing the parish.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Resolution and I sincerely hope that the Minister of Housing and Lands will take into consideration my simple plea just to open the pavilion and finish the playing field so that I can go down there and have a shot of road tennis or football and enjoy myself among them, Sir.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have a few general comments to make on this Resolution and I wish to say very briefly that the Resolution is for the acquisition of a parcel of land at St. James called Kellman's

Land. I would like to say, and I hope the Minister does not take it personally — I am making a general comment — that our system of Government is that matters are proposed for introduction into this House of Assembly, and it is the responsibility of all Ministers in introducing Resolutions to give adequate information setting out the purposes for such measures, including acquisitions — why it is necessary to acquire or to do whatever the Government is proposing to do, and generally to expand upon the very brief Addendum which may be added to the papers that come before Parliament. In other words, it is the responsibility of any public Minister in this country in introducing measures before this Assembly to give full, adequate particulars concerning the measure or measures which are being introduced into this Parliament.

It is a requirement for which Ministers are paid, and too often, we are getting measures introduced with very scanty information and contrary to public responsibility, ministerial responsibility, and contrary to the canons of good debate, relevant information is held back and then in a winding up speech the information which should have been given at the start is then introduced at the end.

Even in a debating club such techniques are not acceptable, because in a winding up speech you are not supposed to be introducing new matter but merely replying to information which has been made during the debate. Those are the canons of debate, but what we have here is that the Minister got up and virtually all that he said was 'there is nothing to say about this Resolution, I beg to move that it do now pass.'

He is not unique in this, other Ministers have been doing it. The Member for St. James South got up and asked for the details which should have been given in the introduction, and for that he is severely castigated, merely for asking for information which it was the duty, the obligation of the Minister to give in his introduction, and for that we are taken on a tour of the lands of Barbados.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the point of order is made, I am wondering if the honourable Member for St. Michael South was present when the honourable Member for St. James South addressed the Chair. The honourable Member may make his point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: All I am saying, Sir, castigating the honourable Member is quite all right, but when he said that the Member for St. James South sought information that was not here, that is not true, because it says where the land is — it is abutting Westmoreland Plantation, and it gives the measurements. That is the information.

tion he asked for, and it is all here, Sir. "Containing by admeasurement 23,403 square metres or thereabouts abutting and bounding on two sides on lands now or late of Westmoreland Plantation on a gully on other lands now or late of the said Westmoreland Plantation....."

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Leader, I am afraid we are only wasting the time of this Honourable House. I put the question, was the honourable Member for St. Michael South in his place when the honourable Member for St. James South addressed the Chair? Had he been there I hardly believe he would make the speech that he is now making.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I will continue with my speech. Furthermore, the traditions of this House have established that in matters of land acquisition the file setting out the plan of the land and so on is normally passed around so that members can see exactly what is taking place, where the land is located, and all of that information.

When the Member for St. James North, my representative, was Minister, on occasions he used to circulate that information, he used to pass over the plan of the land. Nothing at all like that has taken place, and I am saying that it is a departure from public responsibility to introduce measures in this particular regard. Up to now that plan is not available across here, and it used to be. Let the Member for St. James North get up and deny that he used to circulate these matters. Here it is, for asking for information, further and better particulars, a member of this Honourable House is taken to task.

1.00 p.m.

I do not wish to say anything more on this particular Resolution, but I want to get that particular general approach on to the record so that in future we would not have important matters introduced in this Honourable Chamber in that particular way.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, for the information of both the honourable Member of St. James South and St. James North, the area to be acquired — if they are not familiar with the metric measurement — is 251,907 square feet or 5.78 acres. Mr. Speaker, a lot of us are not familiar with the metric measurements. Even honourable Members are not familiar with metric measurements. When I was in the Other Place, Mr. Speaker, I requested on acquisitions like this that the appropriate maps should be passed around with the contours etc. which would allow people who are not familiar with maps to make a sensible contribution to acquisition for purposes like recreational facilities.

If you read this Addendum, Mr. Speaker, you will notice that this land is bounded on one side by a gully,

and those of us who are familiar with topographical details will realise that gullies are usually at the side towards the slope, so it would suggest to me, Mr. Speaker, that in order for this land to be used for play purposes, a lot of remedial work would have to be done. Mr. Speaker, it is within my knowledge or I was told that because a similar sense of responsibility was not used in the acquisitions of some lands in the same parish of St. James for recreational purposes, that those lands had to be built up by hundreds and hundreds of loads of mould in order to make them suitable for play purposes.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that when you are considering the acquisition of lands, regardless of whether they are for the people or not, any prudent Government would select such lands where a minimum cost would be involved in making them suitable for the purposes for which they are acquired. What sense would it make, Mr. Speaker, if you acquired five acres of land for \$40,000 and then had to carry in 500 loads of mould at maybe \$50 a load in order to make the land suitable for play purposes. Compute that, Mr. Speaker, and you would see the tremendous expense due to a lack of professional knowledge in acquiring the appropriate lands for the purposes. That is a downright wastage of funds, Mr. Speaker, and at this time when there is a scarcity of money in Barbados you must be a lot more prudent in acquisitions for this type of purpose.

I, like the honourable Member for St. Michael South who has just sat down, would like to see maps reintroduced in this Chamber; when acquisitions are being brought before this Chamber that they also submit maps. I am familiar with maps and can read them and know about them and they should be circulated so that I can comment sensibly on them.

I would like to draw to the Honourable Minister's attention a few things that have been bothering me about compulsory acquisitions in Barbados. Firstly, from the time the notice of compulsory acquisition is issued, Mr. Speaker, the Government has the right to enter into this land, and it is within my knowledge that considerable time elapses between this issuing of the notice and the actual payment of compensation. The present practice is that that compensation does not carry any interest rate from the time the position was taken by Government until such time. (*Asides*) If the court makes a decision, interest rates are payable from the time the judgment is given by the court. If you are negotiating, it does not go to court. From the time you enter into that land — and the Government can do that from the time the notices are issued — until the time compensation is paid, no interest is paid on the compensation for that land.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the Government persists in deducting from the compensation the Property Transfer

Tax payable by a vendor under normal circumstances, and I would like to suggest to the Minister that this practice be discontinued. When you are purchasing a piece of land by compulsory acquisition, it is not a voluntary sale, and many times I have said before that the persons from whom the property has been acquired are at severe losses. We know, Mr. Speaker, that the time lapse means that the person about to buy a comparative property picks up all the increase in prices due to inflation, and they are not compensated, and therefore they are out of pocket.... and to add insult to injury by further deducting three per cent as a vendor — I think should be discontinued immediately.

Mr. Speaker, as far as the Compulsory Acquisition Act of Barbados is concerned, the Act needs a lot of updating because strictly speaking, under the Act if you have a person with a building lease, compulsory acquisition compensation technically is computed on the person holding the fee simple and any other interest of the person holding the fee simple, but in the case where the building is owned by other than the person with the fee simple, only on a building lease, at the moment it is only because of the good sense of the Government that those persons can be compensated under the Compulsory Acquisition Act of Barbados. There are lots of things like these in this Act.

Mr. Speaker, I have said before that we are causing a lot of undue hardships to people in Barbados by the compulsory acquisition procedure as it now is — the long lapses of time between the notice and final decision and compensation, the terrific inflationary trends that the people have to attract due to things like consumption tax, duties etc. on the materials which make it very difficult for people to acquire comparable properties to replace those that have been bought by the Government by compulsory acquisition — and I can only implore the Minister again that he should use every power within his ability to see that the time lapse between the issue of the notice and compensation be as short as humanly possible. And at times when he knows that there is no money available for compensation, I would only implore him that any acquisition should be foregone until such time as funds are available and these compensations can be done expeditiously.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the venom of the reply, if you can call it a reply, of the honourable Member for St. James North to what I consider legitimate questions raised by two honourable Members on this side really and truly does not surprise me. In fact, he cannot... I have previously spent five years in this Chamber, so.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If the honourable Member would give way, I think he means St. James South, not St. James North.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I have said precisely what I mean and I know precisely what I mean. I said St. James North and I mean St. James North.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please continue!

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Thank you very much. We have been left with the impression here in this Chamber that it is always necessary when Government plans to acquire property to come to this Chamber for such acquisition. I would like to dispel that impression because it is not so. I happened to be Minister for Lands for ten years of my Parliamentary life and I will dwell on that at any time and I would take on anybody at any time. Any time anybody wants to take me up on this, I am prepared to do so. So I want to make that clear.

To get back to this matter, I know the laws relating to acquisition, Government does not have to come to this Chamber for approval for acquisition of property if there is a clear title to property and the parties have agreed on a price. What Government has got to do in such a case is, table a list of the properties that Government have acquired at the end of the year. That is all that the Public Lands Acquisition Act requires Government to do.

But Government has from time to time, found it necessary to come to this Chamber to acquire properties because one, there might be no proper title to the land and the person who is the "owner" of the land is not able to pass a better title than he himself has at that particular moment. That is one reason.

Another reason, Sir, that Government comes to acquire lands is when sometimes the Government and the property owner does not come to an agreement on price and Government wants to own those land urgently.

The case at Checker Hall is a case in point. The Government had acquired lands from the people in Checker Hall and the honourable Member for St. Lucy knows this. They have published acquisition notices. To this day they have entered upon those lands, not only published the acquisition notices, they have entered upon those lands.

So we have heard this morning about what took place with Mrs. Gail's property who had a perfect title. There is no need to handle a perfected title through the Court. She had a perfect title so it was quite legitimate to purchase Mrs. Gail's property without coming here. All that was necessary was that the price was agreed on. It was not \$900,000 like what is being asked for certain property in Government Hill. It was nothing like that. It was a proper price for the property. It was a proper price.

We understand here that this Party when in Government messed up and followed up acquisitions in Sion Hill. I was the Minister at the time when negotiations began

with Mr. Massiah for the acquisition of 16 acres of land at Sion Hill. I was present about three years later in the Courts – after I ceased to be a Minister – when the judgement was given down because Mr. Massiah brought that Government to Court. That Government, Mr. Speaker, that Government was quite competent.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Massiah's Land was acquired in 1974 and Mr. Massiah then put this Government in Court in 1977 or 1978.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that Government was quite competent to negotiate a price for Massiah's land that could be agreed upon. That Government was not hamstrung by any price.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, the honourable Member would have negotiated with Mr. Massiah at his price but not this Government because he knew why he would have negotiated at that price.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I have never negotiated for land in my life. Never in my life have I negotiated for land at any price, anywhere; so let us get that straight. The Government had a system which system was used for acquiring lands and fixing prices. That Government was quite competent. Instead of having Massiah taking them to Court or even when the matter was in Court (*Asides*) In shanrock too. I am coming to Shanrock.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister has risen on a point of order.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: The honourable Member should also tell this Honourable Chamber that the lands were acquired by his Government and roads were put in by his Government. That was the situation that we found in 1976.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: But of course, Mr. Speaker, that would not be denied. Our Government put in all the infrastructure for that Housing area for Sion Hill and we are proud of it. We are not going to deny that. (*Applause*) This Government did that for the people in Sion Hill, Mr. Speaker, I want to make this point. That will not be denied.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member for St. Michael North said that we entered upon the people's land. Now he is telling us how they went on the people's lands and put in roads and water. Now you criticise us for entering the lands in St. Lucy. What double standards are they setting?

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: They do not like what I am saying so they will be continually jumping up. I expect that, Mr. Speaker, because they come here and try to give

impressions and impressions are what count with them. I expect them to be continually moving from their seats. It nettles them. Let them continually jump. I do not deny, Mr. Speaker, I do not deny.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The point I am trying to make here is this. It is quite legitimate for the Government to move into Sion Hill after you have acquired the land and the land is acquired not necessarily when you pay for it under the Act. Okay. The Government was quite competent going on that land as indeed and I want to make this point now – as indeed that Government is quite competent and it is quite legitimate for that Government to go into Checker Hall and carry out the works that they are indeed carrying out.

The point is this. The Law, permit it on both sides. The Law permits it but do not come and make us believe, do not come and make this House believe that what this Government, what we did over here was illegitimate at that time when in fact they are doing the identical thing with the people in St. Lucy. It is all legitimate. (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member must be allowed to make his speech.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: And we are glad about that. I was as glad as the honourable Member for St. Lucy. Like him I am a St. Lucy man. The honourable Member for..... where you from man –

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, it shows quite clearly his interest in Parliament. He does not even know where his colleagues are from.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I do not see or hear some of them and therefore I do not know where they are from, whether they are here or not. That is true, Sir. That is very true.

I thought, Sir, that I would respond to this because I honestly feel too, Sir..... I do not know why you raised the question that you raised about the honourable Member for St. Michael South but I thought he was raising some very legitimate points and points which I myself could have raised or might have raised and still stand by, because as I understand the honourable Member for St. James North was simply this.....

Mr. SPEAKER: St. James South.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I am sorry, St. James South. As I understand the honourable Member for St. James South – a lot of cackling is going on over there – he only wanted to know where this land, Kellman's Land

was being acquired in relation to the pavilion or on the other land on which the pavilion was built a few years ago. That is all to it. That is all, Sir. That is all I understand him to mean and I was present in this Chamber and I heard it. I stand by what has been said by all on this side.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a few very brief comments. Firstly I would like to point out to the Member for St. James North, that the description, as set out in the Addendum to this Resolution, does not meet the kind of precision which someone with a fine legal brain like the honourable Member for St. James South -- a distinguished Attorney-at-Law, a very good Parliamentarian and a well-known and very outstanding representative of the people of St. James South is accustomed to.

He rose in this House to do his duty, to carry out his duties to the people of St. James and I think that the honourable Member for St. James North has lapsed somewhat today from the slightly higher standards that he has demonstrated in debate during this Session into the kind of assault that he launched on his colleague, the honourable Member for St. James South, who was doing his duties in this Parliament.

1.20 p.m.

Again, I wish to point out that if the proper procedures are adhered to and if we have fuller descriptions, and at the same time have the appropriate topography maps of these areas which are being acquired circulated, then I do not think that this kind of debate would have arisen.

But the problem is, Sir, that the honourable Member for St. James North is mortally afraid of the honourable Member for St. James South to the extent, Sir, that he made it perfectly clear through his party, that he would not run again in the parish of St. James unless it was divided into North and South because he has no intentions of running against the Member for St. James South whom he was sure would have defeated him by over 1 000 votes if the parish were not divided into two. And, what we are saying here.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am now satisfied as to why he is the first with all the information. He always has information. That is information again, not an opinion. All of the information.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow, I believe that I actually heard the honourable Member, up to a few weeks before the election, Sir, a few months before the election.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, speak to the Resolution.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: say that no one, not even the certain persons could tell him whether to run or not. Anyhow.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Speak to the Resolution.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It has been established, Sir, that land acquisition is only necessary in case there is a need to acquire an indefeasible title to land or where there has been a breakdown in negotiations in respect of the price. We are therefore concerned and we wonder and we ask the Hon. Minister, why is it that there has been this tremendous spate of land acquisition coming before Parliament? Is it that Government has not got the money but wishes to get access to land while forcing people to hold strain for weeks, for months, for years before they are paid? Would the Hon. Minister tell us how many of the acquisitions that were brought before this Parliament in the past six months or so, have been completed in the sense that subsequent to the passing of the Land Acquisition Act here, I am sorry the land acquisition Resolution, that there has been a completion of sale and that the persons have been paid? (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Even Brathwaite is going to cry shame of you.)

It would seem to me Mr. Speaker, that the abuse of the Land Acquisition Act in Barbados is not in the best interest of the citizens of this country and that the Government should use this device as sparingly as possible and, only when it is absolutely necessary and should seek to exhaust all areas of negotiation before resorting to this method of acquiring people's property because, as has been pointed out so ably by the honourable Member for St. Philip North, this approach to the acquisition of land -- by any Government -- can result in considerable economic hardship to the victims of the acquisition.

Now, Sir, there is one additional point which I would like to advance to.....it was touched on briefly by the honourable Member for St. Philip North. Is this the same area where 600 loads of mould or thereabouts have already been deposited in order to level up the land, or is it an adjacent area? And, I wonder how many more loads of mould would be required in order to put this area in a fit and proper state for a purpose that has not yet been explained to this Honourable House.

I think we were told that it would be for community services. Is it going to be a football ground? Is it going to be a cricket ground? Are you going to have tennis courts there? Are you going to have basketball courts? What are you going to have there? We have not been told the precise purpose for which the land is going to be used because obviously, the escalation in

costs would depend very much on the extent to which the land is used and for the purpose to which it is put.

But, that is the measure, Sir, of the laxity of presentation that the honourable Member for St. Michael South was adverting to — that having sat down here and listened to a debate for over an hour that I cannot say, or up to now this Honourable House has not been informed of the totality of the purposes for which the land is being acquired.

Now it might be worthwhile putting down 2,000 lorry loads of mould, if you are going to have a very comprehensive development, at the area. But it might be a waste of time, ... (Mr. B. M. TAITT: Fifty dollars a load.) it might be a waste of time, Sir, putting down 2,000 lorry loads of mould if it is going to be purely.....Is it \$50 a load?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I think the honourable Member is hammering about 600 loads of mould. It is — at Sion Hill in St. James. Six hundred lorry loads of mould would put in a normal tennis court. So you have your figures wrong. What I would say is that we have taken the right course, unlike the pavilion that that Government put in Charles Rowe Bridge on the direction of the National Housing Corporation of which the very honourable Member for St. Michael North was then in charge in 1976, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is really no point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is a matter, Sir, for the honourable Member and Mr. Power. Nothing to do with me. We are not going to argue about that. We are not going to argue about the.....Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please. If the honourable Member has nothing to say, please take your seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I just want to wind up, Sir.

When the Hon. Minister winds up we would like him to tell us how much this development is likely to cost over and above the cost of acquisition and how he envisages that the area will be developed as a community centre.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this.....

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a very few brief comments and to some extent try to set the record straight. The record of the Opposition Party and the question of acquisition is not a good one and, therefore, it does not have the right to

seek to correct any Government — or person for that matter — on anything to do with acquisition.

I would want to deal with the few flimsy points raised by the last speaker first since I have not made any notes, beyond one or two mental notes about the points he raised. He is normally a person with some bite but his lack of bite today has indicated that he has nothing to chew on, but as a person who likes to be involved and who likes to bite, he thought well probably he would have to say something.

The points which he made are to some extent similar to those made by the honourable Member for St. Philip North with respect to the acquisition of an area which abuts and abounds on a gully and to say from his knowledge of the topography of land — he will know as that is his discipline — what the land that abuts on a gully would be like, what you would have to do in order to reclaim such lands.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Now, I want to go on record as saying that Barbados is a very small country and with the exception of blocking of your water waste which will create damage to your country, by way of flooding and so on, I would like to see the day come when most of the lands that are not put to use reclaimed. If you have five loads of mould somewhere to dump and you can reclaim land at another area, there is nothing earthly wrong in doing that. As a matter of fact, I have always subscribed to the view, Mr. Speaker, that instead of purchasing very expensive lands on the sea, that you may well consider the advisability of reclaiming land from the sea, as this Government, in many cases has been setting out to do, an instance is the reclamation of a reasonable amount of land in the Oistin area of Christ Church.

1.30 p.m.

Therefore wherever it is difficult to find lands for recreational purposes, we will reclaim, and to say that you do not have this set out in the Addendum is not true. The purpose for which this land is to be used is for recreational facilities, and it is clearly set out here in the Addendum to this Resolution, and therefore I do not think anybody can quarrel with that. Do you not know in this country what is meant by recreational purposes? It is the most simple thing to understand.

Barbados is a small country and therefore it is not difficult to move from one place to the next. If you are that interested in your environment, if you are that interested in the development of your country, is there any harm in spending ten minutes to move down to the Kellman's area, or Sion Hill, whatever you choose to call

it, to see exactly what is taking place down there? Or use your influence, as the honourable Member for St. Michael South loves to do, and tap the resources which are available to you within the respective Ministries by calling upon your friends and asking them what is going to be done down there.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have to reclaim lands wherever we can reclaim them. There can be no question about that. I think that under the former Government there used to be a Head in the Estimates known as the Acquisition of Assets. When we came into office we removed that Head because we considered that to be a dangerous Head to have. That was a Head that was completely misused, and out of the Duffus Commission of Enquiry — Duffus himself agreed, that that Head was misused — we in this Government decided that it was a dangerous Head to have. From the time we came into office we decided that much of the dangers with which we were faced as a result of Bath, as a result of Carib West, as a result of the North Point, as a result of Seafoods, we recognised that it was dangerous to allow this Head to continue and we decided to get rid of that Head.

Now, the honourable Member for St. Michael North is quite correct in saying that Government can make negotiations for the purchase of things so long as they are straightforward, the titles are good and marketable. You can do that, but sometimes it is necessary to take positive action. You can do that if there is an agreement. The Member adverted to the question of the purchase of Pine Plantation House. I do not want to go into that, but I know that that does not have a good taste in the Public's mouth up to this day, and therefore it is a very sad case. The honourable Member referred to something for \$900,000 in Two Mile Hill, but I do not know anything about that. If he has information and he does seem to have a good network of spies around by all means let him get the information, but the information might be wrong. He is probably going to be fed with information even if it is bad information.

Mr. Speaker, the whole position is that we were told by the honourable Member for St. Michael West that this Government was abandoning acquisitions quite rapidly within the recent past. Now, if you had decided to acquire, for example, lands on the Brighton Highway going to the sea where only a week or two ago we came to this Parliament and asked that a piece of land be abandoned, it is because that land was for a particular purpose and after we had acquired it, we discovered that it might not be the best thing in the interest of the country overall to acquire the land, and we decided to abandon the purchase of the land. What is wrong with that? If we decide to acquire in the interest of the public and then after we discover that the land is not in the best

interest of the country, the best thing is to abandon it. Why saddle the country with a financial load if you do not need to carry that load? We do not have any friends to service when we decide to acquire land.

If the former Government had land under an embargo on which we are now building the road to lead out to Black Rock, and it has remained under an embargo by the Town and Country Planning Department, the Government would not have the problems which it has today because the Little Page Hotel which was built there, going into Paradise, which stands in the way now of the roundabout, would have facilitated the flow of traffic if it were not built there, and we now find ourselves in difficult problems because of the construction of that hotel. (Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Well, acquire it).

The honourable Member for St. Michael North in a lighthearted manner is telling me to acquire it. Buy a property that is going to cost over \$3 million? That is how you would throw your money away, that has been your attitude towards the country's money, and therefore we are not surprised. You have sat down, you have presided over an empire at Town Planning as Minister responsible for Housing and Lands in which you allowed the best plantations in this country to be cut up. It is to your discredit, you should not get up in here and speak on any issue to do with planning. Your record in this country is a tarnished record on the question of town planning matters, and you have no right to get into this, let the others get into it. You should have kept quiet. The Hanschell Report was not kind to you, and you stand condemned under that. I would suggest that you stay quiet about these issues.

I want to say further, and I want to repeat with a measure of emphasis, that when this Government came into office there was a ministerial committee.....(Mr. B. M. TAITT: A sub-committee). A committee of the Cabinet, whether it was a sub-committee or a ministerial committee, it was a committee of the Ministers of the Cabinet, and you presided.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member is in breach of a Standing Order. He is repeating the arguments used by other honourable Members today, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central must be in it.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is beginning to learn.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I am sure that with you around, Sir, he must learn.

Mr. Speaker, that sub-committee of the Cabinet used to decide whether or not plantations were to be cut up in this country and what type of planning permissions were to be given. When we came into office, Cabinet took a very solemn decision that all Ministers should divest themselves of that responsibility. At the time I was the Minister responsible for Communications and Works and I delegated my function to the Permanent Secretary in that Ministry. When I went over to Agriculture, I also delegated my function in terms of matters to do with permission to my Permanent Secretary there as well.

I feel that is very proper to do, I do not mind what anybody says, and we as Ministers who were originally involved decided that we should remove ourselves from that position, because Ministers can come under terrible pressures when it is known that they have to deal with these matters. It is my view that these matters should be decided by the technical people and in the final analysis the Minister who is responsible for Town Planning, who is the Minister responsible for Housing and Lands, is the person who will then recommend to the Cabinet his feelings on this matter, and we invariably go along with that Minister.

1.40 p.m.

That is the style of this Government; that is the way we operate. We do not have anything to hide. We are not here to be influenced by our friends with the cutting up of Bath, with the cutting up of Neils, with the cutting up of Frere Pilgrim or the cutting up of anything for that matter. We are not in that. We tried to avoid that; we do not have to get into that. Mr. Speaker, it is my contention and it is the view of this Party that the Opposition Party has no authority whatever in dealing with matters of town planning. We come before Parliament on all matters as we feel it is our duty to do. The Members on the other side never thought that they should. They talk about the lack of information here. On many occasions in the past when the Government of the day came in, they hardly gave any information. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask for some quiet. This noise is disturbing the Hansard Reporter.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: The honourable Member for St. Michael West believes that school children are in here. He cannot take his licks, he can only give them, but he must understand that the same way he thinks he is not afraid of people, nobody is afraid of him. We are going to say what we have to say in here and you cannot tell us how we must speak. We speak according to our convictions, and you have very little of that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Once you speak to the Resolution, it is all well.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House will continue to come before this Parliament with matters that we consider Parliament should know about. The Opposition as a Government gave very little information on matters that came before this House. Mr. Speaker, you will recall that even in replies when pertinent questions were asked, you would get a reply coming from a person as high as the Prime Minister of the day "No, Sir, no Sir, no Sir." There was no information. Yet with all the information we are giving here, the honourable Member for St. Michael South says that it is the system of Government that when a Minister introduces a Resolution he should give all the information connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker, the information in my opinion is full and adequate. What can you do when you are giving a Schedule to a Resolution or when you are dealing with the Addendum to an item? It is nothing you are lucid about. It is nothing that the journalist writes to get a story from. The information is to the point and concise, and that is exactly what it is. In my view this Resolution is full and adequate, and there is hardly more that can be given than what has been given here today by the introducer of this Resolution and the supporting speakers from this side.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I want to address myself very shortly to a matter that has been raised collaterally to this Resolution which relates to the payment for land acquired. It is true, Sir, that there has been some difficulty in meeting land acquisition payments. The vote is very nearly exhausted and we will probably have to come to the House with a supplementary Resolution for funds to assist with acquisitions. We might have come before, but when I saw the application for the supplement, there was an amount of \$700,000 in it that apparently related to funds which the Central Bank should have paid to the Ministry of Housing to meet acquisitions in respect of land on which its new headquarters is to be built.

I believe that the honourable Member for St. George North indeed is one of the persons whom these funds would have satisfied. Unfortunately, Sir, there appeared to be some dishonesty in the firm of solicitors who were entrusted with this amount of money, \$700,000 by the Central Bank, as a result of which one member of that firm of solicitors is no longer employed. I have had the matter referred to the Bar Council and I very sincerely hope that there will be no cover up in this — and as a result of my investigations the Central Bank has asked for the return of its money and has dismissed its lawyers and is seeking other legal representation.

This accounts for a good deal of the difficulty which the Ministry of Housing has had in meeting its

responsibilities, and it says a great deal for the public spiritedness of the honourable Members for St. Michael West, St. Michael South Central and St. Philip North that notwithstanding the fact that they must have known of a connection with a Member of the House with a member of the firm of solicitors that they raised the matter in the House. I might not have had occasion to advert to it had it not been raised by honourable Members.

You hear so many accusations of dishonesty and so on that I am glad that honourable Members are not afraid to raise matters even though it may give rise to some pain on the part of one Member who sits on the opposite benches, but I do assure honourable Members that the funds in the Ministry of Housing which will enable them to carry out the applications will be replenished and persons who as a result of the dishonesty of a member of my own profession, poor persons who have not been able to be paid will now have the opportunity of seeing the necessary statutory appropriations made in order to satisfy them. I really am very sorry.

I think in any case it takes too long for the Ministry of Housing to settle acquisitions but no system, however well founded is entirely proof against dishonesty, and in all the circumstances the Central Bank has got back its money and the money will shortly be paid over and the Ministry will have statutory authority to begin making payment to persons whose lands have been acquired.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of matters which were raised during the course of what I would term a very simple Resolution. In introducing this Resolution, Sir, I said that the Resolution was simple and clear, and I also pointed out that the purpose for the Resolution was to enable Government to provide additional or some recreational facilities for the youths of St. James. Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Lands, I am charged with a responsibility, and that responsibility is to acquire lands for the purpose of Government. Ministries of Government recommend to the Ministry of Lands the purchase of certain areas of land or properties.
1.50 p.m.

It is at that point, Mr. Speaker, that as Minister of Lands I am involved. This Resolution, Mr. Speaker, calls for — and I shall read the Resolution. I think it is appropriate, Sir, that I do so. The Addendum says:—

“Resolved that the House of Assembly approve of the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the parcel of land described in the Schedule hereto for the following purpose, namely; for the provision of recreational facilities and that the Senate be invited to concur herein, and, if concurred in,

Resolved that his Excellency the Governor-General be asked to Assent and take the necessary steps to give effect to this Resolution.”

There is a Schedule which, Mr. Speaker, Sir, each and every honourable Member received a copy of and that Schedule is there. This is what it says:—

“ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land the property of Frank Kellman situate at Kellman’s Land, Upper Carlton in the parish of Saint James in this Island containing by admeasurement 23,403 square metres or thereabouts (inclusive of 182 square metres in the road hereinafter mentioned) Abutting and Bounding on two sides on lands now or late of Westmoreland Plantation on a gully on other lands now or late of the said Westmoreland Plantation and on lands now or late of sundry owners and on a private road or however else the same may abut and bound.”

When I got up I said it was simple and clear because I took for granted that Members from the Other Side had the capacity and ability to read and understand what I considered to be very clear language. But as from today I will take nothing for granted in dealing with those honourable Members from the Other Side. I am sure that as one honourable Member from This Side had said, “Gear-Box would have understand that” and I said and I felt, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that it was not necessary to repeat or in other terms I did not need to rehash what was already documented.

Mr. Speaker, it is the Ministry of Sport that made the recommendation and the purpose and whatever additional information would or should have been supplied by that Minister but I am not critical of the Minister but it goes to show the total lack of common-sense or knowledge as to who is responsible for divulging the information.

The other side needs to be taught a lesson and be shown exactly who performs what functions in this Honourable Chamber but it seems to me, Sir, that they have left office for so long that some of them, even though they have served in the Ministry — and I am referring to the honourable Member for St. Michael North — do not understand what are the functions of the Minister charged with the responsibility of Lands.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am to acquire lands and to see that correct procedure is followed and I will say that I have followed every procedure and seen that those procedures are correct. I will not be guided by emotion or activated by emotion in dealing with matters that are extremely sensitive and I will say this — the honourable Members on that side have got a very bad track record.

A couple of weeks ago, a matter was brought to my attention in respect of an acquisition in the Brandons area. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it grieves me when I hear honourable Members from that side raising a matter of com-

pensation — I'm talking about the speed with which money is passed on to the vendors. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got to be guided by what is known as a lot of scrutiny. I have got to be careful and guided by vigilance because there are people who claim that they own lands and we have got a case where a gentleman was putting forward a claim for over \$300,000 saying that the land was his and when I got down to the nitty-gritty I discovered that the land does not and did not belong to him and he is an ardent supporter of the Democratic Labour Party.

What was even worst and what was even worst, a lawyer associated with him and a prominent member of the Democratic Labour Party and a former Crown Solicitor under the Democratic Labour Party came to my office and told me that I can use my discretion. That is what he said to me. That is the casual cavalier manner in which honourable Members from that side and I told him as I would say in this Honourable Chamber and to anyone at large that when it comes to the discharging of my duties, I am going to be guided by the best principles and no one is going to prompt me to take decisions for expediency except that expediency is going to redound to the benefit of this country.

Mr. Speaker, you have got to understand what is going on. When I investigated the matter I found that the land on which the man had a building was owned by the National Housing Corporation and by another person whom he never even paid one cent in rent to and that meant that he was not legally entitled to one cent and yet he was claiming the lands of the National Housing Corporation and the other person.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only that, but a case was put forward to be asking that I, as Minister, pay the man and this is what was said. Pay because the last Government when they were dealing with the Roebuck Street business, they pushed down the buildings and paid the people. They did not go through all of that pretty thing. That is what the lawyer said to me and I had to make it abundantly clear to him that I will not be following those bad principles adopted by the former administration under the Democratic Labour Party. Now if they want me as Minister responsible to do that, I want to tell them that they have a good think coming. They must not speak or call me on the telephone to tell me discharge my duty in a cavalier manner or a disreputable manner as I would term it.

The honourable Member for St. Michael North has the gall to come in here and talk about acquisitions and the suitability and the unsuitability of lands. The honourable Member for St. Philip North should know this and I want him to take note. It was not the Barbados Labour Party Government, this present Administration that bought Wotton. The past Administration bought

Wotton — land that was subject to flooding. They allowed the best land, the best land where the foundation was possibly at four feet, to be sold by private developers and the Democratic Labour Party Government bought the land that was subject to flooding and this is what we have got on our hands today.

The basis at which the foundation was, Mr. Speaker, at Wotton was ten and fifteen feet. The land was acquired by the Democratic Labour Party. We had to abandon land and I want to say this. I was then Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry and we, as a Government, were so embarrassed and ashamed to know that a Government had acquired that land that we proceeded to ask the developer who had land adjoining to sell us part of his land on which we could construct some additional houses. That is why we have a Wotton Development with so many houses, because we had to acquire additional lands, the lands where the foundation was some four feet and therefore we were able to utilise the Wotton Development. Somehow we are faced with a problem but the problem does not lie with us. It was not initiated by us.

Now there are a few things that need to be told. The Land Acquisition Act, Mr. Speaker, is found in the Laws of Barbados Cap. 228 and anyone.....and I say if he is worthy of his salt as a Parliamentarian — he is a legislator by virtue of his being in this Honourable Chamber — he should acquaint himself with the Laws of Barbados and the Land Acquisition Act rather than coming in here and seek to give one the impression that it is a Minister of Government that has to try all sorts of things to acquire land.

2.00 p.m.

I am fully aware and I know and I can interpret the Laws of Barbados. I can interpret them. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: Hear you!) I can interpret them and the honourable Members on that side know it because they have not been critical of my administration. They have not been critical, neither can they criticise me because I seek advice and the very best advice which is available from this team.

Mr. Speaker, Sir with the Land Acquisition Act, there is nothing that one can be expedient about. The procedure, phase by phase, step by step can be followed in the Law, and in that Act.

The Chief Surveyor, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the one person who should always — from the time the Government notes its intention to acquire and the notices are published in the Official Gazette or in the newspapers — take it over from there; not the Minister or not the Government, the Chief Surveyor is the chief agent and he should be involved up to the point where people's

lands are acquired and the level of compensation is decided on.

I have said this, some of the problems and one of the main problems and one of the reasons why people have not been compensated earlier or quicker is the fact that the Chief Surveyor, at some stage did not go to the fullest to see that the negotiations were settled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you cannot go ahead and compensate people. You have to make sure that the titles or the papers are in order. You have to make sure that they are paid and that Government — and one of the reasons....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, if the honourable Member would give way, Sir.

The honourable Member seems to have missed the gravamen, at least of my speech. He is talking about the procedure after the Act has been passed. That was not the gravamen of the question raised. The question related to the policy decision to acquire the land, desirability of making contact with the owner and negotiating with the owner and then, only coming to Parliament, if those negotiations break down or if the title is defended. That was the basis of the question raised. I believe the honourable Member might have missed it.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the honourable Member feels..... it is the Chief Surveyor who has to carry out this sort of policy. He has to get in touch with the apparent vendor and carry out the negotiations. If there is any breaking down, there is a recourse through the Law Court. That is very clear.

This Act was taken from the U.K., the United Kingdom. It is true Mr. Speaker, Sir, that there are parts of it that would need to be amended, but, until such time, we can only be guided by the Law and interpret it according to what is set out in here.

There is no question about whether someone is compensated. Before one is compensated, we have got to take a number of factors into consideration and we, as a Government, have got to be satisfied that the taxpayers' money that would meet the payment is well and truly and honestly spent. I want the honourable Members to understand that. We would not be paying because someone says to pay. I have cited one case, where the Government would have been in for severe criticism, had it adopted that cavalier manner, in paying out funds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, as I said before, that a lot of the heat was generated in this debate because most of us seem to say something when the gallery is full and, I think, on this occasion, Sir, it is well understood why this debate has been prolonged for so long.

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

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.45 p.m. today, Sir.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER accordingly suspended the Sitting at 2.07 p.m.
2.07 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

THE BARBADOS CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1982

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Bill sets out to correct an anomaly. Under the old Act no provision was made for a Foreign Officer living overseas. If a child was born to the officer and his wife, or if the wife was a foreign officer that child was found to be in a relatively awkward position. The child was not entitled to citizenship of the country in which it was born, and unless this amendment is given parliamentary approval that whole part of the Act would remain.

Therefore, the Act sets out to deem the child of a citizen of Barbados serving in a diplomatic or consular post to have been born in Barbados.

The Attorney General and Cabinet looked at this and we believe that it is but fair that that child should be deemed to have been born in Barbados rather than living in a kind of no man's land.

This is the purpose of this amendment, to which I hope both sides of the House will agree. It is a problem which over the years has plagued members of the Foreign Service, and the Government is setting out to remove that problem.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1981-82, No. 16

Head 36 - Civil Aviation and Tourism Division - was called.

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, this matter deals with the Department of Civil Aviation and Tourism in respect of LIAT (1974) LIMITED. The Chamber is being asked to approve the sum of \$341,978.10 as Barbados' part of a subvention which has been agreed to under the terms of the Caribbean Development Bank and LIAT (1974) LIMITED. In 1975 participating Governments agreed to pay to LIAT a subvention to cover the excess of the company's expenditure above its income in any year in accordance with the subvention plan that was formulated. As you might know, Sir, Barbados has 20 per cent of that subvention to undergo whenever the excess of the company's expenditure is above its income.
3.05 p.m.

Subsequent to the decision in August 1978, the Government of Barbados paid a sum of just over \$1 million as the first subvention for the period ending August 31, 1979, but the Government concluded that the company should be required to meet current expenditure and payments to the Government of Barbados in respect of landing and parking fees with effect from September, 1980. LIAT (1974) has indicated to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism that again Barbados' payment is due for the period ending July 1981, and in accordance

with a formula which has to be worked out between the signatories to the subvention, the Government of Barbados is now being called upon to pay the amount of \$341,978.

Our findings are, Sir, that the company itself has reneged on its payment to the Government of Barbados and is still in indebtedness to the Government for the period ending September 1, 1980 to the tune of \$305,932 which represents an amount of \$36,045.80 owed by the Government of Barbados as a subvention over and above the company's indebtedness to the Government. So in effect, Sir, what we are actually voting for here today is a figure which will be paid to LIAT (1974), part of which will be reimbursed for landing fees and parking charges at the Grantley Adams Airport. I do not see much controversy over this matter. It is quite straightforward. I beg to move that Head 36 - Civil Aviation and Tourism Division - stand part.

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

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 38 - Ministry of Education - was called.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in respect of Head 38, we are really merely dealing with relatively small sums of money in each Sub-head, mostly on account of bills for services being brought forward from the last financial year into this financial year thereby causing a shortfall in this year. Mostly we are asking for relatively small funds to make up payments which are falling due within this financial year, and which really cannot be expected to wait to be carried forward into the next financial year.

In respect of Item 6 - Rental of Property, this is a case of rental of certain copying machines, where like I said, we brought forward from the financial year 1980-81.

In respect of Utilities and operating expenses, there have been certain increases within the financial year which have put us in a position where the money voted cannot now cover the cost of these various charges. At Subhead 5 - Pre-Primary and Primary Schools - we are requiring relatively small sums in respect of travelling claims and again in respect of utilities.

Under Subhead 7 - Secondary Schools, again we are dealing with utilities, supplies and materials where the contract costs had increased and for plant equipment and furniture at secondary schools where orders have been made and additional furniture is required mostly

for vocational centres. As the Addendum makes clear we are asking for small supplementaries to cover that.

Under Subhead 8 — Approved Independent Schools, subsidies to these schools were increased in the April Budget. At that time it was too late to have included these increased subsidies in the Estimates — it would have been after the Estimates and we are asking for a supplementary there so that the independent schools may put these monies towards whatever costs they need to do.

In respect of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic increased utility charges give rise to the need for supplementary funds. Again in respect of maintenance of property, particularly typewriter maintenance costs, costs involved in the move from the old premises to the now new site at Wildey, we have incurred additional costs there and we are asking for monies to meet these costs.

Under Subhead 15 — Government Industrial Schools — we see in the Addendum where two additional posts in particular, were created and this was done during this financial year and we are seeking supplementary funds so that they and their substitutes might be paid.

At Subhead 18 — School Meals Department — the recent regrading of certain posts within the current year has given rise of course to additional costs, and we are asking for a moderate supplementary to meet those.

There are increased claims under Subhead 19 for transport of pupils. The increase is in respect of the bus ticket subsidy for transport of children which has pushed us in a position where we need the extra money.

At Subhead 20 — Audio Visual Aids Department — we are also asking for a very small supplementary provision in the sum of £5,000 to cover utilities and for maintenance of property.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 38 — Ministry of Education, stand part.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Just one question for the Minister. In relation to the supplementary being requested for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic — or as the Minister says the now new Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic — the supplementary being requested is in respect of the transfer to the new campus at Wildey, and there are additional costs in respect of utility rates where extra lighting and water are concerned.

I believe that the public and those who attend that institution both as students and staff apparently

are concerned about the completion or non-completion or unavailability of certain parts of the Polytechnic for instructional purposes, and I myself have been hearing some complaints of students not getting the instruction for which they have attended the institution, and that for one reason or other instruction may not be taking place maybe in the workshops or wherever it may be. I do not know whether there are major problems involved in there, but apparently there are, and I am wondering if the Minister would explain the difficulties involved.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to laud both parties for the vision which they have shown in setting about to establish the polytechnic now in its new premises.

3.15 p.m.

I am not one of those persons who would say that you did not have such vision. In your Manifesto here, there are pictures of the Polytechnic but I do not want the former Minister of Education, though I know it was one of his dreams, I believe, to see such an Institution of learning become a reality....(ASIDES) I beg your pardon?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The reference is to the honourable Member on that side, not me. I address you, Mr. Chairman. Though I would not allow this opportunity to escape us saluting him for his vision in improving... it was not your brainchild — in improving because it was the Barbados Technical Institute which was founded by the father of this Party when he was then Premier of Barbados, the Late Sir Grantley Adams, right at Richmond. I think, Sir, that it is still there and I believe that many of the instructors in their various fields are products of Richmond Gap and the Barbados Technical Institute and like all political parties we improve. We go from strength to strength.

We saw in those days that it could only accommodate X number of persons and we referred to it as the Technical Institute. You came along and you gave it a fancy name, the Polytechnic. They pretty up the name like they changed the almshouses to District Hospitals and still the old thing while we on this side came up with a new approach, a brand new approach — Home Help Service — new approach, less money, more dignity; providing those persons who gave so much to this country for so little, with a degree of dignity whereby people can now come into their homes and comb their hair and bathe them, take them for morning walks and if the opportunity had arisen I believe, Sir, they would have taken them to the Garrison Savannah to watch the Gold Cup won by Bold Lewis.

You are familiar with gambling. That is why you are nodding your head. You went to watch the Gold Cup but I am not interested in that form of gambling. (ASIDES) But you were able to remember Bold Lewis. I beg your pardon? (ASIDES) Too little for you. You are an invalid. You never played games yet you do not even know where the Garrison is. You would pass by the Light and Power Company late at night looking for something else, jogging of course.

But, I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that as we go from strength to strength with new ideas and new concepts, I have no doubt in my mind that the problems which I hear myself will be ironed out. I know of a particular person, a lady though she has just resigned from the Polytechnic because she is frustrated. That is what she told me but she had quite a contribution to make. She was trained in England and she has a number of complaints, I believe, in the interest of Barbados and she has resigned but these are only the teething stages. Like in anything at all, you have teething stages.

I read in the papers that there is some protest. I do not know what is the protest but it is now a fancy thing. A man is to come to work without shoes and without socks, long hair down his neck washed with aloes, would not bathe his skin, would not put on clean clothes and would like to come in here and sit down at the Table as Clerk of Parliament and talk about his Constitutional rights like the idiot I saw out there from Christ Church protesting that they sent him from one Department to another Department as if when he came into the Service he did not know that was what they intended to do and could do — condition of service is what you call it — but there are these fads you get.

The Polytechnic is now opened, the new one, a beautiful building from what I have seen outside. I am in no position to determine its architectural beauty. I do not know much about architecture but I would say that it looks good. We as Barbadians can be proud of it but what I am saying to the protestors on this particular occasion, "Man give the place a chance to let the concrete dust blow out." You mean you only come to work today in a new building, the smell of the new building has not even gone out yet and you are protesting about something.

There is some other Union called WIBOR or something so, WIGBU, something. I am not quite sure really, some bunch of jokers but you get all of this nonsense. It is something new. It is still a new thing, Sir, you only have to get up one morning and realise that the gas is not coming in through the pipe to your stove at the same floor that it used to come into last night, so you get a placard and you protest. I call it "want noticing" because Barbadians should have an opportunity, all of them — and I hope that members on the other side would

get up and say these things — to go just beyond our shores and see the things that we are finished with, all the old buses.

If the honourable Member for St. Philip South was in his seat he is a philanthropist, technician, an Engineer I think at Cable and Wireless — he would tell you about all the old equipment they send down to St. Vincent and to St. Lucia because they are computerised and if the computers do not work as they come into work and they touch a button, they protest. This protesting is only a fad so I do not think the Minister should have any problems.

I believe that the Member for St. Michael South and Deputy Leader of the Opposition whom I know I can deal with much better than the Leader — I mean by way of consultation — would appreciate that when he was in the Ministry of Education that people used to complain about school meals — how they used to have the rats in them. Do you remember that? Minced rats. I think they said that it had minced rats, that some children took ill and they had to carry them to the Hospital and they diagnosed.....I think it was a newspaper that brought it out. I cannot remember the paper (ASIDES — *The Truth*). The headline in the paper was "Minced Rat, Sandiford" — M. R. Sandiford, M. R. Sandiford who was in charged of Education but you did not serve it. You only gave the policy directions and the rats got minced up. So, Sir, these are the teething stages that you find in a new institution and I do not believe that there is anything for us to worry about. I personally got up, Sir, to salute both sides of the House, both parties for advancing the cause of education in Barbados and in particular at that level.

3.25 p.m.

Gone are the days of the clerk in Bridgetown feeling he is Mr. Somebody and the motor mechanic, the diesel engineer, the carpenter and mason feeling that he is Mr. Nobody. It is the other way around. But, this is the society which we were brought up in. You had to be a collar and tie boy or curly hair boy to get a job on Swan Street or Broad Street, while the carpenter and the mason and the mechanic was downgraded. Straight hair like the honourable Member for St. Michael North. Your hair only had to be soft and you only had to have a dingy complexion (Laughter) and you would get a job on Broad Street, while the honourable Member on his right, the honourable Member for Christ Church West, I think, he would be considered.....(Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Do not say it.)..... I beg your pardon. (Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Do not say it.) The honourable Member on his left would be considered, "rough, rough".

These are the standards. This is what we found in society, over the years but it is out of this Polytechnic

that it is that degree of dignity in labour that we are now going to see in this country, where the diesel engineer, the mechanic, the carpenter and the mason, the painter, the horticulturalists — you heard the girl on television out of the Ministry of Lands — Housing, Lands and the Environment — (Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Labour) What Labour what? You are not in this. You barely edged in. It was conceptualised, Sir, during my time...*(Asides)*... and then put through the real paces, by the Hon. Minister of Transport and Works. At that time, Sir it was under his jurisdiction.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we have the now Hon. Minister of Labour scotching in, but he is a very good scotcher, he scotched in 42 votes over Wes Hall, Senator Hall and he will always scotch in on a good team. *(Laughter)*

Mr. Chairman, although this may appear to be a rather light hearted speech, I personally want to congratulate both parties, over the years for the advancement in the field of education and, in particular, technical education. And, I hope that that whole myth of the artisan has now..... *(Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber.)* Get up Sandy, your boss is coming. Ease down. *(Laughter)* It is exactly there that you want to be. I know that. I hope, Sir, that that myth that the people who laboured so hard during the years as artisans, would be destroyed and we would now see a brighter approach to this whole matter, Sir. I do not believe that the Hon. Minister of Education is going to have any difficulties in sorting out the problems which she probably has heard of because they are normally in the teething stage of any new institution, Sir, and, I give this Resolution my whole-hearted support, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: In reply, Mr. Chairman, Sir, in respect of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and its completion, the fact is that we are at what in the construction industry is known as the "snagging stage". Last term, we moved in some of the divisions the balance have been there this term, and we are at a stage where the sub-contractors and the main contractors are involved in closing off ends and tying off small things.

We have had a problem within recent days. It is to do — and, I am very pleased to report to this Honourable Chamber — with a recalcitrant and a delinquent sub-contractor and electrical contractor I am pleased to report that the staff at the Polytechnic has been particularly co-operative and only within the last half hour it has been reported to me that the officials at the Ministry of Education and the staff there have consulted with their unions and we have found a solution to that particular electrical problem, Mr. Chairman, and, I would publicly like to say that I am very much appreciative of

the level of competence and the quality of co-operation that we see now, from the staff at the Polytechnic.

I am hoping that the official opening will take place next month, during the month of March. But, I should not like honourable Members to be mistaken classes are taking place and, in fact, the life of the Polytechnic continues. The official opening will simply be a formal ceremony. For the most part, the business of the Polytechnic is very much on the way and the particular problem which found itself in the Press yesterday is no longer a problem today, thanks to the staff. No thanks to the sub-contractor involved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in those circumstances, I am begging to move that Head 38 stand part.

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

The question that Head 38 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 79 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$939,934
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. 17

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in moving Head 79 we are in to Capital Works. This supplementary mostly has to do with the supply of plant, equipment and furniture. This is where various items of plant, equipment and furniture have been ordered using certain catalogue prices and, where prices have increased, in countries from which the orders are expected. In the meantime, some of the equipment has arrived, in this current year and needs to be paid for, so we are asking for a supplementary provision to meet these short falls.

In some respects we are dealing with professional services and most of this is to do with the school building programme, under the World Bank Project — professional fees, retention money which has fallen due and lands which were not properly budgeted for at the time of the last Estimates. Mostly it is that sort of supplementary provision that we are seeking — maintenance of property. We are seeking supplementary provisions in particular, at the Polytechnic because we are in the wrap-up stages and contractual sums are falling due and contractors are folding up at this time and cannot wait until the next financial year without incurring further expenses to Government.

I beg to move Mr. Chairman, Sir, that Head 79 stand part.

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

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

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, If I may take a leaf, a page from the honourable Member for Christ Church West — he has the habit of whenever a matter comes before this Honourable Chamber relating to his constituency, in making some comments.

Now, I welcome, of course, this amount of money being spent on Eden Lodge Primary School and — I am speaking on Item 2 Sub-Head 2 — whether or not the funds are already there I do not know. It is important, it has to be paid for and I welcome it. But, there are some matters and some little problems, Sir, that I should like to bring to the attention of the Ministry, problems I believe, that they are already aware of, some of which, I believe, they have already attempted to do something about.

3.35 p.m.

That school, Sir, in the first place is not easy to find. It can be seen from Green Hill, it can be seen from Whitehall, it can be seen from Eden Lodge, but people generally do not know how to get there. That is a problem. As a matter of fact, a road was designed leading from Eden Lodge Housing Area west of the pavilion, leading right up to the school. That road has not yet been put in and I hope it has not yet been abandoned. That was part of the design of the school, and it makes for easier access to the school instead of having to walk around Whitehall and then having to go back again into Eden Lodge. Those of you who would have been to that school — maybe the honourable Member for St. Michael North East would appreciate what I am talking about — would know that those persons who have to go to the school, and I am not talking about the children or the teachers, have found it difficult. They have seen it, they have had to park their cars and walk across the pasture, but there is a road to go there.

There has been a problem with that road, the access road, which is one of flooding. Some engineering works have been undertaken there recently, mostly relating to road resurfacing, but I believe some drainage works were also being undertaken. I cannot be sure if the problem has been cured, but I do know that in the past whenever there was heavy rainfall or heavy rains appeared to be threatening, the school teacher had to close the school and send the children home, because if they were caught in the school after the rain had fallen it would have been difficult for them to get out.

I think it would be a good thing if the Minister could pay a visit to the school. It is a brand new school, but the surroundings are in a deplorable state. There are grasses growing all around it, the grasses are very high, in some cases probably as high as three feet, and I believe that the school does not have the resources to cope with that situation. I understand that the Sports Department was approached but they have not been able to help, and I believe the Minister could visit the school and see what I am talking about, and use her good offices in order to get those problems looked after, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Subhead 10 of this Item says construction and improvement of secondary schools, and in the Addendum under Item 3 — Professional Services — a supplementary provision of \$200,000 is being requested to honour commitments in respect of professional fees for the expansion of the St. Leonard's and Combermere Schools, etc.

I wish, Mr. Chairman, to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the Minister, certain matters concerning the St. Leonard's School, matters which although they pertain to that school must have implications in general for secondary and other schools in Barbados.

First of all, Sir, to deal with the specific requests concerning the school, I think it is a well known fact that the amount of furniture currently available at the St. Leonard's Schools does not correspond with the number of students currently attending the St. Leonard's Schools. It is a matter of public knowledge, at least for those of us in that vicinity, that a number of children have to stand up during classroom time, and that it is a matter of "first come first served", and some robust competition among the students to get a chair. It is a fact, Mr. Chairman, that students have taken to the very elementary but desirable, from their point of view, expedient of chaining their chairs and locking them so that the next day they can find chairs to sit in. They actually chain the chairs so that the following day the chair will be where they left it.

Mr. Chairman, I need not indicate that that is not conducive to the environment which we in this Honourable Chamber would expect the secondary students at the St. Leonard's Schools to operate in. One could say, or one could put this down to certain intrinsic difficulties which the Government faces at the moment, but I am moved to comment on this particular issue more so because the general environment in the St. Leonard's area does not seem to be a primary concern of the authorities at this time.

Mr. Chairman, only today through the enterprising efforts, I suppose, of some journalist, or the concern

of parents in the vicinity, there was a photograph published of a mound of rubbish on the access road to the St. Leonard's Schools that has been there for the last seven days. (Mr. P. M. GREAVES: You published it?) If this honourable member published it, it would only be a public service which he is entitled to do on behalf of his constituents. It is immaterial who published it, what is important is that it is now seven days that it has been there, and it takes up half of the access road leading into the school. That is the only access road, Sir. It was put there, I am told, by some governmental authorities who had cleaned out, or pushed down, or caused to be removed some derelict building in the area, and they moved the staff on to the road. I draw it to the attention of the Minister because if the Hon. Minister of Health is not aware of it, at least the Minister responsible for Education — in the context of the environment within which the children should operate — ought to be made aware of it.

It is not the first time that that sort of neglect of the surroundings of that particularly disadvantaged school has seen the failure to remove dead animals and other similar garbage from around the environment of the St. Leonard's Schools for days on end. Now, Sir, I have on another occasion praised the Sanitation Department in this Honourable Chamber when it first started on a campaign to bring a certain quality to the level of the environment in the general area where this school is located, but as I praise on one occasion I would feel compelled to damn on another occasion where I feel that neglect is taking on proportions which go beyond the occasional neglect and which seem to be a case of either a languishing disinterest or an inefficiency which we can ill afford.

Mr. Chairman, the improvement which has been done at St. Leonard's has taken up a substantial part of the area without buildings that was left. It is now a school, and let me hasten to say that I understand the difficulty. I am not pretending that I am an ostrich with my head in the sand, I understand the difficulty of providing proper facilities, but this additional building which has been placed there now gives St. Leonard's the highest population per capita of any school in the western hemisphere.

3.45 p.m.

It is true. I invite you to see it. We now have a situation at St. Leonard's where there must be in excess of 1,800 pupils. Mr. Chairman, if you or the Prime Minister or the Minister of Education or the Minister of Health would take a casual stroll in the direction of that school, they would see that there are very few open areas left in the St. Leonard's compound. There is a hard-court which was put there through the efforts of the parents. There is a reduced football field which is incapable of being disguised as a football field, it is not even large enough for a baseball diamond. As a result,

Sir, the windows of the school which surround this small area are constantly assailed by the exuberance of the youngsters who when they kick the ball or hit the ball find it is into the windows and breaking them and the amount of play which is allowed has consequently been reduced. The headmaster and the headmistress of the respective schools are operating in obviously difficult circumstances. I see no reason why an attempt should not be made by the Government in these circumstances to ensure that the highest possible quality of environment exists at this institution.

At the back of the temporary huts which now form a substantial part of the classroom area, there are channels where dirty, filthy, static water has remained continuously for months on end. Mosquitoes are bred there, filth is dropped into it and as a result, Sir, the children are beginning to accept a very low level of environmental health as part of their environment. I say these things, Sir, to draw them to the attention of the Minister, and like myself I would invite her — perhaps there will be an official opening of the wing that has been added — to visit lest she believes that this statement is mere political hot air. (*Asides*)

The honourable Member for St. Michael West Central who allegedly represents a large number of families of children who go to this school has the temerity in an aside to suggest that this is political hot air, but it is precisely because he is unaware of what I am saying that his colleague can marvel at the fact that he defeated even the computers and scraped his way into this Honourable Chamber. I will not deal with that, Sir.

The children of St. Leonards must not feel for whatever reason that these are conditions they must accept, especially at a time when the Government dares to utter such words as zoning, and at a time when they would seek to portray St. Leonards as an early choice which parents would comfortably make. It is incumbent on that Government that it seeks in the case of St. Leonards at least, to upgrade that facility to a level where all of us in here, but particularly more out there whose lot it is to attend that school, can feel comfortable.

Mr. Chairman, I will have a lot more to say about the St. Leonard's School in due course, but I take this opportunity to bring that information to the Government for its immediate action. I expect that notwithstanding the shift in responsibility for various portfolios certain commitments which have been made in respect of that environment would be pursued with the necessary vigour, because it is not a matter on which either the Government or the people of Barbados can remain quiet and silent for too long. I know, Sir, because a large number of the students and their parents speak to me that these matters cause them concern.

I would also say at the same time that the security arrangements which have been made around the school have helped considerably to improve the atmosphere around the school. I think that that is a good thing. It is unfortunate that the relationship between the community and the school has not been a positive aspect of governmental policy in Barbados, and therefore the school has had to be enclosed with rather ugly fencing. I assume that that fencing has always been temporary and I look forward to the day when the mesh wire which now surrounds the building area can be transformed into a more permanent and more aesthetically pleasant enclosure if we must have an enclosure.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks, I will rest for the time being.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, it is not for me to say that if you were to take the honourable Member seriously over the remarks he made just now, you would be amazed to think that as a serious representative of the people, he could only wait until today with these bad uncertain conditions which he told us about just now before making positive representations to the authorities.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, the honourable Member is accusing me of not making representation on this matter before today. I draw to the honourable Member's attention that I have made repeated representation on this matter, and on one occasion — in respect of the environment — I had had the benefit of one of his colleagues seeing part of what I had spoken of for himself. I would not wish him to go further down that road.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I repeat with greater emphasis even than just now, the remarks which I made just now. I have been in here for quite a long time as Minister responsible for Health, and it is not in my opinion too difficult for any Member in this Assembly to speak to the other Member on any matter which affects his or her constituency. I recall very vividly, Mr. Chairman, I must confess that when I was listening to the honourable Member just now that I thought we were dealing with a Resolution pertaining to health. I did not even recall that we were still dealing with education, because he took such a wide excursion as is his wont. He decided to branch far and wide.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I think the honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House when he said that I went on an excursion. I spoke about the environment surrounding St. Leonard's School, and I particularly made the point when I was beginning my address, that I was dealing with the environment surrounding St. Leonard's School. I think it is unfair for the honourable Member to say that.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I wish he would continue to rise on points of order. That seems to be his style. The matters which he raised just now to do with the Ministry of Health are purely Ministry of Health matters, and if they are to do with the environment, they are to do with the environment in so far as the environment affects the Ministry of Health.
3.55 p.m.

The honourable Member was dealing with the question of pupils within the classroom at St. Leonard's, pulling chains and tying their seats and desks to certain posts. I wanted to know where they are tying them and if they are theirs, that they are tying them. Something is wrong somewhere and I hope that the Hon. Minister will take a very serious look at what is taking place at the St. Leonard's School. I hope that the authority has not broken down to the point where pupils have become indisciplined and it certainly has taken a very funny turn. I hope that is not the case.

If there is filth at St. Leonard's, the Ministry of Health is not aware of it — at least I am not aware and I should be made aware. Only a few Tuesdays ago it was drawn to my attention that garbage was at the entrance of the Leader of the Opposition's official office in this building and I took immediate steps to have it remedied.

I will tell you more, Mr. Chairman. If the garbage which the honourable Member complained about is garbage to do with a derelict house and he himself admitted this — that it was moved there by a Ministry — the Sanitation Service Authority is not responsible for that type of garbage. That is not garbage in the sense of garbage. The people who put it there should have removed it and not the Sanitation Service Authority.

Another thing I want to let the honourable Member know as well is that it is not the duty of the Sanitation Service Authority to bury dead animals unless they are called and notified about them. Dead animals should not be thrown on dumps in this Island either. That is not the practice. There is a method of doing it and you have to apply yourselves to those methods.

It is all well and good to come into this Parliament and scream like the Member likes to do everytime. He likes to hear himself. (ASIDES) Yes, you are capable of that, coming and screaming about everything. You hear him talking about St. Leonard's and his constituency. The time has come when you should stop being parochial. You were Minister in a Government. It is time you be big and broad and deal with big and broad issues.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South was dealing with Education broadly and managed to deal with

the Polytechnic but you are limiting yourself to a narrow field. You complimented the Ministry for putting up wires around the area to give it protection. Again you talk about the aesthetic look of what is there. At least something is there. You complain about everything. You are soon going to complain that you are sitting in here. That is the style and operation of the honourable Member.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member would give way.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I am not giving way.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: That is not the product of a point of order. I am not giving way.

Mr. Chairman, the Member has drawn to my attention that there is a problem in the area of St. Leonard's School. As a responsible Member of the community, a Member of this Parliament the Minister responsible for Health, I myself will undertake to look into this problem and to see if the report which I heard is correct. I do not have any reason to believe that the honourable Member would disturb this House but what is disturbing is that the matter was not brought to my attention. Now that the matter has been brought to my attention, I will personally look into the matter but it might make for a tidier arrangement if Members could call Ministers of Government to deal with matters affecting the Ministry — simple matters like these — to do with the health of people. You do not try to score political points. That means nothing. We are a long way from elections, over four years to go and by that time you will be hoarse calling, crying and keeping noise and whenever that time comes, you are going to be silent as anything at all and your noise will mean very little.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in dealing with this particular Resolution, I would like to ask the Minister to be very frank with this House and tell us what are the problems involved. I am again talking about the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic having problems with the Library. Are they problems with the Library at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic on the new site at Wildey?

But first of all, I am not certain. This item here Subhead 18 says "Part of the expansion of facilities at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is the upgrading of the Library". Is that the existing Library on the old site or is this for the new Library? While on that, may I ask if there are any problems in terms of the design

and other matters relating to the new Library at the site at Wildey.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: (ASIDES) I have said nothing about Foreign Reserves. I have said nothing about Capital Expenditure. I have said nothing about the Central Bank who no doubt will soon start bouncing the Government cheques. I have said absolutely nothing about such matters. The Central Bank will soon be bouncing the Government cheques and they should have bounced them in June/July last year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. James North were ordered struck from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: All I am saying, Sir, is that if the Central Bank had bounced the Government cheques in June and July of last year the Barbados economy would not be in this trouble.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member must speak to this Resolution.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I continue, Sir. There are two general questions which I would like to ask in relation to this Resolution. On looking at the population structure of Barbados, it should be possible to plan what would be the physical plan needs for a Ministry like the Ministry of Education, over a 20 to 25 year period.

I would like to know whether such planning has gone into the building and the extension of existing institutions and the planning for further development in these areas because what we are saying here is significant expenditure in the capital area whilst — as I need not recall, because I am quite sure that Members would have spoken under this area — there are so many aspects of education being neglected in this country. Difficult, Sir, it is to teach when children do not have seats to sit on, when they do not have desks, difficult to maintain adequate hygiene in schools when the soap and toilet paper might be missing; difficult to teach Science when Science benches are not available in the schools of this country.

Now, Sir, I believe that from what I have seen over the past three years, that no careful planning has taken place in relation to the Capital Expenditure in Barbados on Education and unlike Health... that is a much more difficult thing to project because you cannot slice them because of the elasticity of demand, if I can put it that way. I do not know if the Minister of Health would understand what I mean but you see, you can either create that demand or in certain circumstances it can rise or fall.

4.05 p.m.

I really do feel, Sir, that after all these years of enlightened administration by the Democratic Labour Party, that we should not be borrowing money for extension of schools and that type of thing. I believe that this should come out of the (ASIDE: Education Levy.) surplus on Current Account that the Rt. Hon. Minister of Finance boasts about. We know it cannot come out of the deficit that will probably exceed all of the deficits over the past 40 years. All the deficit this year will be more than the surpluses over the past 40 years in Barbados. (ASIDE: Foreign Reserves.) I hear it was \$60 million so far, at the end of December but that might be some inside information, Sir — I might not be correct. We need to get away from this kind of borrowing and I do not feel that we should be borrowing money for the extension of schools and so on. I feel that Barbados should be able to generate enough revenue in order to cope with this kind of capital development because we all know, when you get into World Bank Projects and the Hon. Former Minister of Agriculture, former Hon. Minister of Transport, I am sure that he will rise and agree with me — the Hon. Minister of Education would not understand these things, Sir — and agree with me that there is a whole lot of money that is wasted up front in most of these World Bank Projects.

When you look at the kind of money here that has been committed to fees and all this kind of thing, I wonder whether or not we are just not throwing more and more money down the drain, in a sense, by having to go along that route, in order to obtain the funds for this particular purpose. I feel that we should try and shy away from World Bank Loans as far as we possibly can because in every single area as far as I can see, that we have entered into agreements with the World Bank, it has caused problems for Barbados and has not been to any great advantage of this country.

However, having said that, I would also like to point out that the cost of utilities in the Ministry of Education has risen over 50 per cent. One Subhead alone, 50 per cent above that, in the Estimates. This either means that the Government is not exercising adequate control in relation to energy conservation or in the alternate, that they have been misleading the country, by telling the people that the energy cost to them particularly in the area of electricity, has been coming down. How can it be coming down for the rest of the nation and climb to over 50 per cent for the Government under a single Subhead.

Mr. Chairman, I move on. I move on very rapidly, Sir. I would like when the Hon. Minister speaks that she would let us know what the projections are for capital development in the area of Education over the next decade or two. These figures are known, Sir. They are based on demographic data. There are the same figures that should be available to the Rt. Hon. Minister of

Finance, when he is thinking of a National Insurance and a Social Security Scheme, when he is thinking of a National Pension Scheme. It is based on the same type of data and the Hon. Minister should be able to tell us what she plans for her Ministry, over the next 15 or 20 years, so that we would not find ourselves having to come in here, having passed Estimates in March of any given year to be coming back for supplementaries for capital development.

I would like to have this area properly explored because one of the big problems, Sir, is this, that it is not often appreciated that capital expenditure of this nature has long term, current, expenditure implications and that that has in the long run, revenue implications. One of the tragedies of the capital programme carried out, the entire capital programme mishandled by this Government in the past year or so apart from the wastage of money consequential on escalation of costs and excessive fees under a World Bank Agreement and so on is that when each and every one of those projects is completed, there are going to have immediate effects on the demands for further current revenue and further current expenditure in Barbados.

The ultimate casualty, Sir, will be the hundreds that will soon become the thousands that will be sent home from the Public Service because, since we cannot control the current expenditure created by the bad mixture of capital projects then, you can only fall back and try to cut back Government expenditure by sending home people from the Public Service. In other words, the net effect of capital mismanagement is going to be increasing joblessness in the Public Service of Barbados.

That is why we want to see in the future the capital programmes of this nature financed largely out of the revenue of Barbados. We want to see a situation where we cannot only generate that revenue, but that sector of the expenditure that has foreign exchange implications can be adequately covered by increased export earnings provided we do not have the kind of foolishness we hear in this Honourable House that tourists eat only five per cent of the food imported in Barbados. It takes a special kind of clown, Sir to make a statement like that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. I would just like the honourable Member to make a statement. Would the honourable Member like to tell me how much of the food he thinks they eat and how many tourists there are in Barbados on any given day? What percentage of the population do they form?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The last study done, in that area, Sir, indicate that 65 percent of total imports of food in 1967 went to the tourist sector. How it got from 65 per cent to five per cent in 1981 is a remarkable marvel. When, the Rt. Hon. Member Sir, even when

he talks about chickens, I have heard him get up in here and put down an extremely illogical argument, pointing out, Sir, — this is a little point, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is a big deviation from what the Resolution is all about. It is no little thing. Please speak to the Resolution.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, Sir, I am sorry I could not develop that point because I am sure the Rt. Hon. Member would have liked me to remind him of a very good argument that he put up, in relation to the domestic component of the poultry industry. Anyhow, we would not worry to pursue that under your direction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 79, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Therefore, Sir, I believe that the kind of thoughts that have been floating through their minds — in relation to this area of capital expenditure, in those areas that do not have the capacity to earn hard currency in the short term and which would be considered largely infrastructural, particularly where it involves small amounts of money — I believe that we must find ways and means of financing that kind of expenditure, out of our own resources.
4.15 p.m.

That applies, Sir, by comparison not only to the Ministry of Education, it applies to other projects in the area of health, but we will deal with that in due course. So that the general principles that I have sought to bring to bear on this debate I hope will serve the Government in their future thinking on Capital projects, and certainly to recognise that that mixture is very important and that it is high time that we revert to the day when under the Democratic Labour Party, between 1961 and 1976, we were able to have a sufficient surplus to finance this kind of Capital Expenditure out of our domestic resources. We did not have to go all around the place scratching around for a few cents here and there and involving ourselves in more and more debt that we are going to find it very difficult to repay.

I do not think we are going to get the same concessions out of Mr. Reagan that the Poles got out of him yesterday. I do not think that we are going to get any \$73 million or anything like that. I do not know what you are planning for, but nevertheless you should bear in mind that you are taking this country down the wrong line and get out of the habit of borrowing money for this kind of purpose when you can get along without having to borrow money for minor extensions to schools, development of science laboratories and that kind of thing. That should be out of our resources, and we should only be borrowing money in this country for productive purposes and, I want to repeat this, not only for productive purposes, but we have reached the stage where we

should only be borrowing it for purposes where on completion it can become a money earning project, particularly in terms of earning foreign exchange. We have now reached that stage where it is doubtful.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member's time has gone. (ASIDE).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not really want to hear any more, I will just teach you a few things about planning your Capital Programme. If you had listened a year ago you would not be in this mess now.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I had occasion to use a homely metaphor which I will freely confess was intended to apply to the honourable Member who has just sat down, pointing out that a clock which had stopped could still be right twice a day, but it would be wrong for the rest of the time, but I want to use another metaphor. (ASIDE). A clock when it strikes 13, you do not only know it is not telling the truth then, but you have to doubt all the other times it ever struck before.

The honourable Member said that the tourists eat 65 percent of the food that is imported into Barbados. The honourable Member means 6.5 percent, he has mis-read the decimal place. The only person whom I have ever known who has made this mistake before was Cameron Tudor who said that because we now had 370,000 tourists and only 250,000 people in Barbados, that the tourists were eating more food than the locals. You see, at any given moment in Barbados there are no more than about 10,000 tourists, perhaps four percent of the population. The average number of tourists on any given day in Barbados is less than four percent, it is just over three percent of the population. You multiply the number of arrivals by the average length of stay and you divide by 365, and you will get that about three percent to four percent of the people in Barbados on average are tourists.

Now, it is possible that the tourists who stay in Barbados for one week in the course of that week spend \$350 on imported food. Leave out the local food, the chicken, fish and so on, this is the basic retail price of controlled foods, because many of the foods imported into Barbados are cheap foods imported to be price controlled or at least put under price supervision. If the tourists in Barbados eat five percent of the rice imported into this country, the honourable Member can eat meat or five percent of the bread.

When we make these statements about 65 per cent we are so ridiculous. How can any honourable Member take on an argument about foreign reserves from a man that sees 6.5 and calls it 65? I mean, how can we notice that? And the trouble is that I am getting up not to bury Caesar but to praise Ehonobarbus, a minor functionary

in Caesar's palace, because the honourable Member does have a point, and I hope the Minister of Education listened to it, in his comment about the amount of money that is spent on Education. For too long in this country it has come to be assumed that all money spent on social services is automatically well spent by reason of the area to which it has been devoted.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South will know the amount of special pleading, the competence with which he prepared plans for Capital Expenditure on educational works, and although I think that the World Bank Education Scheme is on this side of the margin of desirability, this Government might have found itself spending much more in Capital terms if I had not had to give a check to the Ministry of Education and the elaborate expensive ideas which it had developed in the past, not 15, but perhaps 30 years. I am not saying anything for the future, I am just commenting.

Barbados has a very high per capita income. I had occasion yesterday to study all types of figures that came as a result of World Bank discussions held last week. It really is high, and we have gone up the list steadily. We have overtaken virtually every country that is still on the borrowing list of the World Bank, the only one above us now is the Bahamas. They have a much higher per capita income than any country in South America, except Venezuela, and so on and so forth. We have overtaken the Dutch Islands, Suriname and all the others, Trinidad has overtaken Venezuela, we have overtaken the people underneath Venezuela, and so on.

But when people come to this country you cannot drive down a road in Barbados and honestly think that we are a better off country than Argentina. Technically, all the figures that have been produced show that we are, but you cannot see it in the physical appearance of Barbados, and perhaps more important, in the aspirations of Barbadians. It is no use to tell Barbadians that in theory they are better off than Brazilians or Mexicans or Argentinians. In our bones we know that measurements which tell us that, ignore real areas of under-achievement both infrastructurally and in terms of the balance of our expenditure.

I have pointed out in other fora that we spend more per capita on Education than the Soviet Union. 4.25 p.m.

We spend that because children are bussed to school on subsidised bus fares, and not only do we subsidise the bus fares, but we pay a staff of people to get in motor cars and drive to every school to sell the school tickets to the school children at subsidised rates.

You would not have to be a Mrs. Thatcher or anybody else to think that this perhaps is not the best

expenditure of the taxpayers' money. You would not have to be a conservative. You would only have to be a realist to come to the conclusion that we have some very expensive habits where it comes to education and health care too. I warn the Minister of Health who has been so eloquent of the strictures about over-spending do not really apply to what in the public mind might be a waste in funds — projects like hiring 200 and 300 people to wash buses just before an election as was done in 1976. It is possible to have the right priorities but to allocate more resources than is necessary to satisfy them.

Now the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is perfectly right when he says we must examine the demography in determining our needs for expenditure on education. When we came into power I was presented in an Estimates Committee with some ridiculous foolishness from the Ministry of Education indicating that they were planning schools for an annual entry of 6,600, and this was at the end of 1976 in the following September, 1977. No, indeed the 6,600 were to be prevailing these years, five years from then, 1981 and 1982, and I said "how did you arrive at this figure?" They said the UNESCO study showed this figure and I said "when was the UNESCO study made?" And they said it was made in 1971 and I said "where did they get the figures" and they said from the census. I said "the census of 1970 told you how many children are going to be at school in 1981?"

They are laughing at me, Mr. Chairman. These are the people that know; they have been educated to laugh at other people who do not know about education by the honourable Member for St. Michael South. He laughed at them and they laughed at others. So they were laughing at me and I said "so you now are projecting for these 6,600 children! Have you thought about ringing up the Registrar and asking him how many children were actually born last year?" Nobody had thought of it and they had solemnly sat down and based on overseas experts' predictions of projections of the census figures of 1970 and were planning expenditure approximately 50 per cent beyond what Barbados would need in 1980.

The honourable Member for St. George South is not now present, or he would be able to confirm how all the plans had to be revised and the plans for building more primary schools effectively had to be revised into plans for shutting down some of the primary schools and improving the quality of the ones that remain. Now the World Bank figures — I was surprised at this — show that Barbados again of the 20 developing countries on their books, has the second highest percentage of children in secondary schools in the entire developing world exceeded only by it is one of the ten highest in the world anyhow.

Eighty-four percent of our children are by international standards receiving secondary education. Israel which is thought to be a well educated country does not have so high a percentage. We have been telling other West Indians not always to their pleasure, of Barbados' high literacy rate. There is no country that the World Bank has been able to find that has a higher literacy rate than Barbados. In fact we are the only one that the literacy rate has been put at more than 99 per cent now. We also have a falling school population. We are providing all the secondary education that they need. Every child who wants secondary education can get it. Every child indeed that wants University education and is qualified effectively can get it.

I am not saying this is due to the Barbados Labour Party. This goes back many years and it is due to the former Government plus the University of the West Indies' own initiative. We really have abundant education in this country, but are still spending on schools as if we have the problems of Gabon or Honduras or El Salvador, and if the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is worried, I will set his mind at rest right away.

The Government has examined the democratic position. It is perfectly well aware of the fact that there are fewer children at school now than there were five years ago and many fewer than there were ten years ago. Even with that, you do not know how hard it was in the last Estimates in 1981 actually to get out of the hands of the officials in education a big chart they had showing how many children were at school. They were telling me that children of Barbadians in England come back to school here and so on, and when I dragged it out of their hands physically, the chart revealed that the honourable Member for St. Michael South, when he was Minister of Education, had charge of more children than the present day Ministers of Education, although we were spending perhaps three times as much as was being spent in 1971 on Education. Not three times; the cost of living has not trebled since 1971. It doubled under the Dems in 1971-76, but it has not doubled again under us.

I think that some rationalisation now has to take place. The elaborate promises made in manifestoes of the Opposition that they were going to build another polytechnic although supported by a mistaken story on C.B.C. yesterday is really quite untrue. We have a polytechnic with an abundance of places in it, and when the difficulties which I read about in the newspaper are ironed out, I have no doubt that it is going to be a well-used — but it is not going to be overcrowded — institution.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West produced a phrase I have never heard before, "a higher per capita population". I have never heard it before. I am

trying hard to understand what he could have meant. I listened carefully. The schools are not overcrowded by the standards of overcrowded schools. Many of them were under-crowded. We got a thing.....do not despise these words, Mr. Chairman. There was a survey on housing carried out last year in Barbados and they said that there was a certain amount of overcrowding in Barbados, that you could say 14 per cent of the people were a little overcrowded, but 11 per cent were seriously under-crowded. Anyway, I am interested in words. The honourable Member knows I am interested in words of all sorts and my capacity to deal with these words remains unimpaired at my age. But I do not want to be led astray.

The other think I wanted to say something about was zoning. The Democratic Labour Party in the last six months has pleased a number of thoughtful people in Barbados who would never dream of voting for it, people who want to see sensible opposition, not fatuous, not violent, abusive and racial, but addressing itself sensibly to serious problems, and I am therefore disappointed in seeing what appear to be perfectly calm and perfectly straightforward arguments presented about zoning.
4.35 p.m.

I do not and I have not been able to discover from the educational authorities, indeed of any country in the world, where primary schools are not zoned besides Barbados. There may be. It just happens.....(ASIDES).

The Minister of Education is telling me that they are zoned but I understand that there are people still picking up their children and driving them into Bridgetown to go to Wesley Hall and so on. You are not allowed to do that in the United States. It is not a question of wanting to do it. You are not allowed to do it in most countries of the world. A child has to go to a local school so the statement on Education which I read in the newspaper today started out with a premise that is unique to Barbados — that since there is no zoning of primary schools and you are allowed to send the child to the primary school of your choice that this is desirable and should extend further.

Now there are countries, especially small countries where the organisation of secondary school education is such that it is not necessarily zoned although nearly all the countries in the world do have zoned secondary education. In Barbados, there is a strong and powerful reason against total zoning — leave out the question about how you handle the City of Bridgetown, if you had zoned them because obviously the schools in the City of Bridgetown are enough to absorb the whole population farless the children alone. Leave out the geographical question.

Barbadians have an affection for the traditional secondary schools that have meant so much to this island in terms of its development and what they have been able to do for the children fortunate enough to go to them. Well-known schools will be Harrison's College and Queen's College, the Lodge School has slipped away from the highest standards in the welter of eccentricity which has prevailed in its ruling councils for some years now. Schools rise and schools fall but those two particular schools had a peculiar place. They are a part of our psychic — they are like our cricket team when you get down to it — and Barbadians therefore, although 90 per cent of us know that in competitive conditions our children will not pass sufficiently high in any examination, whether in 11-plus or a National Achievement Test to enter Harrison's College or Queen's College, we yet want to preserve access to those schools for the cleverest of our children.

There are theorists who say that the schools should become Sixth Form Colleges. There are theorists who are against elitist education and so on and so forth but there is an overwhelming support that I have been able to determine and I have been looking at this for years. This is about 15, 20 years that I have been hearing people speaking about this, overwhelming support for access to those schools on a continuing elitist basis.

Now the Minister will not wish to hear the word elitist used but we have to be frank sometime. That is what the population wants. It wants a couple of elitist schools that will give children education of a peculiar type standard, schools where there is no favour in entry and entry will be on competitive examination alone.

Even in most democratic countries in the world, Sir, there are still universities that set standards of entry higher than those of other universities. At Harvard University you have to get 690 marks in the SAT test before they would consider admitting you and so on and so forth, in that great democracy of the United States. Even State Universities funded by taxpayers set differential marks for admission to different campuses and Barbadians are no exception but we do have a population that believes in this.

When I saw the DLP guidelines in education, I realised that they are trying to please everybody because if there is one thing that has to be said in favour of zoning, it is that it will help the least advantage of children. Leave out the biggest schools. Leave out the elitist schools. There are children at present who live in St. Andrew who do not have access to the Alleyne School because they do not get enough marks in the 11 plus to enter the Alleyne School. Under the scheme which I believe the Ministry of Education has under preparation, those children will go to the Alleyne School.

There are children in St. John who do not have access to the Lodge School because they cannot get enough marks in the examination. It is not so long ago that we heard for the first time in 70 years that St. Philip Boys' School placed nobody at Lodge. They always used to get Vestry Scholarships before, for many, many years and then some year it became as a great shock when no boy from St. Philip Boys' School was able to get in at the Lodge School. I do not know how you would draw the zones in St. Philip but there is bound to be a school to which children who do not now have access will have access in the future.

The people who will be disadvantaged and from whom you will hear the greatest cry from zoning are people like the honourable Member from St. James South — people whose middle class sense of value will be offended by having to send their children to St. James Secondary School. If they cannot get them into Harrison's College or Queen's College, they will no longer have the choice of Foundation or Coleridge Parry and you go right around the schools, not really for the quality of education, not for that but because you do not want your children to go to school with the poor children from Holder's Hill. They are the people who will attack zoning, the people that live in Sandy Lane and the people that live in Gibbs and they do not want to send their children to Trents.

I do not have any children at school age aiming to get into school at the moment — I may never have any more, Sir. I may never have anymore but I have been saying, as you know, Sir, because we live close together and we have been friends for many years, that if we had zoning and my children had to go to St. George's Secondary School that that is where they have to go. We were discussing this up to last night I think, and that is where they would have to go and I am therefore disappointed in the Democratic Labour Party's guidelines because it was trying to catch at the best of both worlds.

It is trying to appeal to the middle-class people who for very honest reasons mistrust the quality of education at the Secondary Modern Schools, the Newer Secondary Schools and for social reasons they wish to isolate their children from children of less economic advantage than themselves. They are aiming at that support and at the same time they throw in something about the poor people in the island but it is the poor people of the island who will benefit from zoning because they will now have the opportunity of going to better schools than they have had in the past and part of the reason why they cannot get to the better schools is because of economic deprivation which does not expose them to the same extent to the environmental factor that allows them to do well in the 11 plus.

There is one examination centre in Whitepark Road where the children from St. Gabriel's, Smales and Miss Carrington and so on are examined and consistently 60 per cent of all the passes into Harrison's College and Queen's College come from the pupil that takes the examination at that school — the children of predominantly white, fair-skinned, middle-classed well-off people. I do not mean that the same adjective applies to all, I mean separate categories. They are the children who get into the schools and they really deprive the children who go nowhere.
4.45 p.m.

I remembered being shown, Sir, something which I thought was very realistic. A man who lived in the area made application for the 11 plus and he put down two schools for his child — Harrison College and the second, the Garrison School. He was realistic. If his boy could get into Harrison College, well and good, otherwise, it was the local school. He did not run with Harrison College, Combermere, Foundation, Coleridge and Parry, Alleyne, in the hope of being able to scratch a place at some school that he thought had more prestige.

How will you ever raise the prestige of the Garrison School, unless parents, in Marine Gardens and Rockley and Golf Club Terrace are prepared to have their children go there under a zoning scheme. (Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Are you giving instructions now, as to where my son would go to school?) How will it go up?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Is it time, Sir, I am sorry, Sir. It has to be understood that there are habits of elitism that die hard. Elitism in education has taken a very, very long time to die and I have indicated that the Government is still prepared to acknowledge its existence in respect of certain of the schools of the island. But it cannot go on forever. A little democracy in education has to enter. You cannot perpetuate — in fact, we are doing worse than perpetuating, Sir. In my opinion, we are actually exacerbating the situation.

When I first went to school, boys used to come to Harrison College on Vestry Scholarships — not brilliant scholars, but, boys who had been selected by the people that knew them well in the Vestry System who cannot now get to Harrison College, who did not have at 11, the capacity to pass examinations and get into the school or who cannot now get there. I have seen, with my own eyes, observe Harrison College become a more elite school.

It is popular to say in days when you had to pay to go in there, you had to fight to get in there, that it was elite and it is not so now. Nobody who really understands it from the inside can honestly believe that. But,

we are paying some service, we are paying some attention and appreciation to that part of it. We have to democratise the system of education in the country and appeals to the worst instincts of the public, made for cheap political reasons will not advance that cause, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, it is very interesting that perhaps, today, for the first time we have seen the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister as he really is. There are those who will understand his speech from one point of view and there are others who will see it from the other point of view.

He said as he was about to begin, that he was talking through you, Sir, to my colleague, and that he has still retained the capacity for words. I would like to say that as he has finished, he has demonstrated that he has retained that capacity. I am not going to spend any time trying to debate the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, on elitist education. (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I got where I was by taking examinations though.)

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is well placed to discuss elitist education in Barbados. But I have not accused you of not taking examinations. How could I? I was not around. But, he is well placed to discuss elitist education and I am glad that he has taken the opportunity, in this Honourable House to air his views. That is as near as I can come to admiring the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister for saying what he truly thinks the people of this country do not understand the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.

He has been trying for some time to explain himself to the people. He has a mission. His mission is to take you all back to where you were. Make no mistake about that. That is his mission. That is what he sees and that is what he is doing. And he is being very successful. He uses the language, in terms of zoning and he says that elitist education is now accepted as a norm in Barbados and he uses an example like the Alleyne School — boys in St. Andrew cannot get into the Alleyne School because they do not have the marks after earlier in his statement saying that they must retain some place where clever children can go. Who does the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister think he is talking to? He can give that argument to his yardfowls. But, when it comes to talking about education, he cannot get up and say that to any intelligent people — in the same speech, in the same breath and expect them to accept that he is the great democratiser for education in this country. He would know about elitist schools.

He said that there are more children now who cannot get into Harrison College than there were in his day. You can say that to 14 year olds. Not even honourable Members sitting on the front bench with you would

accept that garbage. There was a time, in this country when you could get into Harrison College, if you did not have any sense, as long as you had the proper "breeding". There were no examinations. Four Vestry Scholarships in a country with 200 000 people and he advances the Vestry System as a model?

There has to be a meritocracy. That is what it has to be. This country must become a meritocracy. People must go wherever there are going on the basis of merit. And, when you talk about zoning, you are very subtly — because in your own argument you say that St. Michael cannot be zoned. The excellent schools are in St. Michael. Therefore, to talk about zoning as the means of introducing merit is to deny your own argument. You cannot, on the one hand say that the two excellent schools are in St. Michael.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The honourable Member is being very vehement. But, I am going to ask him, if he does not mind giving way, I want to hear him — deal in your argument when you say there must be a meritocracy in this country. Deal with the fact that is abundant to everybody that the children who get admitted to the best schools are persons who are economically advantaged over others. Deal with the fact that the examination results show that the children of the rich are the ones who now pass the examinations and say, if you are saying positively that to be rich is to have merit.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Again, you see that sort of question and that sort of comment will fall on the ears of those who are not thinking of what you are saying. A meritocracy is very straight forward. It is a question of those who merit something getting it. By the same token, you are saying that once you zone, the rich would not get to Harrison College and Queens College. But, you deliberately leave Harrison College and Queens College open in the same way it would be, if you do not zone. Who are the people?

Let me take your argument, step by step. First you would

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the honourable Member to address the Chair please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When you address another honourable Member, you are not addressing the Chair.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, I am only speaking in the vein that the honourable Member who spoke before me spoke. Mr. Chairman, let me take the Member's argument. He is

saying that if you grow up in a middle class house, it stands to reason that by virtue of the exposure which you get, you are likely to have, as the results show, a greater access to the elitist schools. That is true. So, if you take that argument, it means that no matter where you live, in this country, if you are of a certain class, middle class or above, the chances are, in their scheme, that the child will get an opportunity to go to one of the elitist schools. Let us take that as given. So those persons who live in St. John or St. Joseph or St. Lucy who are themselves from the upper and middle classes will not have a problem. It stands to reason that when you zone, that the ones who are poor who live in those same out territories are the ones who will be forced to go to the schools which are chosen within the concept of the zoning system which they have designed. I want to offer the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister a better answer to what he says must be the democracy.

4.55 p.m.

Let us all consider this system when we have an excellent French teacher who is teaching at Harrison College, and we know he is an excellent French teacher, that we make provision to expose that excellent French teacher to the Alleyne School, to Ellerslie, to St. James Secondary. I put it to you that if you take all your excellent teachers and you rotate the teachers rather than the pupils that the people will follow, as they do in all the universities, they will tend to follow the excellence wherever it goes. It has nothing to do in a country that has 250,000 people, 166 square miles, the longest point is 21 miles, getting to and from school is not so big a problem unless the cost of getting there is exorbitant.

That is the problem at the moment. People in the country are not going to school where they have three or four children, because the cost of getting there is exorbitant in the context of this decrepit economy which we have. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The cost is exorbitant and children flashing hundred dollar bills in the canteens?)

If the Hon. Minister of Education feels that the odd two or three children that are sporting hundred dollar bills is the norm, they are sporting hundred dollar bills at Harrison College and places like that. I am talking about the people with whom the honourable Member has lost touch, the people with three, four and five children who have been rotating their children at school. You may say it is not true, check with the people. They are keeping their children home simply because they cannot afford to send them to school. That is a fact, and it is something which the honourable Member and all other honourable Members on that side should make themselves aware of.

But I do not believe that the Hon. Prime Minister either by being suave or by attempting to denigrate the

Democratic Labour Party by suggesting that we are catching at cheap publicity.....Does he believe that the members of the Barbados Labour Party have children and the members of the Democratic Labour Party do not have any children? Does he believe that anything we could say on education policy is dictated only by the greed to secure votes? Are you saying that all of us in the Democratic Labour Party are so lacking in integrity that we would agree to an educational policy detrimental to ourselves merely to get power? Maybe you judge us by your own standards, Sir, but it is not so and it cannot be so. If we are all Barbadians, you have a system, you propose a system; we have a system, we propose a system; let the people choose. Do not denigrate the Democratic Labour Party on grounds that we are catching for votes on an issue like education.

The honourable Members in this political party — the vast majority of the people in this political party — have been concerned with nothing more esoteric than finding a place in the sun in a country that is theirs, that is alleged to be theirs. They look with a certain amount of disfavour when they see 40 to 60 of the places in many of the so-called elitist schools being filled in a manner that suggests that if you come from overseas you are better off automatically than if you were born in Barbados. I will go no higher than that. I have no axe to grind for any particular person, but when we start to talk about elitist education, and when the Prime Minister can state that the people of Barbados have accepted as a norm the system which existed at Harrison College and Queen's College for all these years, then the Prime Minister is either not in touch with reality or he is displaying a cynical, diabolical approach to the question of the development of the people of Barbados.

I cannot accept that anyone who has benefited from a system of examinations as the honourable Member claims he has benefited — who ought to recognise, for example, that the pleasure, the joy of being acclaimed a Barbados Scholar is something which has adorned the mind of almost every parent for his child, who himself on occasion has benefited from such examination, such competitive examination — would seek to suggest that competitive examinations should give way to the old time interview type situation where women used to ask young girls of nine and 13, do you go to the pipe? And if the answer was in the affirmative you could not enter the school. Let him deny that that was so. That is how it used to be. Do not talk about the Vestry, for every two persons from the village of Fairfield who got a Vestry scholarship I could show you 20 who were equally capable, if not higher qualified, who did not get an opportunity to go to one of these so-called elitist schools, which you seem to be suggesting was available to them.

Now we can look around. Whatever might be the demerits of having too many of these types of people in

these schools — because I am told that the standards of behaviour are said to have gone down by many of the educationists because we have too many of "these people" in these schools — whatever might be the demerits, if you examine the schools in the common sense way which you yourself recommend, you will find that more than 50 percent of those children in each of those two elitist schools today come from families that cannot be described in this country as middle class or upper middle class. More than 50 percent, and what it means is that they are tested by some form. We do not believe that the 11 plus examination is the best form for testing children at age 11, and we have offered a suggestion as to how their achievements might be measured, but whatever measurement is used, the point is that they are measured and they are put against each other, and it is by merit that at least 50 per cent of them reach the levels of their aspiration.

So, Mr. Chairman, if the Prime Minister wishes for us to have a full debate on education in the context of the development of Barbados, I stand ready at any time to take him and anybody else on this issue.

Just before I sit down, Sir I wish to draw something to the attention of the Minister. The Minister in this Resolution is seeking to get \$18,600 because furniture which was ordered from outside of Barbados did not arrive on time. I wish to ask the Government if in a time when unemployment is a problem, if at a time when we have had extreme difficulty with foreign exchange, if at a time when we have extreme difficulty in our economic development, if it is the policy of that Government to import school furniture, if the furniture is special furniture which cannot be constructed in Barbados.

I think we have a right to know lest we go away from this honourable place with the wrong impression. I would like to feel that an enlightened policy which was followed in the past, which sought to ensure that all the furniture used in the schools in Barbados was produced by the manufacturers in Barbados, still continues intact, and I would like further to believe that this furniture of which she speaks is furniture, the like of which is unavailable and the technology for which is unobtainable in Barbados. If not I would consider this to be a very backward and retrograde step.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I draw to your attention that the Addendum as it now stands quotes Subhead 22 — Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity. A perusal of the Estimates shows that that Subhead ought to be Subhead 20. I drew it to the attention of the Minister that the Estimates show Subhead 20 as being the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, the supplementary Resolution shows Subhead 22. She might wish to reconcile that, but I wish to ask under whichever Head it falls whether the Minister is able to tell us what is

the total cost of this construction at BIMAP. There is something which does not ring true if one looks at the original Estimates and looks at the supplementary.
5.05 p.m.

A supplementary provision of \$271 000 is being sought under this Item to pay contractual amounts due. Is it that they are drawn down amounts which have become due or are they additional amounts? The initial vote according to the Estimates, page 94, shows that some \$756 307 was voted in 1980-81 together with \$689 983 in the year before. I would wish to know if this \$271 000 is in addition to the \$756 000 or whether this \$271 000 is part of it. I do not see how it could be since it comes as a supplementary, and would she therefore indicate what is the true cost of the construction of the facilities at BIMAP. We feel that BIMAP had been constructed some little time ago and cost a relatively substantial amount of money and we are asking this question not in terms of being critical of the work of BIMAP, because I think that generally speaking they have continued in the vein in which they were intended, especially now that they have managed to get rid of the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, but I would like to know what is the cost of the expansion.

It would seem to me that a substantial amount of expansion has been going on at BIMAP, I would like to suggest that that expansion is not necessarily in keeping merely because the World Bank makes an offer and we have a sub-project of the World Bank. It does not seem to me that it is necessary to have continued building and continued expansion at BIMAP unless it is justified.

I myself am not satisfied that all of the objectives which I set for BIMAP when we established it are being pursued as vigorously as they ought to be. I feel for example, that the small shopkeepers in this country ought by now to have had access to BIMAP so that they would at least be able to keep relatively simple, but nonetheless firm books for themselves if not for any other agency so that they would have some idea of whether they are making a profit or a loss.

I feel too that some of the so-called counsellors may have lost sight of the objectives of the institution and are operating at an esoteric level which is not necessary at this point in the development of the management sciences in Barbados. Indeed many of the graduates of BIMAP find it extremely difficult when they return to their work place to relate what they have been taught at BIMAP to their real situation.

It would seem to me that you need a series of middle-level courses which are geared specifically to the Barbados situation and which would have grown out of

an examination of the current Barbados situation to see what the real needs are as opposed to the institution becoming an accretion, that is to say, as it has grown a little more each year it sets itself heights a little higher, and soon, as I see, it is seeking to become affiliated with a University, and soon it will want to call itself the University for Management and Productivity.

I am not against such advance if such advance is going to be done within the total scheme of the development of higher education in the country, but I think the Minister should be careful, indeed the Minister responsible for Industry ought also to be careful to see that the BIMAP situation does not get out of hand as so many things tend to do in the bureaucratic system which we have inherited.

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for your indulgence under the circumstances, and I appreciate your allowing me to range a little far following the range which the Prime Minister had been given. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister may wind up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, just one very brief thing I would like to clarify and it is this: the honourable Member for St. Thomas has a way of twisting things that people say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may take his seat, please!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have to respond to a remark that was made. On what grounds must I take my seat?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member is out of order. Please take your seat! You started wrong.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on what grounds must I take my seat?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may consult with any of your colleagues. Please take your seat! I rule that you are out of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You wish me to withdraw the remark in that case?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ruled you out of order. Understand that. Please take your seat!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES took his seat and rose again.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, just to clarify one point. I never said that tourists ate 65 per cent of the food that was imported into Barbados. I said that 65 per

cent of the expenditures on food went towards the tourist sector. In other words, a case of champagne might be equivalent in cost to 50 or 60 bags of rice, I do not know, and I said that the only study done in this area was one done in 1967.

I think it was part of a post graduate study by a student and the figure that they came out with was somewhere in the region of 65 per cent of expenditures on imported food. I am not talking about 65 per cent of the volume of food, but 65 per cent of expenditures on imported food. It is a different matter altogether. In other words, one bottle of champagne could be worth a whole lot of rice or a whole lot of English potatoes or something like that.

The other point is that I am very glad to see that the Government has thought of realigning its capital programme in the social services in a constructive manner, and I am very glad that this is recognised not only in education but also in the area of health. Thirdly, Mr. Chairman, I just want to warn the Government that there is a major problem developing in tertiary education in Barbados at University level and you might find that you have a bigger problem on your hands in this country than you think you have, and it should probably be here in a matter of a few months, because if Trinidad and Jamaica decide to pull out, you know exactly what you are going to be saddled with here in Barbados.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, there are some points which I want to answer. The honourable Member for St. Michael South wanted to know about the problems of the library at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. I can only say I have no knowledge of it.

The honourable Member for St. Michael North says that the school in Eden Lodge was not easy to find. I find it difficult to believe, Mr. Chairman, that the children who go to school at Eden Lodge do not know where to find Eden Lodge. The general public really does not have to resort to Eden Lodge, so I am not sure that I properly understand that.

Eden Lodge is a brand new school as he said, and a great deal of money has been spent on it. It is true that drainage work needs to be done. It is true that access roads need to be fixed, but Eden Lodge must wait its turn like everybody else. All the 21 secondary schools, all the 112 primary schools want something done and everybody will get a turn. Eden Lodge has a large turn and it will get its turn. But he talks about landscaping, and I do believe and I want to serve notice now that in my tenure in education I am not going to make landscaping a priority as far as Government funds are concerned.

Mr. Chairman, the Parent Teacher Associations can better employ themselves other than trying to frustrate

the Government policy by finding ways and means to finance this kind of undertaking. Let the Parent Teacher Association of Eden Lodge and the other schools look into the matter of upgrading landscaping and sports facilities and the like. Now in reply to the honourable Member for St. Michael West, he had a lot to say about St. Leonard's School, but he deliberately failed to tell this Honourable House about the eight new science laboratories built last term at St. Leonard's so that the science facilities at the St. Leonard's School.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT rose.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am not giving way, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has risen on a point of order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member by misconstruing my speech would mislead this Honourable House.

I particularly pointed out the new block had in fact created a problem, so I had acknowledged that the new block was there. The eight science labs have nothing to do with what I said.

5.15 p. m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The eight science labs have everything to do with what you said. He was careful not to say that they were science labs. We could have thought that they were toilets. We could have thought that they were lockers but there are science labs. The fact is that today the St. Leonard's both the Boys' School and the Girls' School have better science lab facilities than Harrison's College or Queen's College that they are fond of speaking of.

This would lead me to another point. We are hearing a lot of clap-trap — and I deliberately put it that way, Mr. Chairman, Sir — from people who are into talking about zoning but I do not intend to talk about zoning this afternoon. I do not carry on negotiations or consultation in public. Where I go out of my way to call up the headteachers and the unions and the Parent Teacher Associations to consult with them about zoning prior to putting a Paper to the Cabinet and they deem fit to take the substance of those consultations to the front page of the newspapers, you will have to understand that I would treat that as a breach of confidence and that I cannot be expected to treat those parties in the same way in the future. So I will have nothing to say about zoning before zoning goes to the Cabinet on Thursday.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to make this point. People have a lot to say about the Newer Secondary Schools and about elitist education and which school falls into the elitist category but the fact is that in most of the Newer Secondary Schools in Barbados, facilities are far better, far more modern and more sophisticated than they are to be found in the Older Secondary Schools so I do have difficulty with talk that I hear about disparity.

We hear about problems with teachers and a lot of it is notional, mythical. People hear things and they hold on and they hold on to little bits of information and it flies away. People run away with a story without examining the true facts.

We hear a lot of talk about the furniture at the St. Leonard's School. Again, what he does not tell the Honourable House is that the school furniture is broken by school children. I have given a direction that where children break furniture in the future, their parents must be called upon to pay for it. The taxpayers pay for that furniture. Furniture does not wake up one morning and find itself destroyed. There is vandalism of the order in the schools in this country, Mr. Chairman, Sir, which would shock honourable Members and it is carried out — not by any people from outer space or from other territories — it is carried out by our children in our schools. We are taking steps to see how we can correct the kind of behaviour which would instruct a child that it should destroy school furniture and staff have a role to play in that.

Something is definitely wrong, Mr. Chairman, when a headmaster of a school will wake up one morning and discover that 100 chairs are broken and four teacher's desk — the desk that the teacher works at, four have disappeared. That says something about the quality of the management in the schools. All of that is what I have to contend with in the Ministry of Education.

We have heard about a lot of garbage on a street leading up to St. Leonard's School. I am not prepared to entertain that. I am no longer the Minister for Health.

We heard some jargon. I cannot think of any other way to put it. It does not make sense to anyone but I think the honourable Member for St. Michael West must have been wondering off into other lands. We hear that in places like Singapore the poor children go to school on the shift-system because of the density of schools. We heard something about baseball diamonds. Baseball, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is not a game which is played in our schools to my knowledge, Sir, so I will gloss over those things.

(Certain remarks made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West were asked to be expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.)

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The honourable Member had a great deal to say about the quality of the relationship between the people who lived in the immediate catchment area of the St. Leonard's School and the children who go there and he is perfectly right about that and perhaps that has something to do with the fact that a lot of the children who go to the St. Leonard's Schools and do not live in the parish of St. Michael. I will leave that there for what it is worth.

Now I wish really, Mr. Chairman, to address myself to the point raised by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. Before I do, I will answer the last point raised by the honourable Member for St. Michael West. In respect of BIMAP, I can only say that the total cost for the extension at BIMAP is \$.8 million — roughly in the area of \$800,000.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central wants to know from me what are the Government's forward plans for education in respect of Capital Planning and Expenditure for the next 25 years. I could only say, Mr. Chairman, that that is for honourable Members on this side. They will have to find a way to work out what they will put in their Manifesto for 1986. It is not my business to make grits for their mill. I will not attempt to outline for the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central or anybody else on that side of the House what the Government forward planning would be in respect of Capital Expenditure over the next 25 years but I will say this, Mr. Chairman, Sir, something is desperately wrong in the way we run our educational system.

I hear very carefully the points made about current Capital Expenditure both by the Member for St. Michael South Central and by the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Thomas and they are not telling me, Mr. Chairman, what I do not already know and had not already instructed the staff at the Ministry of Education. We cannot in the social sector and in particular in Education continue to spend at the expanding rate that we have over the past 20 years. We understand plain that in passed opec times, such as the times we now live in, certainly between now and the end of this century that the spending in this sector, particularly on Education, must stabilise and there are many reasons why this has to be so, Mr. Chairman.

We have over the past 20, 30 years spent a great deal of Capital Funds, Capital Expenditure on Education. We have modernised our plan. We now have some of the most sophisticated equipment in our educational institutions but something has got to be desperately wrong

where in the year 1882 the school year was divided into three terms and in the year 1982, the school year is still divided into three terms. We are still with all our modernity, with all of this modernisation, with all of this sophistication now, going forward to the 21st Century but in danger of finding ourselves in the year 2,000 perhaps, Mr. Chairman, Sir, being left behind in the 20th Century because some of the tools by which we seek to teach our children are distinctly 19th Century or Victorian.

5.25 p.m.

We cannot keep up with the curriculum. We cannot keep up with the syllabus which the CXC is now setting before us, Mr. Chairman, if school is going to continue from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. five days a week, nine months of the year. I do not know that we can go into the 21st Century with a style of education, where teachers are paid for 12 months of the year and work nine. In North America, teachers work nine months of the year and they get paid for nine months of the year and these are the things that we have to look at — and they will not cost us any Capital Expenditure, I am perfectly sure of that. Those are the kind of areas that we are examining, Mr. Chairman, Sir. We are moving forward into the 21st Century. If we are to keep up this proud boast of our literacy rate, the quality of education — elitist or otherwise — we have to face facts in the 21st Century.

The time is coming when every secondary school in Barbados is going to be demanding a computer. I do not know how long we can continue, Mr. Chairman, with the sixth form system, where children are thrown from one system into another and they go to the University from sixth form into an entirely different atmosphere and we expect them to work miracles. I just do not know how long we can do it, and these are the things that we want to examine in my time. We want to look at the very basic philosophy now behind the educational system in this country, and those are the things that I would throw out to the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. But it is not his business, or the Opposition's business. But what the Government's forward plan is for education up to the year 2,000 and beyond is not his business or the Opposition's business. I do not think, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that the few other points that I have bothered to take notes on merit any reply at this time.

I would beg to move that Head 79 do now stand part.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 79 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN the Resolutions were read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN the Resolution were read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN the Resolutions were agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this brings Government Business to an end and I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that this Honourable House do now stand adjourn until Tuesday, February 9, 1982 at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this House now stands adjourn until Tuesday, the 9th day of.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Can I speak, Sir, very, very briefly on the adjournment?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are speaking to the adjournment?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Very briefly, Sir. If Your Honour.....it would not offend anybody, Sir.

Speaking on the adjournment, I want to thank the Clerk of the Honourable House and the Staff of the Government Printing Office, for doing what within my experience is unique, which is bringing last week's proceedings to the Honourable House, the printed record of last week, in time for this week. I would like to thank all concerned, Sir. *(Applause)*.

The question that the House stand adjourn until Tuesday, 9th February, 1982 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the Sitting at 5.33 p.m.

5.33 p.m.