

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 - 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19th October, 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)
His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister)
Hon. Miss B. A. Miller
Hon. L. B. Brathwaite
J. G. Odle, Esq., B.Sc.
Hon. V. L. Johnson, M.A.
Hon. L. R. Tull, Q.C., M.A.
Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw
P. M. Greaves, Esq.
Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

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

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, October 12, 1982.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these Minutes have been circulated, and subject to any observations by any honourable Members as to the accuracy thereof, I beg to move that they be now concurred in.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$14,029 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1982-83 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1982-83, No. 5 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government of the repayment of a sum not exceeding the equivalent of U.S. \$7,500,000 or Bds. \$15,000,000 and the principal and interest thereon to be made by the Off-Shore Banking Unit of Barclays Bank International to the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

A Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government for the borrowing of \$17,000,000 by the issue of sugar Industry Bonds by the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

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

A Bill to amend the Prisons Act.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to amend the Barbados Telephone Company Act.

A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act.

A Bill to amend the Final Appropriation (1980-81) Act, 1982-21.

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. ODLE: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

On the 26th of May 1982 the Honourable the House of Assembly appointed a Select Committee comprising the Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. Adams Hon. H. B. St. John, Hon. L. R. Tull, Hon. H. deB. Forde and Mr. J. G. Odle; to consider and report back to the House on the Emergency Powers Bill 1982.

The Committee met and appointed Mr. J. G. Odle to be Chairman of the Committee.

Pursuant to advertisement, the Committee received memoranda from Dr. Leonard Shorey, the Barbados Christian Council, the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union, the National Union of Public Workers, the Barbados Union of Teachers and Mr. Herbert Holder. The aforesaid persons and bodies, including The Barbados Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, requested and/or indicated willingness to be heard by the Committee.

The Committee considered the submissions and recommendations made by memoranda aforesaid, and agreed to invite the aforesaid persons and bodies to appear before the Committee at a date to be fixed.

The Committee resolved to report to the Honourable the House of Assembly and request leave to sit further, two months hence.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the wish of this Honourable House that the Select Committee be given an extension period of two months within which to submit the final report on the Emergency Powers Bill?

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, the Select Committee on the Emergency Powers Bill has an extended period of two months during which it will make its final recommendations to this Honourable House.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. L. R. TULL seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, a Bill to amend the Prisons Act was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, a Bill to amend the Barbados Telephone Company Act was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, a Bill to amend the Final Appropriation (1980-81) Act, 1982-21 was read a first time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 1.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1982-83 No. 4

Head 14 – Establishments Division – was called.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks to supplement the provisions of the Estimates, Head 14, Item 2 – Other Personal Emoluments. It is under this Head that funds are provided for the payment of temporary staff in the Government service as a whole.

Honourable Members will recall that the Minister of Finance indicated in his Financial Proposals that every effort would be made in the course of the current year to ensure that the cost of the establishment in Barbados would be kept within our projected revenue levels.

At the time of the Estimates, requests were made for certain sums of money, but these requests were not granted, pending an examination of the numbers of temporary staff, their utility, as well as an examination of the reasons for payment of substitutes.

This examination has taken place, and we are in a position to say that the Ministry of Finance is now satisfied that an additional amount of \$550,000 is

necessary in order to ensure that there will be sufficient funds in the vote to pay temporary officers between now and the end of the financial year.
12.40 p.m.

I think that honourable Members should be aware of the fact that in addition to paying your established staff, it is necessary to make provision for temporary staff. We on this side of the Honourable House are doing everything within our power to ensure that there are no unnecessary lay-offs of staff and that those additional temporary posts that are created are necessary for the efficient functioning of the Public Service.

I beg to move, Sir, that the sum of \$550,000 under Item 2, Head 14(1) do now stand part.

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

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the tentative and staccato manner in which the honourable Member introduced this supplementary Resolution seems to suggest that he, himself, might not be as fully *au fait* with the situation.

One recognises that he is not the Minister responsible for Establishments, and one accepts that a Minister who is not responsible for a portfolio might not be fully seized of the details of a request such as this.

But, Mr. Chairman, while it is accepted on all sides that after the Estimates have been passed, a supplementary vote may be necessary to top up a particular vote, I took careful note that the honourable Member said that they wished to be certain that there will be sufficient money available to pay staff to the end of the year. Now, the end of the year, Sir, does not mean the end of December, it means the end of the Financial Year, which is some six months or so away.

But I think this is symptomatic of the disastrous personnel policy which the Minister responsible for Personnel and Establishments has been implementing in this policy.

I say here today, Sir, that his personnel policy is a disastrous policy. It is second, perhaps, only to his financial policy. His personnel policy, Mr. Chairman, has left the Civil Service — and this is without reference to the row between the NUPW and the Government, without reference to that row — Sir, the Civil Servants are demoralised. They are demoralised, Sir, because the system that is being used for personnel administration today does not allow them to know from day to day or week to week what is a particular position in the area of policy formulation.

When they are working with certain Ministers their position is crystal clear and they understand what their position is. But, in the Service as a whole, this question of temporary staff, which the honourable Member says this vote is to pay for, does not square with the position taken by the Prime Minister when this Head came before Parliament and we discussed it in the Estimates, this concept of hiring people on the basis of policies which neither the people who are coming in nor the people who are in have any idea of, is allowing the Service to have within it a number of anomalies which are induced by the attitude of the Minister himself.

Mr. Chairman, you will recall that, not long ago, we forced the Prime Minister to make a statement on the issue of study leave.

Now the reasons you employ temporary persons fall into these categories: There is a task to be performed and the Establishments and Finance Divisions are not satisfied that the task is going to be a long-term task and so, they bring temporary staff to do it; or, persons are going on leave and since those persons are returning to the service, their period of leave is to be covered by the employment of temporary staff; or persons have become ill suddenly and they are in sensitive areas of the Service and the Service at large is unable to cover the void which is created by that illness. Those are the three basic reasons why you might employ temporary staff.

But if one examines the number of persons who have been laid off in the Government sector in this Financial year alone, and if one examines the statements which have been made to justify that position, one could not accept the argument that the honourable Member sought to put forward today — that it has now been determined that these persons are really required.

It would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that back three years ago, we were being told that a systematic re-examination of the Civil Service was being undertaken.

I recall, as little as six months ago, the honourable Member for St. Thomas, the Prime Minister, the Minister responsible for Establishments, in an attempt to justify the necessity not to fill certain vacancies, he suggested that there were more persons in the Civil Service than required. And now, today, we are being told that we are to vote an additional half million dollars so that we can fill temporary posts.

Unless I understand the honourable Member incorrectly, he is saying that the Minister who spoke six months ago did not understand what he was saying, or that if he understood what he was saying, he was misleading. I prefer to believe he misunderstood what he was saying.

And, it is a fact, if one takes all of the statements the Prime Minister has made on this question of personnel, we will see that he does not understand personnel policies; he does not understand the necessity for persons who work in the Public Sector to have a clearly defined career objective, to have policies which are understandable to all and sundry, and, certainly, to those whose lot falls to working in the Public Sector.

Mr. Chairman. I am not going to dwell on certain idiosyncrasies of certain Ministers as they relate to the personnel morale in the Public Sector. I find it intolerable, for example, that any Minister, while addressing a group of civil servants within his Ministry, should find it necessary and desirable to deal with them in abusive terms.

There are Ministers, not either one which I can see sitting on that side, Sir, who speak to their staff members in terms that yard boys were not spoken to, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty years ago. Ministers, who have not faced the public and been elected by the public, feel that they have the right to treat ordinary persons working in the public sector as if they are begging those Ministers for their existence. It may very well be, Sir, that some Ministers believe that public servants are required to beg them for their daily existence.

It is not proper for a public servant to see, for example, that his colleagues, who are doing the same job as he, can be given employment for a period of one year or two years, by way of temporary employment, while he, himself, because he might have done what he perceived his job to be, and because he performs in a manner without fear or favour, and without what the Minister obviously believes is the required deference to political partisanship, he is given a lesser term and, finally, he is put into a position where, despite his predilection for that kind of employment, he has to seek employment elsewhere. He has been drowned out of the Service by the attitude of a person in a ministerial office.

Mr. Chairman, that is not acceptable in Barbados in this day in the last quarter of the 20th century. No professional who is an executive, has the right to, furthermore the duty, to abuse his subordinates. But that is even more reprehensible when it comes from the mouths of part of the political directorate of any community. 12.50 p.m.

But it is systematic of the failure of the Government — and when I say the Government, Sir, it may be unfair to some of the honourable Ministers sitting over there — it is the failure of the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for Establishments to appreciate and accept the norms and the principles that are consistent with 20th century personnel administration.

An Establishments Division ought to be able to predict with a near degree of accuracy the requirements for the task of running this public sector. But I believe that it is because the World Bank has told the Prime Minister that he has to reduce the expenditure of the public sector, that he felt inclined, and that he felt it was necessary to lay off large numbers of persons while taking on a few select persons in a few areas.

Mr. Chairman, they will not get up and say it, but were it not for the fortitude of one or two of the honourable Members sitting on the front bench, at least another 600 Barbadians would have been sent home during the last four months. And now, today, we are told that we need another half million dollars to deal with temporary posts, Sir. Where are these temporary posts, Sir? I would like the Minister to tell us, if he can, where these temporary posts are to be filled. Are they to be filled in the Police Department? They are filled already?

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Attorney General says *sotto voce* that they are filled already. He is confirming then that it is merely poor planning, that they are not bringing in any new people — they just have these people, but they did not know how much money they were going to be paying them. They did not know that they were going to need an additional \$550 000 a mere four or five months ago.

I want to suggest that when the Ministry of Finance determines, according to its directions from external sources, that it would reduce the work force by a certain amount, and when the Cabinet had its discussions and certain Ministers were able to prevail, I wish to suggest that that is the reason you have to come now, why the Minister of Finance has to agree for an additional half million dollars for the payments of temporary service.

Mr. Chairman, let me finish this first segment by asking that Government to recognize something. You really cannot go on being so inconsistent and being in contradiction, in such short time, so often, and by the same person. It is the same Minister who is coming with contradictory evidence almost every Tuesday now. If he is confused, if he does not understand what is happening, let him do the honourable thing — let him leave. If he cannot deal with the situation, if his colleagues are too much for him, if the country is too much for him, if the Civil Service is too much for him, let him take a leave of absence.

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not know that he would be able to teach anywhere. I don't know that he would be employed to teach anywhere. But I don't think that he would have to, the way things are. Mr. Chairman, that is

another story. We won't discuss why he would not have to teach anywhere.

I will wind up this segment and suggest that the slip is showing. This confusion which is manifesting itself in these little votes for half million dollars, when you say that you cannot afford to give the civil servants more than \$25 million, when this comes a couple of weeks afterwards, it begins to show up a fundamental weakness in the fabric of the governmental structure.

I will say more about this when I get some more time, Sir. Thank you very much.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really difficult to understand what the honourable Member was trying to say in the thrust of his contribution. If one or two things could be gleaned from it, I could state them *seriatim*, Sir.

The honourable Member said that if you have to bring supplementary Resolutions, something is wrong. Now we have all known for the longest time that supplementary Resolutions come before Parliament for a multitude of reasons. Usually when they are brought in relation to personal emoluments, it is because of factors that although predictable in the sense that they will happen, are difficult to quantify.

Temporary officers, like permanent or established officers in the Public Service, are beneficiaries of the increase in pay that civil servants will be getting from April 1, this year. So therefore it is necessary to bring a Resolution for all of them, including temporary officers. The honourable Member

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member is not permitted to do that, Sir. The honourable Member who introduced this Resolution gave this House the reason why we needed the money, and he gave the objects. Here under "Other Personal Emoluments" it says what the position is. He cannot be talking about increases arising out of it. It has to say that here.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I don't understand why the honourable Member is getting so hot under the collar. There is nothing in this Note here that suggests anything other than what I say. I don't know why the honourable Member needed to get up and behave in that way, misled by the honourable Member of St. Michael North, who, I feel, has no understanding of what is going on here.
(Asides)

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am not giving way.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order. The honourable Member is out of order. I did not mislead

anybody in this Honourable Chamber, and I would like to have those remarks withdrawn. I have not spoken; and even if I had spoken, I cannot say that.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member also misleads himself, he is not misled by the honourable Member for St. Michael North this time, but he misleads himself when he talks about new appointments. The money that is being asked for in the Resolution is to pay money for people who are already in temporary appointments in the Public Service. So we are not creating any new temporary posts at the moment — he asked about the Police and so on — this is in relation to people who are currently in the Public Service.

But I want to make an observation, Sir, in relation to this whole business of personnel management that the honourable Member alludes to, and the fault that you would lay at the foot of the honourable Minister responsible for Establishments.
1.00 p.m.

My own view is that if this Government has made any errors in relation to the whole establishment of personnel matters, it is to follow too closely what has happened before. There is hardly anything that differentiates the policy of this Government in relation to personnel administration from what obtained when the honourable Members on that side formed the Government, and I think that is a fault, Sir.

I am saying it as a criticism, because there is a lot that is going on in the public sector in Barbados in relation to appointments, promotions, transfers; and allocations and assignments of people in particular jobs, that cry out for some kind of radical change.

We see, for instance, Mr. Chairman, the very difficult problem of a high percentage of the people working in the Public Service who work as "temporary officers" for sometimes 10, 12 and 14 years, and it is not a situation that is new.

I well remember when they had the investigation into the North Point and the rest of it — the Duffus Commission — that there was a lot of reference to people being Hollywood actors, because they were acting in positions for very many years.

Any time you have a lot of acting appointments, the corollary to that is a lot of temporary appointments. There are a number of people in the Government Service of Barbados, particularly in the teaching service, who work for many years and do not get beyond the status of temporary employee, and I believe that that is a criticism of both the previous Administration and this one.

We have, year after year, the situation where, like today — I hear that there is a strike out there today, Sir.(Asides). (My office is not closed, the people who work in my office have more sense than the people who are asking them to strike, so the people in my office are working.) — every time there is a situation like today you have to divide the Public Service into "them" and "us", because the "us" can afford to stay home, and they are inviolate, they are sacred. As the right honourable Member for St. John used to say, they are fireproof, they are asbestos, so they can stay off as they please and nobody can dismiss them. The "them" are the temporary people who are afraid that if they stay off a day they do not know what will happen to them the next day.

You had this iniquitous system in the Public Service for many years, Sir, by which they lay off people with one hour's notice. You put a letter in a Civil Servant's hand at four o'clock or a quarter to four on an afternoon telling him not to come back tomorrow. The honourable Members on the other side know all about that, Sir, they did that for a long time. Some could have been working for ten years as temporary officers, and the honourable Members know that they would put a letter in their hands an hour before the end of a day's work telling them not to come back the following day.

These are the problems that I believe must seriously be addressed if we are going to get the order the honourable Member is talking about.

I think that we also have to take into consideration the whole question of assignments. We train people in the Public Service to do specific jobs and then we assign them to jobs for which they are not trained. You take a soil scientist and make him work with computers, you get an accountant and get him to deal with personnel matters.

This is the type of situation that, perhaps, would need better to be addressed in terms of any look at the Civil Service structure and the personnel management the honourable Member is talking about. It is a very specious point the honourable Member is making.

This Resolution, Sir, in asking for money for temporary officers' salaries, gives the lie to a lot of what the honourable Members on the other side are saying. They would have the public of Barbados believe that all temporary officers have been given the sack, that the Government has been dismissing and laying off all the temporary officers in the Service, and the very fact that we are asking for money over and above what was passed in the Estimates earlier in the year, in my submission, gives the lie to that particular argument.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West makes the point repeatedly that the World Bank has told the

Government of Barbados to lay off civil servants. I do not know where he found that, I have read all the World Bank reports for the last year or two and I have not seen any report to that effect.

He makes a statement over the weekend, something in the Sunday newspaper or the Saturday newspaper, that, again, is totally inconsistent with reports that he seeks to support on the argument he is making, and it would be useful not to score any partisan point, but it would be useful for all of us if he would, when he makes these statements, point out to us which report, what paragraph, what page and everything.

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am not giving way.

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: On a point of order? Or you want me to give way?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I said on a point of order and you did not move, so I said if you would give way. This is a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member said it would be useful if I could make available the information, and I think he is right. It can be found at page 14 of the World Bank report for this year, and the Prime Minister had a copy in the House of Assembly; that copy. Take it from the Prime Minister and read it and you will find it there.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I would be glad if the honourable Member does not play those tricks on me, Sir. I would be glad to see the page 14 and check it. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: I will show you). Why do you want to show me and not everybody?

I support the Resolution, Mr. Chairman, and I believe the arguments that have been put forward by the honourable Member are so specious as not to warrant any serious consideration.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution, and the speech of the honourable Member who has just taken his seat, brings into sharp focus a very serious matter facing this country not only in relation to lay offs and consequential unemployment, but, in particular, to the area of levels of remuneration in terms of wage increases for public servants in this country.

I am saying here, Sir, that this vote of \$550 000, when seen against the background of the very large number of persons who are temporarily employed in the Public Service, as stated by the honourable Attorney

General, who also stated that a component of this represents the paltry increases offered to the public servants, is an utter condemnation of this Government, and also further evidence of a major confidence trick which is being played on the public servants of this country.

I wish to make two important points here today. First of all, that there is no reason, on the basis of revenue generated and revenue collected or raised in the last Budget Speech — at its maximum it would be about \$72 million, but allowing for the serious downturn in the economy may probably yield some \$62 million — there is absolutely no reason why the public servants of this country cannot be paid a considerable increase over and above what has been paid to them, particularly when you take into consideration that the payment of old age pensions.....

1.10 p.m.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order. The honourable Member is now debating a Resolution which was terminated already in this Parliament, not very long ago, and I do not think it is proper for him to deal with the Resolution with respect to the increases for civil servants.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is taken and the honourable Member....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I understand that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please let the Chairman say a word. Please confine your remarks to the subject before us.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt the Chairman. The honourable Member, please contain yourself. Now please confine your remarks to the matter before the House. I think that you are straying when you begin to deal with matters as you have been doing, as you have been attempting to do with this....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I am confining myself to \$550 000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And you must not reflect on a passed vote of this House.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A Minister of Government, who shares collective responsibility to his country, has just pointed out that that \$550 000 relates partially to the increases which would have to be paid to temporary officers. That was the main point which he made in his speech, and I am addressing myself to the component of that \$550 000 which represents an

increase in salaries for temporary officers, which is part of the Resolution now before this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the Chair will not allow a debate on the increased salaries which have already passed through this Honourable House.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am speaking on the Resolution before the House for temporary officers. That was for permanent officers, Sir. That was the Civil Establishments Order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member, the Chair is not taking part in the debate. I am only seeking to advise and guide the honourable Member. Will you please continue your debate as you know you should.

Order please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What I am saying is that more than this \$550 000 could be found, seeing that the burden of old age pensioners and the burden of the transport subsidy, to some extent, has been removed from the Consolidated Fund.

I will also like to say, Sir, that I consider it a basic matter of policy that wages for temporary officers, among others, constitute a very important factor in maintaining the viability of this economy. And I would like to suggest to this Administration that if they continue with wage restraint in respect of temporary officers and others, along with their credit policies, that they will turn this country into a ghost town in the not too distant future.

I would like to make the very important point, and I have not heard any argument advanced that Government has not got the revenue base to meet these increases and greater increases — the fact that this Resolution before us here indicates that Government can afford to pay — and I would also like to suggest that the argument which has been put up to the effect that temporary officers cannot be paid more than \$550 000, among others, because of a balance of payment position, is absolutely bogus. It is a bogus argument that has no origin to reality.

What you need to have is a proper level of wages, adjustment to your credit policy and adjustment to the level of cash reserves requirements to the commercial banks, and apply appropriate trade policies in order to protect your balance of payments while containing...

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order. The honourable Member is expounding the same argument that he expounded on numerous occasions in this session, and which this House has already pronounced upon. He must confine himself to matters reasonably relevant to this. What has a trade policy got to do with this?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I also would like to know what will be the source of this \$550 000, because it is my belief that where such funds are from the excessive tax levels which now exist in Barbados, that they could not damage the economy, as is quite erroneously suggested by the Government of this country.

It is quite a different matter, Sir, if this \$550,000 was being found from Central Bank sources. In other words, when you look at the source of your wage bill, then the impact on the economy varies considerably whether it comes from commercial banks, or from taxation, or monies raised domestically, or whether it comes from the Central Bank of Barbados.

There are two different considerations altogether, so it is my humble submission, Sir, that this Government should be offering its temporary officers far more than \$550,000 as well as all of its other employees,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: and that the kind of policies being followed by the Government, as exemplified in this Resolution, would be destructive not only to the economy, but would be destructive to the morale of the Public Service and, ultimately, Sir, will be very destructive to the Government's own revenue base. *(Asides)*.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You will not understand the argument so please do not.....

Hon. L. R. TULL: On a point of elucidation, if the honourable Member would give way. I would like to let that particular statement pass, because I will deal with that in another way. I am at a loss. The honourable Member is saying that to give half million dollars to temporary officers for salaries will destroy the economic base in Barbados. Is that the gist of what he is saying, Sir?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No I am not saying that. I am saying that failure to inject adequate wage increases into the economy, failure to do that, will ultimately lead to a contraction of the economy and a reduction of Government's revenue base, I hope you understand what I am saying now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And that is not the matter before this Committee. That has nothing to do with the matter before this Committee.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Member is a genius at spitting up in the air and letting it fall in his face. He has on every occasion in here

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member is on ...

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am elucidating Sir, and he has given away, Sir. The honourable Member has repeatedly, on the floor of this House, and in the public by-ways, argued for a reduction in expenditure on the part of Government. Repeatedly.

Over and over again he has asked that Government should cut back on its expenditure, when it suited him, and now he comes here today and he says you have to spend a lot of money, give everybody more money - it helps the export base, it helps all kinds of foolishness.

He made the argument Sir, in relation to the foreign reserves. He made the argument in relation to foreign reserves, because if it is more money spent by Government, it is going to be a drain on the foreign reserves. He has used that argument repeatedly over the past two or three years and he..... *(Asides)*.

Hon. L. R. TULL: You did not say anything about printing. You do not understand the basic of economics and you are confusing yourself. And further, Sir

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Sir, I will speak again in the debate on this .

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, the honourable Member can do that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member has taken up five minutes of my time.
1.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no need for the honourable Member to draw that to the notice of the Chair. The honourable Member will continue, and he has three minutes in which to wind up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I must respond to the remarks of the honourable Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have said again and again that wasting money, particularly printed money, on projects such as CARIFESTA, minor capital projects in this country, have been responsible for the major deficit which this Government has had to face in the past year.

I have never put forward any argument that the payment of personal emoluments from taxation, in conjunction with an appropriate trade policy, would damage the Current Account on balance of payments of this country.

What I am saying is that there is adequate room, taking into consideration what has been removed from the Consolidated Fund, taking into consideration the additional taxation to give not only temporary officers but also the public employees a substantial increase in their salaries, and they must not fall for the confidence trick.

Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to your attention that last year we were treated with this grand story of a major deficit on Current Account in relation to Government finances. When you see now what the final out-turn has been, you will find that for 1981-82 current revenue amounted to \$469.4 million and current expenditure to \$450 million, according to the Central Bank Report for August 1982, page 53.

This is a favourite trick, and it is a trick that is used by the Minister of Finance in every year that there is going to be a salaries increase. And what he is doing now, in a circular I saw, sent out by him to certain persons, is lumping Current and Capital accounts together and putting up a bogus case to the people whom he is negotiating with.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks, as far as I understand it, to give the Government a legal base by which to withdraw \$550 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to pay temporary officers. That is how I can understand this Resolution.

The Resolution, as I understand it, is nothing to do with increases, or wage negotiations, or anything. I understand that if we must follow proper accounting practices and follow the Laws of Barbados, before that money can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund, Parliament would have to give the necessary authority. That is what I understand.

But, Mr. Chairman, one speaker spoke about the situation of civil servants who are unaware of their positions in Government or in particular Ministries.

Now that raises a very serious question when one looks at the whole Civil Service administration between the established, the unestablished and temporary staff.

As I know it and, I believe, as one Member over there should know it, temporary appointments are made to keep the business of Government rolling when the established officers are not in their positions. That is the best way I can put it. But if there is one group of people or one institution to be criticised in here today, I say without fear that it is the Public Service Commission and the trade unions when you come to deal with temporary officers.

As one Member of this House has said here today, you will have a situation, Mr. Chairman, where somebody

leaves your Ministry and goes away to be trained in a specific field, an accountant, an engineer or something of this nature, you are forced to bring in a temporary officer, and the crux of the matter is that you as Minister will know that the officer is absent when you see a new face occupying the desk that that officer occupied the evening before, and when you ask a question, you will hear, "Mr. X. has gone abroad on a course."

(Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Like in here!)

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: If you care to say, "like in here", it originated under the Democratic Labour Party.

It is so entrenched in the workings of Government that it will take a very progressive political party and a very progressive union to sit down and work out the problems that face this country due to Civil Service administration. That is what is happening in this country today.

Mr. Chairman, you will have an established officer from whom you get a telephone call at 9 o'clock saying, "Mr. X cannot come to work today, he is not feeling well." Two days later you hear that Mr. X has submitted a medical report for one week, and it is even more frustrating, particularly when you are preparing a project, or you need work to be done by typists and administrative officers, when you find that that officer does not re-appear for a week or so.

In comes a temporary officer to work for the period that has been set out on the medical report that that officer will be away from his job. You can only employ the temporary officer, according to the Civil Service Regulations, up to the period specified in the medical report, so if the report says fourteen days, you bring in a temporary officer for fourteen days. You do not know on the evening of the fourteenth day whether to keep the temporary officer or whether to let the officer go; but on the morning of the fifteenth day you have no report from the officer who is supposed to be in the position, so you have to call the temporary officer back until you get another report which says another fourteen days.

There are established officers in Government who have been on six months' sick leave. Anybody can deny that now. Six months' sick leave — and you find them walking about Bridgetown day and night, and you have temporary officers working in their positions not knowing when the temporary officer is going or not knowing when the established officer is coming back. Let anybody deny that now.

I have said before, if this country wants to get up off its rear end, Government must have a serious look at the Civil Service administration of this country. There are certain Ministries and certain institutions that need

to be put on a commercial basis, where the officers working there must know that these are the Ministries that cause the country to roll and that there must be attention paid within the Ministries.

1.30 p.m.

You telephone certain Ministries today for a particular officer, ask for any officer, and you will find that what you hear is, "He is at lunch, Sir, call back at 2 o'clock." When you call back at 2 o'clock, "He has not come back from lunch, Sir, call back at 2.30 p.m." And, you will be calling back until 4 p.m.

When the right honourable Leader of that political party said they are "an army of occupation," it is only recently that I understood what he meant. Like the Israelis up in Labanon, they come in like "an army of occupation," do what they feel like and you cannot deal with them.

The honourable Member who is the Shadow Minister of Finance on that side made a statement and I wrote it down here. He said, "To offer the temporary officers not more than \$550 000 is destructive of the Government's own revenue base."

Now I have always believed that the trade unions representing the civil servants have never yet studied what is happening in the Civil Service. That has always been my belief, and the honourable Member has just shown me something to confirm my thoughts.

I thought the Minister of Finance, in reorganising the tax bands of this country, was allowing more money to go into the pockets of the workers of a certain level in the different categories than was being withdrawn for taxation. But the honourable Member is saying, 'pay them more money, push them in a different tax bracket and take back more from them, which enhances your own revenue base. That is what the honourable Member is saying.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member said that the Government has failed to give higher increases because they do not want to put people in higher tax brackets.

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

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, he made the statement. He said borrow more money for them and you will improve your own revenue base. The only way you improve your own revenue base is because you push them in an entirely different tax bracket and you take more from them.

Go outside there today, Mr. Chairman, and ask any number of civil servants, and they will say, quite clearly,

that they do not want more than a certain amount because it pushes them in a different tax bracket and they come out with a lower net income.

Dudley Johnson, may I call his name, the retired magistrate, has always worked out on that policy, that whenever you gave him too much money, he came out with less money in his pocket as a result of pushing him higher in a tax base.

But all I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is the question of temporary officers

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman; there are certain people who should not speak on economic matters. What I have tried to indicate

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: is that unless the purchasing power of the community is increased, there will be corresponding contraction of Government revenue base. You can put that how you like. You can put that in whatever personal terms you like, alright. You work out that one. You work it out that way. There are other components to revenue raising other than direct taxation, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that the honourable Member's point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: there are such areas as spending and many other areas.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. Now, you please continue.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: The honourable Member wants to make another speech.

Mr. Chairman, it is futile for anybody to criticise the system of employment of temporary officers by Government today unless, and until, the whole structure of the Civil Service, its disciplinary procedures and, probably, the administration has been looked into.

There is one thing I can tell you, and I think every person in this country who has ever had the opportunity of becoming a Minister since about 1960, I believe, would know — the civil servants, themselves, will tell you — as a Minister that you have no control over the staff. You cannot determine when a person will be moved from your Ministry, who is brought to your Ministry and how long they will remain there.

But there is one thing I know, that the person who gets the blame for not getting the job done is the Minister. And I know for sure, Mr. Chairman. I have

had the experience of a particular civil servant who was given a task — and I am going to be very vague, because a lot of people know who I am talking about — that officer was given a task to perform. Phase one or day one was completed. It was eighteen months thereafter, when it was brought to the attention of the Minister that nothing else had happened, that I then knew what the situation was. And, when I asked, "What can we do with an officer like this?" I was told, "Mr. Minister, you have no control over staff."

I sit on the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Chairman. Year after year, you look into public accounts returns from the Auditor-General and you find defects in those reports; and you cannot ask one civil servant what has happened, because he tells you straight, "That was not in my time; I was moved, I was not there."

Now what is the answer? In order to get work done, the Permanent Secretaries find themselves having to apply for temporary staff to come into the Ministry to perform a particular task which has to meet a particular deadline. Therefore, the cost of temporary staff cannot be easily estimated as long as disciplinary procedures in the Civil Service remain as they are.

As long as established civil servants can go on leave as long as they feel like, without saying when they are due to come back, we shall always be in this position; and as long as we have to come to Parliament, I would know the Opposition would get up and try to raise something out of it.

But whenever the Opposition finishes, they have been in the same position before; they might be in the same position again. I say, "might be", but not in the distant future, but it is an exercise for them today. *(Applause)*.

It is best for them when there is nothing else to be done. You see, Mr. Chairman, the plan that they had was to keep a mass meeting in Bridgetown and when they saw that Eric Sealy said that he was coming back out, the plan backfired. So, therefore, they must keep as much noise as they can in here today, because the plan backfired fellow.

You know as well as the world. You know, Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member will tell you, you even see a new Permanent Secretary come in next morning and sit down on top of you, and you do not know what is going on. You look outside and you ask for a secretary, and you see a temporary person who says, "Oh, I am only working for a few weeks."

Now how can anybody tell how much money you need for temporary staff in any given period. If there is an answer, let them put forward the answer. Do not only criti-

cise. Do not criticise the right honourable Minister of Finance. Do not criticise the particular Minister. Ask them to go where the fault lies, to the Public Service Commission that fails to do a proper job where the civil servants are concerned. That is where he should go. That is where his criticism should lie.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. The honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I wish to look at this particular Resolution that we are dealing with, Head 14, Establishments Division, Subhead 1, General Administration, Item 2, Other Personal Emoluments.

It is incumbent upon a Government, having been elected by the people, to carry out the functions of Government and administration as efficiently and effectively as possible. But, as a Member of this Honourable Chamber, I would have to say that I am at a loss, when dealing with this particular measure, to understand exactly what is happening.

As I see it, Mr. Chairman, the Government is asking this Honourable Chamber to provide some \$550 000, half a million dollars, as supplementary to a vote which, according to this document here, is an original vote of \$38 372.

Now this has to be very remarkable. Do you understand what I am saying, Mr. Chairman? A half a million dollars to supplement a vote of \$38 372! This will have to be a massive mismanagement on the part of the Government. That is certainly one explanation for it.

How can you come into this Honourable Chamber as a Government, a responsible Government, to ask for a half million dollars to pay for temporary officers of the Government on an original vote of only \$38 372? Something has to be wrong, Mr. Chairman.

I wonder if this Government knows what it is doing. Something has to be radically wrong. The Government has got to get up and explain what is going on in this country. It has a responsibility to run this country efficiently; and if it comes in here with a lot of errors, that is a demonstration of confusion in the Government, there is mismanagement in the Government, there is maladministration in the Government. Something has to be absolutely wrong.
1.40 p.m.

From the Opposition benches in here we note that the Government comes down with Bills and the very next week, or the week after, or within three weeks, they are back down here with amendments to those Resolutions.

It appears to most persons, Mr. Chairman, that there are very few Government departments, if any, where things are going as they should; and as parliamentarians, and as persons interested in the public business, we must point this out and we must give vent to it when it comes to our notice.

But a Government that comes in on this basis must certainly get up and explain exactly how they are going to account for this massive supplementary to pay temporary officers. Is it that they are going to bring in an army?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member is out of order in this respect. The honourable Member says that we are supplementing an item of \$38 000. The honourable Member says that this Government is supplementing an item which is Head 14, Subhead 1, Item 2 of the existing estimates. That is what the Resolution says in one place.

Well, I have the Estimates – the honourable Member would know that it relates to the Estimates, because you supplement something in relation to the Estimates – and the amount of money that was voted was \$2 739 961.

All right, let me explain. Ministers do not draw up these Resolutions. It is only indicative of what the honourable Member for St. Joseph said is correct. That is the kind of slackness we have to deal with – and we don't have any power to deal with them. The number in the same heading of \$38 373 is really Head 14, Item 3. It is a clerical error. That is all it is – a clerical error.

If the honourable Member had done his homework, he would have seen that we were talking about supplementing Head 14, Item 2, which is \$2 739 961.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, further to that point of order. The honourable Member says that it is the civil servants who send the Resolutions down here. I wish to submit to Your Honour, Sir, that that is misleading the House, because it is not a civil servant who writes to the Speaker of the House and submits a Resolution to the House. No civil servant can bring any Resolution down here. A Minister is responsible for this, Sir. We cannot be seen to be in here criticising the civil servants on a matter that comes in the name of the Prime Minister. It comes here in the name of the Prime Minister and he must carry the blame, too. Don't try to put it on the civil servants, that is not fair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please. The honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have listened very carefully to the Deputy Prime

Minister, the Acting Minister of Finance – I don't know where the Minister of Finance is.

(Asides)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Acting Prime Minister too? And you are acting everything? We are dealing with temporary officers so we can discuss him in this case.

Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the explanation that has been given, and, you know, we have a Government in this country now which seeks to blame everybody for what is going on except themselves. They are blaming the external circumstances for the internal problems inside of Barbados. And if a Minister brings down a paper which the Minister is responsible for, he is supposed to read the document to know what is in the document; and when he gets up to introduce it, if he sees an error in it, to draw it to the attention of the House.

This is a clear instance, a patent example, of maladministration and inefficiency on the part of the Government in dealing with this particular measure, and you cannot come now and blame the poor clerical officer for what is clearly a ministerial lack of consideration and understanding of what is going on.

How can you blame a clerical officer for this? It is the Minister's document that he is placing before this Honourable Chamber. I think the Minister should get up and simply say, – "Well, look, Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. Michael South is correct in this matter, absolutely correct, because you are placing inaccurate information before the House. Absolutely correct." That is all you should have done – and thank the Member for drawing it to your attention. Instead of that, there is some other problem.

You see, the Government looks bad in these particular matters, not only in dealing with the unions, not only in dealing with the temporary officers – the Government looks bad. And most Government departments you can think of have massive problems in them. I don't know if you can blame the United Nations for that, or the interest rates in the United States, but there are a lot of problems in each department; and I understood when the Member for St. Joseph was speaking, because he was reflecting on some of the problems he encountered as a Minister of the Government.

But as far as the temporary officers are concerned, I think all Members on the Government side know the kinds of problems that have been faced by temporary officers, and I would like to know if, out of the massive supplementary, some of these temporary officers who have been dismissed will be brought back into the Public Service.

I would like for the Minister to tell us whether some of those persons who have been working for the Government, some for ten years, some for fifteen years, will be brought back into the Government. Some of them were the sole bread winners of the family, some of them were supporting handicapped persons in their homes, and they were sent home. In one fell swoop, they were sent home by the Government, which said that there was no money.

But the Government is now coming for a massive supplementary, and we want some assurance from the Government that some of those temporary officers who have been sent home, laid off, or dismissed by the Government, not for any inefficiency or not for any insubordination, or anything like that; we would like to know whether, included in this provision, is the heart and conscience of the Government in dealing in a humane manner with the personnel problems of this country, in providing re-employment for those persons.

We have an example, Mr. Chairman, in which public officers have been transferred at very short notice.

(ASIDE: Just like Barrow transferred you)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: No notice at all. (Laughter) But, Mr. Chairman, that is the plight and that is the fate of those who hold this kind of office. You expect that kind of thing at that level. We operate in that kind of ambit. (Laughter)

But we have a situation, Mr. Chairman, in which you have very competent and qualified officers who may be trained in one particular area and then they are transferred not only from their area of competence, but to another area of the Island altogether — I do not know whether the Minister of Communications and Works can tell us anything about this — transferred down to Crab Hill, transferred all over the place. This is what we are getting in this country.

1.50 p.m.

We had the example in which we had an officer of the Government who was looking after some 1500 students, and at very short notice he was transferred to look after 15 students. From being responsible for an institution looking after 1500 students, he was sent down into St. Lucy, the Naval Facility, to look after 15 students. From 1500 to 15.

(ASIDE).

I hear the Attorney General saying it was not true — he was not sent to look after 15 students, he was sent to look after a programme. In other words, no students.

Now I understand he is a deputy. The top Social Welfare Officer in this country, an excellent dedicated

public servant who now, I understand — I do not know if it is true — has now been transferred down into St. Lucy to be deputy to a man who was preparing a programme and looking after no students. Down there is temporary, the whole business is temporary.

Mr. Chairman, this whole matter is one that we have to consider in all seriousness, because any Government of the day depends upon temporary officers in order to carry out its programmes under the conditions and circumstances that my colleague, the Member for St. Michael West, outlined, and there is no Government that can run the country without making some kind of provision for temporary officers. It is therefore vital, it is therefore important, that we make adequate provision for them.

I do not know if any of them are out to work today. What is happening in your Department? Is it functioning? The temporary officers are out? (Hon. L. R. TULL: Why don't you go and teach?) I am trying to teach you now. (Laughter)

Mr. Chairman, this particular question of the temporary officers is one that we have to look at. The Government has got to address itself to this problem. A lot of them have suffered great hardships as a result of the personnel policies of the Government. Those policies have not had as humane a face as they should have, and they have created undue hardship on some of the young, and some of them not so young, officers in this country.

Some of them, I believe, go on study leave, and halfway or three quarters of the way in their programme they are knocked off — like the hoe from the hoe stick.

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: When they fail, yes).

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, they do not even get a chance to take examinations, and, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that this is right.

If you are embarking on a policy of retrenchment, you have got to ensure that it is carried out in a humane way. Instead of that, what has happened is that there has been a lot of hardships, a lot of difficulties created for persons who have committed themselves to the Public Service, and who, in rendering a service to the people of this country, found that they have commitments, and when their source of income was cut off they found that they had neither job, the satisfaction from that job, nor have they been able to meet their commitments.

This is a major problem. I hope the matter will be reviewed and I would like to get some assurance on this particular matter. And when the Minister replies, I wonder if he would address the problem and really clarify the situation as stated by the Attorney General. Is this

money that is being provided to include payment for the increased salaries or not? Is this to cover the increased salaries or not? I think this is a sufficiently important matter for it to be clarified, to be made crystal clear to this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, there are a few points we should advert to right away. It is impossible, as the honourable Member who just spoke had to concede, for a Government or for any employer of a large number of people not to have a provision for temporary employment. We cannot sit down and envisage sickness, we cannot sit down and envisage study leave, we cannot sit down and envisage a situation where there would be requests for additional officers who might not necessarily be permanent, but who are needed for a particular level of activity and may subsequently become permanent.

Now, the other side had exactly this type of vote. As a matter of fact, I can illustrate it very clearly. In my own Ministry, when I went into the Ministry, the whole of the Economics Division in that Ministry was temporary, the whole of the Energy Division was temporary. But it has always been the policy of this Government — and we have a better record in this respect than they had — of periodically reviewing the temporary establishments in every Ministry and elevating to a permanent status those categories of employment which are likely to remain for a long period of time.

Hence, all the people in my Ministry in the Research Department are now permanent, the Energy Division is now part of the Civil Establishments Order. All the officers in the Research Department of the Ministry of Civil Aviation were temporary when I went in there; they are all permanent now.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West created them temporarily. He was unable to persuade the then Minister of Finance that a Ministry of Trade had need for a Research Department. I would have thought that was patently obvious. I have never had any difficulty.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member said I was unable to persuade the Minister of Finance. That is not correct. We were not ready for permanent staff then, because we were creating the department. He admits to that, Sir, and I think the record should show that we created the department, and I am glad he is carrying out my plans according to the way I wished them carried out.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must report progress and ask leave to sit again.
2.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 2 o'clock. This sitting now stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.
2.05 p.m.

On Resumption —

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. I am advised that there are no Replies to Questions. This brings us to the end of Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am also advised that there is no Private Members' Business on the Order Paper, so we go back to Government Business.

When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. The honourable Deputy Prime Minister may continue.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, as I was pointing out, Government's record in making posts which were originally provided under this vote permanent, is an excellent one, I would be so bold as to say that examination of the total Civil Establishment Order in Barbados will reveal that over the course of the last six years a large number of posts, which, originally, were created under the umbrella of this temporary vote, have now been made permanent, and we will continue with our review of the particular Ministries and examine their requests for the elevation of temporary posts into permanent posts.

I think that some of the attacks on the Minister of Finance were grounded in ignorance because, Sir, the person who should really bear the responsibility for this vote, and as it appears in the Estimates, is not the Minister of Finance at all — it is me. I preside over the Minister of Finance's Estimates. I am telling you that.

(Asides).

Well, your Minister may be in the habit of overruling you, but it does not occur here so.

Mr. Chairman, it happens to be a fact that the original submission was \$2 809 971 under this particular Head and it was cut to \$2 600 000.

There is a clear note that I asked for an examination of the number of temporary posts as well as I drew attention to the fact that new posts had to be created in the Customs Department and Inland Revenue in order to aid in the collection of revenue.

It was therefore felt that the best method of dealing with this matter was to have the examination first and that a supplementary provision would be considered later. I have the note.

(Asides).

When I came to the Estimates? Which Estimates?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member will give way, on a point of elucidation. The gravamen of the argument which he put forward was that when the Estimates were presented into this Honourable Chamber, the point which he is now making — that he had told them that there would be a supplementary which they would bring for the reasons which he has outlined — if that point had been told to this Honourable Chamber at that time, this Chamber would be in position to assess the argument which came before it at Estimates time.

He is now giving us the benefit of information which he had, but which the Minister, when presenting the Estimates Vote here of \$2 739 961, did not. We are not going to question the veracity of what he is saying, that may very well be so; but we could only base what we say now on what was said before and facts which have been put before us.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, when I introduced this Resolution today, I said very clearly that we had decided in our minds that in order for us to contain the expenditure within the revenue, that at Estimates Committee, we were very rigid in dealing with departments and made them justify. I said that, each and every item of expenditure of any major significance. A first class rule.

So today it is not difficult to understand. That examination has gone along, and we are making provision for it by way of a supplementary.

I also want to point out this. Do not let anybody fool anybody else. The basic position is this: a Government, like any household, cannot spend more than what it can derive from its income in the form of what the taxes would bring

in, or what they can borrow, or what somebody gives them. I do not know of any other way you can do it.

You cannot spend more than what you can get from revenue, what you can get from gifts and what you can borrow, and whatever the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central will say, whatever he says, whatever economic theories he can propound, the basic position is that that is a mathematical equation that is indisputable.

When the honourable Member states today that the Government is in a position to do all of these things, he is either saying, raise more revenue — and I only know one way of raising more revenue, and that is by taxation — or he is saying borrow more or beg for more.
3.00 p.m.

Now I have heard him castigate all those who attempt to raise revenue. He has always been against that. When you borrow, he says you are mortgaging the country; and when you go out for goods, the honourable Leader of the Opposition says you must not be an international mendicant. What really is the Democratic Labour Party saying?

I have no difficulty, because the philosophy that this party espouses is that we know there is a limit to the taxable capacity of every country which you have to watch very carefully if you do not wish to destroy entrepreneurship and incentive in the country. It is for that reason that over the course of the last six years we have introduced the most radical tax reductions in this country, a specific sphere of Income Tax.

Secondly, Sir, we wish to make it clear that in a country like Barbados, it is particularly important for us to understand that the prime mover of the economy is not any private enterprise; it is the Government that is the prime mover of the economy in this country, and the principal instrument that can be used is your capital expenditure programme.

And Mr. Chairman, if you do not have a current account surplus as part of the contribution to your capital development programme, you are not going to attract borrowers, because they are, quite correctly, going to say that you must put your money where your mouth is, and if your mouth consists of saying that you wish this capital expenditure, let me see a little anteing up.

So those rules apply to Government, and it is for that reason that we on this side have to say all the time that the question of salary increases must be looked at in relation to employment reduction in your capital development programme.

Mr. Chairman, that is a very, very important point. Of course you could pay out as much increase as could

be asked for, but it would be paid for in the numbers of people you have unemployed. You can say "I give all to a few" or "I give some to many more". It is as simple as that.

I know that it is the philosophy of the other side that they believe that the best way to distribute is to give the greatest amount to the few. That is not our philosophy. Our philosophy is to spread the joy among as many as possible. Mr. Chairman, that is the difficulty that the other side finds themselves in, and that is why they cannot elaborate in any practical way in any of the propositions they have put forward.

These temporary posts that we are providing for are additions to the amount of people that were there in the past; it will cover them, it will ensure that those departments which have asked for additional staff will be able to be paid.

I cannot answer the specific question as to whether it includes salary increases. I know that the habit is that a Resolution usually comes down after the Civil Establishment Order to deal with the Statutory Boards and other things. I know that, but the honourable Member may be privy to more information than I am, only in this respect. I know that it is customary.

The Civil Establishment Order was not passed so long. The honourable Member would know that you have to get from the Statutory Boards and other organisations a precise estimate of what it will cost to implement salary increases. We do not do that, the accountant cannot do that, the Establishments Officer cannot do that. That is the practice, and it will be adhered to.

As to whether the temporary staff is in that, I do not know. I am not going to put my head on a block, but I would hope that the Chief Establishments Officer, in view of the timing of this Resolution, would have given himself a little leeway. I would hope so, because I am interested in seeing money spent in the Capital Development Programme to employ more people in Barbados.

Now, Sir, they have trotted out, again, this question of layoffs. I want to make it clear that there are a number of departments in which there have been capital programmes going, and if these programmes come to an end...*(Asides)* You can talk about the Civil Aviation and Tourism Division. I can illustrate it to you. The airport has come to the end of its capital programme. The last thing that we have done is the new radar, that is finished. Do you expect us after the new radar is completed to continue to have the same people as when we were building it. Honestly, what you must do is look for another project to employ those same people; so do not talk about these things like that.

This Government is not a wicked Government. This Government is interested, and the fact that we have this Resolution before us is indicative of the fact that we wish to continue to employ people as substitutes, and to allow the departments the freedom to request temporary posts. But what we will not be doing is giving them temporary posts when they cannot justify at this period of time that there will be increased efficiency in the departments.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak on this Resolution. At the time when the honourable Deputy Prime Minister stood up, he gave no one else the opportunity to stand and make a contribution on this Resolution, and he did not intimate to the Chair at the time that he was winding up on this Resolution. He did not so indicate, neither was he called by the Chair to so wind up.

(Asides)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I was not sleeping. I listened carefully. Whenever the Deputy Prime Minister has something to say, he does not wait for other persons to get up; he gets up and says it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair feels that this matter has been fully ventilated. Nevertheless, the honourable Member did indicate earlier that he had a contribution to make. I will let the honourable Member make his contribution, but I would like to say to all other Members here who may wish to make a further contribution that they must speak to the matter before the House, and they must not repeat the arguments that have been put before.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, it is clear that the honourable Deputy Prime Minister has been embarrassed by the Attorney General. He made a statement that in due course it is likely that a Resolution might be presented before this Chamber to make provision for increases to deal with temporary staff. I will say no more on that point, because in the course of the debate we were made to believe that some element of this \$550 000 was indeed intended to increase the salary and/or wages of temporary staff.

I listened very carefully to the honourable Deputy Prime Minister. I am in no difficulty whatsoever about this Resolution. During the course of the debate I took the opportunity to look back at votes for previous years. In 1980-81, an amount of \$2 947 338 was spent. In 1981-82 there was a figure, Sir, of \$2 800 000. I do not believe that is the upturn figure for that year as yet. If it is available, I will present it to this Parliament, but the vote during the year, Sir, was \$2 800 000. Then we came

to this Parliament here, Sir, and for this Financial year and voted \$2 739 961.
3.10 p.m.

The trend to me, Sir, was clear, and to me, Sir, it represented that the Government is spending less and less each year on this vote, the vote for temporary officers.

I had assumed then, that it was Government's intention that those temporary positions would have been made permanent, would be established, and, therefore, it was not necessary each year to vote as much money as had been done the previous year.

But what do we find this year? In addition to voting earlier, \$2.7 million, we are now voting another half million dollars, \$550 000. So this year the total vote would be \$3 289 961. In other words, Sir, we are now reversing the trend, we are going backwards in temporary positions all over again. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: Despite what they say.) Despite what we have been told, we are now going into massive temporary positions.

But look what has happened. Look what has happened in the process. At the time that the honourable Deputy Prime Minister presided over the Estimates Committee and they had asked for \$2 109 971. (ASIDES) That was then. Yes, he furthered it to \$2.7 million. But now, instead of \$2.8, we are getting now \$3.2 million. In other words, Sir, they are getting, and I worked it out, \$479 990 more than they, themselves, asked for.

Now, Sir, I would like to know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: what is the reason for this massive increase?

We have been told by the honourable Attorney-General that, in fact, the positions have already been filled. That represents to me, Sir, two things. One is that they filled the positions and have now come to Parliament afterwards for the vote. That is an insult, Sir, to this Parliament, if that is correct. That is an insult to Parliament. We should have been asked, Sir, to provide the money for the temporary officers before the positions had been filled. That is your position.

(Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You are crazy.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: What is crazy about this? I know who is crazy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is to be no cross talk. Please, please address the Chair.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I will move forward now, Sir, with who is crazy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, address the Chair. Order, please. Please carry on. Order, please.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: So that is the position, Sir, that we find ourselves here in.

I thought, Sir, when I saw this massive supplementary being asked for, that the intention was to relieve the country of some of the massive unemployment that we have today. That is what I thought was the position. (Hon. L. R. TULL: With half a million dollars?)

There is massive unemployment wherever we turn, Sir. Not only have they, themselves, laid off people, but we find that the private sector is following suit, supermarkets are closing down, industry is laying off people. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: True.) and wherever we turn, people are being laid off.

I do not have to say, Sir, what is the consequence of all of this. You could read today's paper and see what is happening. Read the paper.

Sir, I would like to see some of this money being used to re-employ persons who have been employed in the Government before, and to employ other persons, so as to relieve some of the unemployment problems that we have in this country today. This is what I would like to see it used for, Sir.

And I want to give a warning: I hope that it will not be used to employ the yardfowls of the Government. (ASIDE: Cheap.) Not cheap. I know how this temporary vote has been used. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: By Cameron Tudor.) I know how this money has been used. I know who appoints people in positions. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: True.) especially using the temporary vote.

I, Sir, do not believe that this money will all be spent on temporary staff that they have in the Government Service today. I believe the intention is to bring further people, and I hope that when further people go in that the country as a whole will be given consideration and not just a sector of this country. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: Solid.) (Applause)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, at one stage I thought that I should not enter into this debate, because the Government's side had been so well put; but on listening to the last Member I felt that I should make my contribution since I have a lot to say in the House at a later stage, and I hope that my opportunity will come in

large measure to say what I have to say when the Opposition tries to more or less train their guns at me. (Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Behave yourself.)

However, we are talking about \$550 000, and the honourable Member for St. Michael North would give us the impression that we are talking about \$550 million. We hear a lot about massive laying offs, massive unemployment, all of these things we are hearing about. We are hearing them from day to day.

The honourable Member invited us to look into the newspaper and see what is happening. A look in the newspaper also indicated that a Mr. Clyde Griffith will be a candidate for St. Michael North as well, and I do not know if that is any reason for the very vigorous attempt the honourable Member made just now - to cause his constituents to believe that he is still alive and in Parliament and doing a bit of kicking.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me to be a simple and straightforward Resolution. It was well explained by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the honourable Attorney-General. The whole position with respect to this matter is that temporary staff is paid for, invariably, by the Chief Personnel Officer. There is money allocated for him to do that.

Within the recent past, there have been quite a number of new departments set up from which funds of this nature had to be paid. In addition to that, I suppose, it is well known that you have got to make contributions by way of National Insurance, the Health Levies, by way of the Transportation Levy and a number of other things, and, therefore, there should not be a question.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I just draw to the honourable Member's attention to the way the Estimates are set out. I am not questioning his argument - but I think National Insurance contributions, *et cetera* would not come from this \$550 000. That would come under a different Head.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: So long as it is to do with temporary employment, that is a vote by itself and I do not believe that the honourable Member is correct in suggesting that. (Mr. P. M. GREAVES: You are correct.) My contention is very right, and I am glad to know that the honourable Member has corrected himself and has also been corrected by the honourable Member for St. Michael North.

These are things which Government must face from time to time. I mean, when you make your budgets, you are sometimes never aware what circumstances might develop at a point in time during the coming year, and you have to come back from time to time. There is

nothing you can do about this. This is no magical thing. This is something that happens to all Governments.

You are talking a lot about unemployment. Honourable Members have said, and the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central dwelt on the question of putting people back into work, that we are creating a very bad situation within the country, and he talked about tricks being pulled on the country. I do not understand what is going on.
3.20 p.m.

No matter what you introduce, no matter what happens in the country, you hear the Government is responsible. The Government is to be blamed if the rain falls the whole day. If it falls for a whole week, the Government is to be blamed. The honourable Member for St. Michael West said "True". You mean if the rain falls that has to do with drainage? Drainage is a different matter. If the sun shines, that is also the fault of the Government. If it shines too long, it is also the fault of the Government. If one of the Members came up the stairs here today or tonight and they fell down, it is also the fault of the Government. Whatever happens in the country, it is the fault of the Government.

I tell you it is the duty of the Opposition to oppose, but I believe it should oppose intelligently and constructively; and your opposition has not been doing that for a very long time.

You are talking about massive lay-offs. Are you aware of what is happening in Canada? Are you aware of what is happening in Japan? Are you aware of what is happening in West Germany? The Canadian Government has just taken a decision, in order to protect the jobs of thousands of people in Dome petroleum from going by the wayside, to bail out that company, and that has been happening in West Germany for a long time.

Mr. Chairman, we have a small economy and very limited resources. Our main resources are people, if you want me to put it that way, good sunshine, and sea bathing; and as I have said before on the floor of this House, if there are problems in the world, especially in Europe or North America, if they sneeze up there, we in the Caribbean, especially in Barbados, will get pneumonia. Therefore, we cannot remain in isolation from the problems of the world.

The Opposition has to talk; and if they don't talk, they certainly cannot justify their existence. But we are not prepared to allow the tearing and the ranting of the Opposition to deflect us from the path that we have set ourselves. We have got certain duties to perform. A Government is to govern. No matter what the conditions are, it has to keep a level head, it has to keep its feet on the ground and to look clearly forward, and to

take those decisions and those steps which are considered to be necessary in the overall, long term interest of the community. That is what this Government has been doing.

Therefore, when we come down to Parliament with a Resolution, we do not come down to Parliament because we are in a hurry to get rid of Government Funds. We would like to see the funds remain there.

On the one hand, the Opposition tells you that you are spending too much money; you should stop spending money. The spokesman from the Opposition on Finance is a man who speaks with a forked tongue. He seems to be terribly confused in terms of finance. He is terribly confused, and I want to tell you

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I ask the honourable Member to withdraw the term "fork tongue". That is not parliamentary.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I do not know what is so unparliamentary about that. I do not exactly understand what he is trying to drive at. What I do not understand is the honourable spokesman for the Opposition on Finance seems, whenever he comes in here, to get a bit confused and tied-up with the type of promptings and teachings he would have had the night before he came in here. I would suggest to him that he puts seats for his advisors behind his seat, so that when he gets up to talk they will be able to hint in his ears in a quiet way that he is putting it wrong — we want you to put it so, or, we told you to put it a particular way.

He has been ranting in turn. The last thing we have seen is the spectacle, today, of him appearing before the Utilities Board. Now when this matter comes before here, if at all it has to come, I want to know what is going to be his position on a matter of that nature.

But there are some people who like to capture the public's eyes, who like to be in the Press, who must speak, who must be seen, and who must be heard, and the Opposition seems to be that way.

Unfortunately, the honourable Member for St. Michael South, whom I always thought to be a sane person, on the ground, with charm and understanding, and always willing to come forward in a statesmanlike way, seems to have fallen into that trap.

Equally so, the honourable Member for St. Michael West, who, himself, despite what he might say occasionally when he sees some pupils in the Gallery, has invariably been a person who comes forward with good ideas. I would hope that he would try to continue to do that and not be led by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who cannot even lead himself.

Your arguments today have not been sound arguments. You have said very little on these points. And nothing you said today, or at any time, will convince the electorate in this country that you are worthy to look after their finances. Your display today has led me to believe, and the country, that you are irresponsible and totally unsuited and unfit for Government office.

The question that Head 14 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 — MINISTRY OF HEALTH — \$250 000

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks to remedy a very bad situation which has developed within the country, and the Ministry of Finance has been willing and kind enough, on the urging of the Ministry of Health, to provide a sum of money in order to remove derelict buildings from the country and all over-growth which would tend to create unpleasant health conditions.

You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that earlier this year there was an outcry in the country with respect to rats and the question of leptospirosis. Because of these situations, the Ministry has recognized that a number of very serious measures must be taken in order to remove these very bad and unsavoury conditions which lead to the breeding of rats, other insects, including mosquitos, which breed dengue fever.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few points, and I want to make my position abundantly clear on this. This money is just a sum of money which will be utilized, and I would hope it will be part of a revolving fund which will be built up over the years in order to take care of the bad conditions in the country, and that people out there, who are not doing their homework by way of keeping their places clean, will not think that it is the Government's duty to come there and keep the places clean for them. They have got that duty to perform. I keep mine clean and I feel that other persons have a responsibility so to do.

3.30 p.m.

I can well understand that there are old people in our society who might not be well enough, even young people who might not be well enough, to do certain difficult tasks and therefore the society must so gear itself as to give protection and assistance to those people who are unable.

There are people who might also not have the financial resources to move derelict buildings, and Government will have to give consideration to those people if and when an application is made in that regard.

Therefore, I want to make it clear that the Government is not going to hound down people who are unable to pay to move derelict buildings, or people who are too old and feeble to clean up the spots they live on, but that the Government will continue to monitor the situation and give assistance to those people wherever it is necessary.

I want to make a special appeal, and if you want to regard it as a threat you can as well, that those people who have large house spots, those people who have several buildings and are not prepared to keep them clean, that when the Ministry serves an order, as it is entitled to do under the Act, and enforces that order, and work has to be done, that the Government will seek to reclaim the funds put out for such work.

It has been costing the Government in the past for the work we did, between \$2 500 and \$5 000, to remove some of the buildings which we have pushed down already. Some of the people have paid and others have not paid.

There are a lot of buildings in Barbados that are derelict and unclaimed. A number of people buy house spots in Barbados and leave them without anybody to look after them, and the Government does not know who to serve notice on.

The system of notice serving will be different in future; we are not going to be running around looking for people, we are going to serve the notice in the way we consider to be correct, on the spot. If we can find the people we will serve them, we will urge them to clean up, but we will not be waiting for any indefinite period.

When the problems come down, when there is dengue fever, when there is leptospirosis, you get all the noise abroad about what the Ministry has done or failed to do. The Ministry is tired of being attacked, tired of irresponsible statements being made against it, and therefore it is now willing to act, and it will act with all the force of law at its disposal.

The Ministry proposes, very shortly, to look at the most pressing cases in Bridgetown where buildings are just about ready to collapse upon other people and upon other buildings, and to work on those areas.

The Ministry of Health, acting through its Public Health Inspectors, who have been doing a very good job, has carried out a survey in the country. They have identified 577 derelict buildings with 277 in the St. Michael area, and I believe that there are quite a lot more than that in the St. Michael area, but we propose to work in the St. Michael area and to clean up that area as quickly as possible.

I have given instructions, and the Attorney General will be shortly advised, that the Health Services Act must be so amended to give us the power whereby we can reclaim the money for the work as a charge against the property without having the problems of going through all the court procedures, so long as proper notices are served in the first place.

It is cumbersome. People believe that when Public Health Inspectors serve notice on them that they can be ignored. Only recently I was looking at the number of places in Barbados that have not yet had a certificate of Health — hotels, restaurants and a number of business places, a large amount of them on the west and south coasts, and I want to say that unless they decide to put their houses in order, that I will be serving closure notices on them.

I cannot afford to have a situation in Barbados where people can become ill and where epidemics can break out, with people carrying on food businesses in Bridgetown and not conforming to the health regulations, and I am going to be particularly firm on that.

People only recognise that you need to have proper health standards when you have situations like those in Jamaica recently, when cholera broke out, and when you have an epidemic like in Trinidad and Tobago with the question of poisoning of school children, but we cannot afford to allow that to happen in Barbados.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the Government is bent upon ensuring that proper standards are maintained in the area of health and that there are proper conditions, by way of good housing, for people to live in, and good environmental conditions, and it can only be so when a number of these eyesores, old buildings overrun by bush, are taken care of.

Quite recently a number of complaints came to me to do with cow itch in the area of Holetown — and I can only hope that the honourable Member for St. Michael South has not himself had any problems with cow itch, because I heard it may be very dangerous, especially if they come into the bed.

The Government is certainly looking at the area of cow itch, and we hope that with the money at our disposal we will be able to do a bit of cleaning up in the area of Holetown not only in the interest of tourists who will come and go, but primarily in the interest of the indigent population.

The indigent people must be looked after, and we have to ensure that they are given the best possible

treatment, and therefore I assure you that all measures will be taken, and very soon, with the passing of this Resolution to ensure that derelict buildings are removed; that bush, where it is very evident and creating a health problem, will be reduced, at least, if not entirely eliminated, because my estimate of the amount which you will need to free the country of this problem immediately will be in the area of \$1.5 million, and since we cannot afford this large amount at this point in time, we are grateful for small mercies, and therefore we will make a start in this direction.

With those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have always been very indulgent of the Honourable Minister of Health, giving him enough time to play his hand. He has demonstrated, Sir, that he is not only unfit to hold public office, but unfit, certainly, to be Minister of Health, and to be even incompetent as a rat catcher.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, the problem which faces us today is twofold. There are two categories of landlords in Barbados. There are persons who make every effort to keep their properties, particularly open lots, in reasonable shape.

One of the big problems that those responsible persons have is this: they are faced with very heavy property taxes and the cost of maintaining those open lots have escalated considerably over the years; probably to clear maybe 15 000 square feet of land and keep it in a clean state could well cost the individual well over \$1 000 a year, well over \$1 000 to keep it clean.

But there are two major problems. When that individual has cleared his land and has spent that kind of money on clearing his land, then other people come and dump rubbish on the land which he has already cleared. Then someone makes a complaint to the Ministry of Health.

Would it be reasonable, Sir, when a landlord has demonstrated that he is prepared to keep his land in reasonable shape, and that the subsequent rubbish placed on that land was placed either by people living in the area or people driving past the area and leaving rubbish on the land, for the Ministry to come in and then add another burden to the landowner who was no delinquent in respect of keeping his lot relatively clean. Now this is one problem that you are going to face.

The second problem, Sir, and I know this very well in the Christ Church area, is the problem of love vine. You might find that a Barbadian, whom the Ministry

of Health or whom the neighbours can readily identify, may be called upon to clear his land. He spends a substantial amount of money clearing his land, but the adjacent lands may be owned by landowners who cannot be identified; so within weeks of spending a considerable amount of money on clearing his own spot, the spot is then overrun by love vines again, because the adjacent spots have not been cleared.

You have to be very careful when you are introducing legislation of this kind, and when you might be imposing a penalty on a landlord who has not been delinquent, to make sure that he has not taken adequate steps in order to comply with the Health Regulations and to ensure that any non compliance with the Health Regulations is not his fault, Sir.

The third point, Sir, is one which I have made again and again. Now the Deputy Prime Minister sometime ago was making some kind of loose talk in here about Government acquiring properties which have been abandoned by people who have either gone abroad or who could not be identified.

I made the point at that time that it was better for Government to go in and clear up the property and let it be a charge against the property, probably register that charge in the Registry, so that at the time of conveyance there is a clear liability which is payable to the Government, or at any point in time when that property is transferred, in the same way that you have other liabilities which have to be cleared before a transfer could take place.

(Asides).

If there is never a transfer, when it has reached the point where it is equivalent to the value of the land, then you can sell legitimately. That is the point I am trying to make, accumulated debts plus interest, but you just cannot go in there and take away people's land.

I am very please, indeed, to see that the Minister has come up with the kind of policy, which I enunciated on the floor of this House, that would be helpful in this kind of situation.

It is unfortunate, Sir, that the Minister in his statement has sought to perpetuate the idea that dengue fever, which, as you know, is spread by mosquitoes, is caused by mosquitoes feeding on grass. Mosquitoes do not feed on grass.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member is extremely confused today. He started wrong and he is going on wrong. I never said that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The juxtaposition in his statement, where he was talking about lands that were overgrown by grass, and then talked about dengue fever immediately afterwards, would lead to that conclusion. In fact, Sir, there are many people in Barbados who would think that they are going to get dengue fever because a lot adjacent to them is overrun by sour grass or something like that. So you have to be very careful not to spread that kind of information.

The next point I would raise is the question of the Certificates of Health. He talked, Sir, about Certificates of Health in relation to restaurants and hotels. Fair enough, but there is one area which I think is relatively useless, and that is the requirement by the Health authorities for persons seeking employment, say, in hotels and restaurants, to have a Health Certificate annually.

Originally, that required the patient to have a Chest X-ray, to have annual stool investigations and, for some curious reason, to have a test to satisfy the Health authorities that they do not suffer from syphilis. I never knew that syphilis was transmitted by food. At least, not the usual food that you eat.

But, Sir, the point I am trying to make is this and I will make this point again and again - if on January 1 someone goes to a doctor's office and gets a Health Certificate to say that he is not suffering from any infectious disease, and then that same evening he eats food that is contaminated with the infectious disease, then the following day he can transmit that same disease.

After some argument, the Health authorities realise that Enmore could not cope with the demand for stool examinations, the demand for X-ray examinations and the demand for blood examinations; so they dropped those three requirements.

But what you have now is a form that is provided under the Health Services Regulations that does not require any form of investigation - just for the doctor to say that under such and such Regulation, so and so, at such and such address, is, in his opinion, freed from any infectious disease.

It is a useless exercise, unless the person is complaining of something which would suggest that he is suffering from an infectious disease. It is very costly to the worker. It means that every year that worker has to go, usually to a private doctor - because with the complete breakdown of the polyclinic service, under the guidance of the present Minister there are no polyclinics to go to, or very few services available - or they lose a whole day's work in going to the Casualty.

Plus, now I see a new circular being sent out by the present Minister where any doctor who refers to the

hospital or to other public services, they are liable to a charge. I have a copy right here in my briefcase, and I am going to deal with that later on.

3.50 p.m.

The point is that the status of that Health Certificate needs to be examined with some degree of objectivity, and not submit a substantial sector of the work force - almost every person in the hotel industry, those employed in the food industries, including the whole lot of hairdressers - in the month of January to have a Health Certificate which is absolutely useless at the time it is written, before it is written, and after it is written. It is an unfair imposition on the workers of this country.

(Asides)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is not the point, who introduced it or otherwise. The point I am making is that it is time that it should be reviewed.

(Hon. L. R. TULL: It is useless and you charge \$50 for it.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I heard you charged a man \$45 000 for one job.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to the Resolution. Order, please!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: We would like to have a little further explanation, Sir, on how these notices will be served? As I understand it, the honourable Member said that they will be served on the land. Are you going to stick them on a tree? Are you going to put them on the land? Are you going to put up a poster? How are you going to serve these notices? I do not know if you have worked out details of it as yet.

Sir, I believe that I have covered most of the areas that I wanted to look at. I have no particular objection to the general principle which the Minister has outlined, but I think it is important for the Ministry of Health to be able to take action when a land owner makes a complaint that his land is being abused by other people. He has absolutely no protection.

It is a very serious matter, because a land owner may spend \$2 000 or \$3 000 to clear his land and then somebody may go and throw tots or coconut shells or something like that which would then harbour mosquitoes, and that is what might produce a situation for dengue fever and the landlord would probably not be liable in that situation.

So you must build into any regulations some mechanism for the protection of the land owner who has looked after his land properly and make sure that the Ministry of Health can offer him some protection as well.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the honourable Member who has just sat down is in a mood more in keeping with the circus that is in Barbados and

about to leave than in a very serious mood that is deserving of Parliament.

He starts out by saying that the Minister who introduced this particular Resolution is incompetent to be a Minister, and even unfit to be a rat catcher.

If he starts in that way, I would have thought that he would have continued in that vein to prove the allegation which he has made. But somewhere along the line, he lost track of the jovial and hilarious attitude which he intended to portray to Parliament and came back to a point where he said that he is glad to see the Minister develop a policy on the floor of the House, which he approves of, for the betterment of health in Barbados.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, the honourable Member is the greatest purveyor of lack of logic in this Honourable House. What I said up to now is that from now on there might be some logic or some competence to be brought on the Minister based on what I have put forward.

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

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if logic is something you pick out of the sky when you have been shown up to be wrong, then I stand accused, because the honourable Member started on that, and then he says he is glad to see the Minister can develop a policy. If he is unfit to be a Minister and also unfit to be a rat catcher, how can he develop a policy?

(Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On my advice.)

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN: Let us get out of this and look at the more serious aspect of health in Barbados today. One of the most serious problems facing a country in developing proper health standards is, I believe, those persons who seek to keep their own environment clean, but in so doing they contaminate other persons' properties and environment.

What I think is necessary is a look at and a redraft of the Health Services Act, or the Health Services Regulations, to make it an absolute liability for any person who dumps stuff on other people's property by anybody taking note of the vehicle from which that rubbish has been dumped.

What you have, Mr. Chairman, is people taking up their garbage in the evening, getting into their cars, driving along the streets and dumping the garbage on other people's property or setting it down at the side of the road.

If somebody who is health conscious is travelling behind a motor car and sees a car marked X 99999

deposit garbage on the side of the road, or deposit garbage on somebody else's land, it is legally impossible to get a conviction unless you can prove who is the person, the time, the place, all these minor things which is the job of the defence counsel to make you prove. He who alleges must prove.

If you had absolute liability that the owner of the vehicle would have to say who was driving the vehicle or that he would become liable for dumping the garbage, then that would stop.

Let the people who get in the Transport Board buses, or people who drive along and throw lighted cigarettes out of their cars into the cane fields, or snowcone cups out of the bus to connect with people following, to dirty people's clothes, dirty the streets, etc. be liable.

You must have some sort of absolute liability in the regulations, and then the Sanitation Department or the particular department that is dealing with the health of Barbados can then successfully prosecute. That is the first thing that should happen.

The next thing we must face in this country is that there are numerous absentee land owners in Barbados today. Not absentee land owners in the context of the 17th century or 16th century when you had plantation owners living in Great Britain with plantations in Barbados or the Caribbean, we have got a different type of absentee land owner in Barbados today.

We must recognise that Barbadians are land owning people. Every Barbadian has in the back of his mind to own a square foot of land in the country of his birth. They may go to the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia; to the ends of the earth, but they send back and purchase a property in Barbados.

If you look at most of the development in this country, you find open lots. But when you believe that these open lots have remained unsold in the hands of the developer, you find that these lots are owned by people overseas.

Now that is where the problem lies. The Barbadian overseas is trying to secure a place in the country of his birth. He has forgotten that, in acquiring that lot, he is causing a health problem to those persons whom he has left in Barbados trying to make a living and trying to retain good health.
4.00 p.m.

So you have, as I say, the man who drives around in his motor car and see a vacant lot and puts his rubbish on that lot and you have the one in England he is saying he still has his lot down here while, at the same time, he is causing an inconvenience to the person who owns the

lot next to him or the person who lives in the development.

Here, again, the honourable Member who has just sat down talked about an accumulated charge. If at the moment there are so many problems to find out who owns those lots what would it be like for a Government to be accumulating a charge in the Registry? Government would then have to employ legal officers to work within the Valuation Department and the Registry to find out who are the owners of the lot in order to make a charge against them.

But there comes a time when the charge might exceed the value of the land, because when it comes to the rainy season, like now, you can clean your lot this week and as long as the rain falls, in three or four weeks the bush is going to grow up again.

I think what we have to do is find some method of letting people understand that Government has the right to acquire any vacant lots that are causing an inconvenience or reducing the standard of health which we want to maintain in this country. We have to find a method of doing it. We have to inform people that they cannot buy lots, leave them open, and expect to breed rats, mongooses, mosquitoes and sorts of things to the detriment of an entire community while they sit happily in Brooklyn or somewhere in London — and the people in Barbados are suffering from all these communicable diseases.

The honourable Minister talked about love vine. The whole West Coast, last year and earlier this year, talked about the love vine and the cow itch. People could not go in the sea on the West Coast, because they complained that the cow itch was even on the water.

That brings me to another point. Government has got to look at itself when it comes to love vine and cow itch, too. You cannot tell people out there that they must clear up their love vine and cow itch when the Government lots also grow love vine and cow itch.

Last year, I knew of a department of Government that owned a lot of land at Lower Estate, and I myself, wrote to them and told them that it was infested with cow itch and that they should do something to it. But I know I passed for months thereafter and the cow itch was still on the lot at Lower Estate.

So Government has got to start with itself and set an example that others might follow; and if Government starts in the right way, there can be no excuse what so ever if Government acts against other persons who refuse to keep their lots clean. That is exactly how we must stand.

Again, Mr. Chairman, we must — and I believe, I honestly believe this — that if you are going to move on these derelict properties, *et cetera*, you have to go a bit further; you have to make sure that Town and Country Planning follows the law, that when people apply to develop lots, based on the necessary criteria set out in the Act, they receive the necessary reply within the given time laid down in the law and that they must not spend nine months in a year running up and down to the Town and Country Planning Department because the Town and Country Planning Department cannot give an answer.

At the same time you will be penalising, a land owner who has a spot of land submits an application to Town and Country Planning, makes arrangements for his mortgage, makes arrangements with his builder, is ready to build on the land — and his application sits down for nine months in a year; and then the Government comes in, cleans his lot and surcharges him. It cannot be fair. There is a long way to go. I say Government must put its house in order, and if this is done, then there can be no problems.

The fourth point that must be taken into account is that there are a lot of people out there with derelict buildings who are seeking finances to put those buildings in order; but the way things are going, you cannot get money. Government must also start to set aside a fund for those who are particularly interested in maintaining their lots, putting them in order, and finding difficulties elsewhere in getting the necessary money to put the house in order.

If you are going to make a charge against the property, you can make the same charge against a developed property if you have got equity in that property. I think this is what we must do.

I agree one hundred per cent that we need to raise the standard of cleanliness in our country, if we are a tourist destination, we want people to come and be proud of coming to Barbados and not to find that they have left a dirty city to come to a dirty city.

I want to make sure, I want to be proud, that if I drive somebody up Broad Street, across High Street, or even in the country, that we can drive around without seeing bundles of garbage in a corner, snow cone cups knocking about the place and odds and ends of newspapers. But we have to make sure that we lay the foundation and lay the foundation right. Once we put in the correct foundation, I am one hundred per cent behind the Government to prosecute, confiscate, or do anything against anybody who then seeks to reduce the standard that the Government is trying to set.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, Sir, this is a pet subject of mine. I have spoken on this for many, many, many years in this Honourable House, from the 1960s.

I had the responsibility once, with Dr. Standard, of being the principal agents for enforcing the Public Health Laws in Barbados in the southern area, and we had no difficulty in those days in hauling offenders against the Public Health Act before the courts. It was a question of will, it was a question of determination and most of all, it was a question of Public Health education, which is a very important point.

We have reached the stage in Barbados where basics have been neglected in this area. I am not aware any more of the fact that a Public Health inspector in a particular area is visited, or can be found, or commands that degree of esteem within his district that he used to command in the past; and that is a very, very important thing.

He was looked upon in the past, not as a prosecutor, but as an adviser to the community. Now we have drifted away from that. I understand that the modern concept is that he is not to walk in looking at any privies or looking at backyards or things of that kind. It is true. That is the whole point.

Thank God successive Governments have seen to it that some 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the people in Barbados now have access to water, and a larger percentage have access to indoor toilets. But it does not mean that there are other problems that we do not have to deal with, because we are now getting more sophisticated problems of leptospirosis, dengue fever and things of that kind.

I do not mind what the health experts say, my own view is that a public health inspector is an integral part of a community's health scheme, and they must come back to having contact with the people in the district in which they are. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: True. Change the Government.) You must come back to having that contact. So, however sophisticated you train them now, the basic position is that there are people out there who need to be helped and advised.

It is the same thing with the district agricultural officers, because the problem of love vine is really the responsibility of the Agricultural Department in Barbados. The law says that; the law says very clearly that there is a Love Vine Eradication Act in Barbados.
4.10 p.m.

What we lack in Barbados is this. The worse thing that ever happened is when you all abolished Local

Government. What we have here is a series of departments who operate as though they are in isolation from one another. There is no cross-ministerial contact to ensure that there can be a combined effort.

Now, Sir, I detected this early, and it was for that reason that this Government set up a special committee headed by the then Minister of Housing and Environment, the now Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and we brought in people from Agriculture, we brought in people from the Public Health Department, both sections.

This is another thing. We now have two sections in the Public Health Department. Honourable Members over there may not know this. There is one called the Public Health Inspection and another unit called Public Health Engineering Division, and the two of them also operate as though they are two separate divisions. We brought in people from the Parks and Beaches Commission at that time, even my Ministry had an input, and, Mr. Chairman, and the Town Planning Department.

As a result of the recommendations of these people from these various agencies, a report was made to Cabinet, and honourable Members will be amazed as to how during the course of the deliberations, when you read the report, you could see there was a tug of war going on among themselves, each of them trying to buck pass responsibility.

So we sent it to the Attorney General, and the then Attorney General sent back and said that he found nine Acts in Barbados, from the Highways Act, the Love Vine Eradication Act, the Public Health Act, the Housing Act, at least nine Acts in Barbados which vested a responsibility at a number of agencies to do the job that we, as politicians, wanted done.

We then finally decided that we will fix it fairly and squarely in the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health said they would do the job but they want the tools — and the tools for the job is money. They said that they needed money. Well, if you have money, you will be able to buy men, or women for that matter.

The basic position is that you needed to find a fund which would allow them to go out and do the job and then, thereafter, recover. Because if you gave people a notice and you asked them to do it, and they said they did not have the money to do it, there was only the Act that contemplates that you had to get it done by the Government.

Now, Sir, this offended me so much, that I personally counted the number of derelict houses and un-bushed lots between Bay Street, the Exchange and Enterprise Road — and I sent a list to the Town Planner of all the incidents. Forty two alone on the main road!

You only just have to pass the Exchange and there is a side gap opposite Esso, and you see three there. One is a building that has nothing inside of it. You go up the road, there used to be one next to the hospital. The old hospital building itself used to look like one until they cleaned it up. It was a fact, it was overrun by bush. The old Housecraft Centre was greatly in danger of becoming one, but they cleaned up that one.

And we went up, and I want to give honourable Members two of the worse cases possible, because I know of them. Above Hastings Police Station on the sea side, there is a house next to a hotel, between the Virginian and Hastings Police. The owners of that property reside abroad. A tree is growing up inside the house, itself. It is a property that if you wanted to buy it, Mr. Chairman, Sir, they would want \$10 a square foot for it.

There is another one situated between Chefette Restaurant and the Blue Horizon Hotel, about which we in the Ministry of Tourism have received numerous complaints from visitors who come here. We tried with the Public Health Department and we traced the owner. The owner lives in California. We went to both the proprietor of Chefette and the proprietors of the hotel. Both of them have told us on many occasions that they have tried to buy the property and each time the man comes he raises the price for the property.

Now I know for a fact that the Public Health inspectors have to go in there and put in rat bait regularly in that property. I don't mind what anybody says, I believe that a community, its law makers, must have sanctions against that kind of irresponsible and indifferent behaviour to the environment in the country in which they own property. They could not do that in California; they could not do it.

If they have so clearly abandoned their responsibility to the community in which they own property, I believe the community is entitled to take drastic action against them and I hope that the first set of notices served will be served against them. I want them put up for sale, and when they are put up for sale anybody can bid and they will be sold. I hope the Housing Authority is in there with money to bid, too, because that is the object.

The object is to create a legal regime whereby the property is put up for sale and anybody at all can bid, particularly for the land of these people who buy land here and leave Barbados — only to take advantage.

All they wish to do is to take advantage of the normal incremental value that land gets as a result of inflation and as a result of the fact that there is only a given quantity of land in a small community. They want to speculate on land. They have to be dealt with.

We also have similar problems — I have the list — in sub-divisions. A large number of people buy land in sub-divisions and they let the land stay there, clamacherry trees, dunk trees, all kinds of other trees develop on the land.

Now I really feel that we have to deal with them, too. I am not suggesting that the same remedy that you can use with respect to the people who have derelict buildings should necessarily be used against the land, because I believe it would be far easier to get a tractor and clear the trees; do that periodically, and the cost of that would be greatly reduced. You could add that on to your Land Tax bill, and if they do not pay them, plus this — the two charges — after a period of time you will be able to sell out the whole land.

But a real examination of this would show, Mr. Chairman, that we have reached the stage now that where a comprehensive attack has to be made against this problem. And I do not think that this should be a matter of anybody trying to get political kudos out of, because when the leptospirosis, when the dengue fever comes, all our tax money has to pay for it.

What is even more true, Mr. Chairman, is this: there is a great need in this country for house spots in certain areas of Barbados. And it also galls me to see a number of abandoned areas of land, with abandoned houses there, in which those house spots could be put to good use. That is where I feel the Housing Authority has a leading role to play, because when they go up for sale, the Housing Authority should try to bid for them, too.

It is interesting to note this, because I have been following developments in some parts of the United Kingdom; and while we were discussing this, the then Minister of Environment in the U.K., was doing a similar thing with "inner city" development in the United Kingdom. The other day I saw a report in which they have been able to bring what he calls "on the market again" large areas of land and a large number of buildings which could be subdivided and used for flats, or masonettes, as they call them, for people.

So, therefore, we have started in this way, and what we are doing is to try to make Barbados a better place for all of us to be able to live and to enjoy. Those of us who live in Barbados cannot allow people who are abroad, whether they be Barbadians or not, to have such an indifferent outlook, to have such an indifferent feeling for the environment of their own country, and we sit down and take it and say that we are infringing on their rights.

4.20 p.m.

They are the ones who are abusing the rights of the rest of the society, and it is time that something be done about it.

I am very very glad that this money is being provided and I would hope that, with all speed, the bottle necks in the legislation will be removed to provide for a simple and quick method of enforcing the charges that will be created arising out of this expenditure.

There is one final point, Sir. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central raised the question of land taxes. We tried to co-ordinate the question of land taxes and land ownership. We sent people to California to put on microfiche all the information with respect to property in Barbados so that the Public Health Department would be able to have a copy of the microfiche, too. It would save them a lot of time.

Well, Sir, it is really amazing. Sometimes politicians with the best will in the world cannot get what they want carried out. We sent one from Land Tax and one from Valuation, and I do not know what happened, all I know is that we are willing to provide the money. I believe there are two separate reports and they must be arguing as to whether this system is the best system, and all that.

But we intend to continue it. It took us six years to get this before the House, but it will not take another six years to get the other one before the House.

The basic position is that a profile of all the land ownership in Barbados could, under modern reproduction and storage technology, be kept, not only in one area, but in a multiplicity of areas, because nowadays you can keep so much different information on a small microfiche disc, and if you really want to be sophisticated you can take that information and then computerise it, and then you can have a register all around the departments.

The basic position is that we are dealing with arrears of land taxes by those same people, and we are now dealing with them from the environmental point of view. If we can ensure that we get this across, if we can ensure that we go back to the basics of the education, I believe that we will be able to eradicate this problem and contribute greatly to the upliftment of our community consciousness in Barbados.

One of the most significant things that has taken place in Barbados in the last ten years — and, moreso, now — is the interest that people are taking in landscaping.

The Skills Training Programme has done a tremendous job in teaching people horticulture and landscaping and that kind of stuff. There are a lot of young people who can go to the Development Bank and buy the basic tools, and I believe this will help to provide self-employment for them.

It is not that expensive, once you do the original hard work, to keep it in good condition. I know that there are a lot of people who, for a small weekly sum, will go around a district and in five or six days are able to look after a large area once they get it in proper condition from the beginning, and that is what we have to encourage.

No other sophisticated community in the world allows people to do what we allow them to do here in Barbados, and it is time that it is stopped, and this is the beginning of putting an end to this indifferent practice.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I want to endorse very strongly all that has been said by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister, but, in some fairness to the Public Health Inspectors, I wish to say one or two things in their defence.

(Aside).

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No, I am not suggesting that they have been criticised, but of my own knowledge there are a few things that we need to be told.

These people nowadays are no longer the Public Health inspector, as the honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said, the man with the white ladle who comes around and tells you to clean up your privy and to weed up your backyard. Mercifully, those days are gone for the majority of people who live in Barbados. He is now a sanitary technician, and our problem is that the numbers of Sanitary Inspectors, as we knew them, have not been increasing and expanding proportionately over the years as our development has in other areas.

Of course, both the airport and the sea port have expanded. There are large cadres of Public Health inspectors who have to service those two ports. Our businesses in the commercial sector in Bridgetown, in Holetown, in Speightstown, in Oistins Town, soon to become Oistins City, have expanded to the degree where the Public Health inspectorate, by virtue of its numbers, have had to make serious priority decisions, and it is true to say that the home visiting as we knew it 20, 25, 30 years ago has suffered in consequence. The ports just have to be manned by international agreements. The ports just have to be manned. Businesses, the hotel industry has to be manned, every hotel has got to be inspected by the Public Health inspectors.

In those areas of our economy to which we have given preference and priority, this is where the Public Health inspectorate, with their small numbers, have been forced to put their attention — and it is true that the home visits have declined and have suffered.

But this is a question I want to ask all Barbadians. Mr. Chairman. This is the new sophisticated, so well educated Barbados. Am I understanding that in 1982 we are still waiting for a Public Health inspector to come to our door and tell us to clean our toilet and our backyard? Where is the self-respect? Where is the self-esteem? Do you mean that every year the Government has to get up and tell the people of Barbados that they must clean their backyards and their front yards?

I am calling upon all Barbadians, as I did when I was Minister of Health, not to wait on the Government to do it. The same way you are going to clean inside of the house, so Barbadians, of their own volition, must understand that the responsibility for the exterior of the house is theirs. It always has been.

Barbadians have always understood that the ownership of property imports certain responsibilities. You have to pay your taxes for property. They will buy a motor car and spend thousands of dollars maintaining it every year, they will build a house or rent a house and spend hundreds of dollars painting, cleaning and caring it every year.

Why is it that we feel that this degree of care and that this degree of sanitation, which we apply in other aspects of property ownership, do not apply equally to the backyard and the front yard?

I do not want Barbadians to be under any illusion that this money voted here in this Honourable Chamber here today is for the Government to pay people to go and do personal and domestic services for Barbadians who just cannot be bothered to do it. I do not want that impression to go abroad at all.

4.30 p.m.

I want it made perfectly clear that this money is being voted to deal with certain recalcitrant absentee owners of land in Barbados, but that people who live here and who are householders, are expected to keep their property in a sanitary condition which is to the satisfaction of the Public Health authorities.

Mr. Chairman, in many countries Governments and people, individual householders, deal with this whole problem of sanitation, derelict houses and vacant overgrown lots in many different ways.

I saw in Israel where derelict properties were virtually given, for a very small sum of money, to people who had to sign an undertaking to bring those properties back into a reasonable state of repair and give an equal undertaking that they would live in them.

They were not allowed to put up these properties for rental or use them in any other commercial

undertaking. There were given in exchange, by the Government and the local authority, for residential purposes; and you had to undertake, and the Government made money available for you to borrow, to bring that property back into a certain state of repair and you then had to live in it and continue to keep it in a certain state of repair.

This goes on, to some extent, in certain states of the United States of America. I have read, too, that in the United Kingdom some groups of people, and in particular black people, have been allowed to take over certain properties in certain parts of the United Kingdom for this expressed purpose, residential; and loans were made available to them to bring the properties into a certain state of repair.

What we have to remember, Mr. Chairman, is that in those countries I have mentioned there are building codes, and so people are not under any illusion whatsoever as to what the Government or the local authorities mean when they say that you have to bring it up to a certain level or repair.

I am still hoping and working towards the condition in Barbados when we, too, will have a building code and people would not be permitted to rent properties which are falling apart, and where the plumbing itself is not working, at exorbitant prices. I believe that day is soon to be at hand.

I applaud, tremendously, the strategy which the Minister of Health is adopting to deal with this problem of derelict properties, vacant and overgrown lots and other insanitary habits that Barbadians persist in — not out of ignorance; we are far too educated for that — out of laziness and not caring for the environment. I applaud, most heartedly, the strategy that he has devised.

We are about to grant a certain sum of money. He has made it clear that it is far from enough money, and that is why I do not want people to believe that if your back yard is dirty now you can call up the Public Health inspector at the taxpayers expense and they will come and clear it up for you. That is not what it is all about.

I hope that now people understand clearly that the Ministry of Health has certain weapons and tools at its command, not least of all, action in our courts, that those recalcitrant and delinquent householders out there, including, I want to say, the one on the east of me, and I hope that when he starts he will deal with the open lot next to me.

I have the names of all of the people who own open lots where I live. I want that to be dealt with

first. Just as I would like the Minister of Transport and Works to fix my gap.

I cannot succeed with that, but I hope they will start with my gap and all the vacant lots where the bush is taller than my house and where I have to spend money to have bush traxcavated, where Sir, I have to go to the trouble to go and get the Fire Department to come on stand by, and borrow water carts to burn the cow itch, where monkeys would not let me keep one fruit that I grow on my land and where all kinds of rats and other vermin support themselves next door. I actually have to fight to keep a jungle out of my home and that is true of a lot of us.

(Aside)

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is true for you, too. You do not live far from me, and I know that this is true of the honourable Member for St. Michael South.

I know that it is so, and it is just those people that the Ministry of Health wants to deal with now — and I applaud that.

But all of the other householders must take this as a warning that the next step, the next time he comes for money, will be to deal with recalcitrant and lazy householders who will not keep their properties in a sanitary condition.

It is really very hard when you work to keep your house clean, to make a nice garden and to plant a few vegetables and a few fruit trees, as I do and a whole bunch of other Barbadians do, and have somebody living next door to you growing all the love vine and the cow itch coming from their property to your property.

It is very discouraging. It makes it very difficult to keep the call from the Ministry of Agriculture that we must grow our own food, grow our own vegetables and our own fruit. It makes it very difficult indeed.

So, Mr. Chairman, I want, as I said, to endorse all of the remarks which have gone before and put out an appeal to Barbadian householders, in the face of this present action, to start to debush their properties without the Government, having to come and call upon them to do it, and without the Government, in the not too distant future, having to punish them in order to make them do it.

The health of all of us depends on it. This is a tiny island where land is at a premium, where the ownership of land carries, traditionally, important connections with it. It is all that we have, Mr. Chairman, and the people really must know; they are educated enough to know.

Understand that all of the warnings which have been given in the past have gone and that the hour has arrived when you must debush now without asking the Government to come and to do it for them.

I would also like, before I sit down, Mr. Chairman, to make one final point, and it is this. In past debushing campaigns, you had a situation where people, once they started to panic — and this is a nature of human kind again — went too far in the other direction — people cutting down trees — valuable trees — fruit trees, ornamental trees, trees which are important to the environment for reasons which have to do with drainage, for reasons which have to do with the composition of our soil.

I do not think that the average Barbadian fully understands how important trees are, and I would just like to appeal, because I believe that there is really going to be a rush, because you know how it is with us — there is going to be a great rush and a lot of debushing is going to go on now, because, as the honourable Member for St. Joseph has put it, the rainy season is with us now.

But I just want to appeal to people not to cut trees — the Town Planning has very strict regulations about cutting down trees — and to say to people that if they really must cut down trees, well, then they must replant them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, I do not wish to interrupt the honourable Member, it is just a technical thing. I beg to move, Sir, that you do report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

4.50 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 5 o'clock.

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

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

4.55 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, during this debate, the debate has varied wide and in depth in a lot of areas, and out of the debate it is very obvious that from all honourable Members who contributed to the debate, two things come out most forcefully. One is that they realise, indeed, the deep affection Barbadians have for the soil and a parcel of land, and the second is that their appreciation for good environment can be seen.

The Resolution before us, Mr. Chairman, seeks to put into the hands of the Minister of Health certain sums of money that would allow him to take care of derelict buildings and properties.

To deeply analyse and appreciate the problem, I think you need to have a look at the reason for the development of derelict houses.

There are two problems we have in Barbados. One is the problem of vacant lots left unattended for a variety of reasons: some because they are owned by non-resident Barbadians, some because they are owned by foreigners, some because they have been bought by young Barbadians who are now awaiting funds to develop those lots by an infra-structure, namely, a house, and, in some cases, those lots are allowed to become dumping grounds for adjoining neighbours who find it too difficult, either because the official dump is too far away or because the collection programme of the Ministry of Health in that area is not regular enough, or, thirdly, because of gross negligence and a lack of appreciation for the environment, find it easier to dump on their neighbour's land.

The other problem is the problem of derelict buildings, and the historical development of derelict buildings can be traced to two or three reasons as well. In some cases it is a matter of family disputes over the ownership of land which allow the building to become derelict. In other cases it is a matter that some person inherited the property and did not have the wherewithal to maintain or keep that property, and with the passage of time the property became derelict and, subsequently, abandoned.

So in any look at a programme to take care of these areas, we have to realise the reasoning behind them.

If I might deal first of all with vacant lots, we had a discourse, and it is one that is very deep to me, and it is one that at some time a similar forum like this has to face, and it is, what is the philosophy of the people of Barbados towards ownership of land? Is it a philosophy that states that land is a resource and any appreciation above the natural yearly inflationary trends should become the property of the state, to be passed on to the

state at some time? Is it a philosophy that states that that appreciation can remain in the hands of resident Barbadians but not in the hands of foreigners, or is it a philosophy that states that this appreciation can remain in the hands of whoever owns the lot?

I am firmly resolved in my mind that the time has come when we have to have a very serious look at the ownership of land by non-Barbadians, be they resident or overseas.

I have no quarrel with Barbadians overseas owning land locally, as long as they perform their civic duties, and I would suggest that they can do it quite easily, because everyone knows quite well that the dream of every Barbadian is to return to the rock.

If you follow, statistically, you will see that within recent times more and more Barbadians, having reached the age of retirement, are selling wherever they are; and if allowed to repatriate their money are repatriating their money and building in Barbados on the parcel of land they may have owned over fifteen or twenty years and are spending the remainder of their days in the good climate of Barbados among their relatives. Therefore I would not go so far as to say that we should have in any way any preventive ways of stopping non-Barbadians from owning land.

I am a firm believer that any appreciation in land, far in excess of the natural appreciation due to the inflationary trends, should not be allowed to remain in the hands of non-Barbadians. It should be treated the same way as you treat royalties in oil, etc — it should be treated as a resource.

If you are not going to go as far as to stop non-Barbadians from owning land in fee simple here, you should certainly have a serious look at a system where that appreciation of land should be passed back to the state periodically, or on the sale of such land if it was sold.

It is not as difficult as one may think, because all you have to do is to index the appreciation of land against the natural inflationary trends during the year, and if, for argument sake, you have an inflationary trend over a five year period of 50 per cent and the increase in land values went up to 75 per cent, it is easy to see that the extra 25 per cent should go, by way of royalty, back to the state.

It would not be fair to take the 75 per cent, because if that same owner had to acquire a similar property, he would have to pay the increase of 50 per cent which is the natural appreciation due to the increase in the cost of living.

As far as non-resident Barbadians being irresponsible in the upkeep of their land, I would like to suggest to the Minister of Health that he could consider a policy where by special indexing or coding on the Land Tax Act, bills going out, that you automatically pick up all lands presently owned by non-resident Barbadians, and an additional tax which would be passed on to the Ministry of Health – and it should be made quite clear when the bill is sent out that it is a tax for the upkeep of that land – be put on that parcel of land, with a proviso that at the end of that tax year, if the non-resident Barbadian has a local representative who has been taking care of the site and having it kept properly, by a certificate from the Ministry of Health etc., that money paid should be refunded at the end of the year, therefore you would not be penalising non-resident Barbadians who are good housekeepers of their particular property.

I feel that if you look at that, that that is a very viable way in which he can take care of that particular section. That money can then be put in a particular fund administered by the Ministry of Health from which the clearing of sites would be done at the intervals necessary.

As far as the resident Barbadians who are not keeping their lots in good state are concerned, the appropriate regulations and the laws are there, and you can prosecute them; and therefore I think they should be treated in the normal way available to the Ministry of Health to make sure that they keep their property in good shape.

As far as derelict buildings are concerned, I would invite the Minister to examine the possibility – there are some buildings that can be classified as derelict that might be constructed of coral stone or some other material – that he classifies the derelicts in two classes, and those that might have some remunerable established value, instead of putting the Ministry of Health to the expense of cleaning them at the sum that he stated, between \$2 500 and \$5 000. He could well find that in putting out to tender for the demolition and removing of those buildings that he might not have to spend that money; on the other hand, he might find himself with a couple of dollars in hand from the derelicts.
5.10 p.m.

It is well known that coral stone, once again, is becoming very popular, and there are some people who would demolish old coral stone derelicts, take the coral stone and whatever re-usable material, either pay the Ministry of Health a small fee and do it without incurring any cost to the Ministry of Health. So these are two things he can have a look at.

This bit of legislation has far reaching consequences, and we must look down the road. A few things that are

happening now begin to frighten one, that 20 to 25 years from now, you could easily find yourself with a lot more derelicts than you have now.

The reason for this situation is very easy to follow. The present cost of housing, with the interest rates that have to be paid now to acquire mortgages, has created a situation where young couples, after they have entered into the first purchase of the house, would be finding it extremely difficult to maintain those properties if the Government does not have a look at some type of policy to assist them.

And, it is a fact that when a lot of the young couples take out their mortgage payment and their other non escapable commitments, that that a proper maintenance programme on their house would be difficult to follow at the rate things are going.

What has added to this and I would invite the Minister of Finance to look at it again, is the way in which he has now restricted the amount of money that can be written off against Income Tax for the maintenance of buildings, because you could well find yourself being penny wise and pound foolish.

The upkeep of buildings in a proper state of repair is very important, because every time you allow a building to become a derelict, two things happen; the money you have expended in foreign exchange for the purchase of materials that has gone into that house has disappeared, and you now have to find more foreign exchange to replace the derelict, and the two costs together, shown collectively, would be a lot more than a proper maintenance programme which would allow the proper upkeep of that house.

If you are going to allow short-term measures to force people into a situation where they cannot maintain their houses, you are only going to add to a situation that would create the very same thing that we are trying not to have in Barbados, the creation of derelicts in Barbados. It is something we must be very careful about.

I have said time and time again that any expenditure in housing, the development of housing, the retention of housing, the upkeep of housing, cannot be looked at as an expenditure otherwise than a proper expenditure which could only be to the good of the country as a whole, because you are developing assets among young people which would allow them to continue into their daily life.

The Government must also set an example in this particular area. A few speakers have made mention of the fact that there are large plots of Government land which you find being used as dumping grounds; you find love

vine, cow itch right within the sight of the overseers, and they do nothing about it.

Sometime ago, I mentioned a situation, which I want to repeat, to the Minister of Health, and it is a situation that really galls me. Any morning, between 7 o'clock and 8 o'clock, or earlier, I would invite the Minister to come on Highway 5 and to follow some of those open garbage trucks going to the dump at Mangrove, and he will find that those trucks litter the road along Highway 5 right to the Mangrove site. It is one of the ugliest sights I have seen.

When the people at the side of the road weed the grass and you are able to see those trenches, you see nothing but a littering of plastic bags — old bags right along the road, right up to the dump.

I cannot understand — I have mentioned it to the Minister already, I even went as far as drawing it to the attention of the Sanitation Department — how you can have open trucks taking this type of light garbage. There is no net over the truck, and the truck just goes along littering the road morning after morning all the time.

It is one of the most unsightly things seen if you follow the truck along Highway 5, and it really gets me extremely annoyed when you find it happening all the time. If we must have open trucks, they must be covered.

Sometimes I have seen trucks — and this is the Ministry of Health to blame again, for lack of regulations or lack of carrying them out — I have seen trucks taking feathers from chickens and the offals or chickens going to the dump; they are going along Highway 5 with the feathers flying all over Highway 5 — occasionally a head drops out — and makes a mess of the road going up to the dump. (Mr. B. M. TAITT: Shame.)

And this is no unique situation, it happens regularly. You just go by Windsor; the truck comes through by Windsor, goes along Highway 5, right into Marchfield and swings into the dump.

I have drawn it to the attention of the Sanitation Authority time and time again that they must set the example with their own trucks and they must make sure that there must be a net over those trucks taking stuff to dump if it is not completely closed and covered.

Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to see, once again, that the GIS Programme is used in instructing people in proper health standards. I am not sure that the GIS programme is put to its best use. Someone might suggest it is being used for indoctrinisation purposes.

I would like to see, as the honourable Member from Christ Church said, the time when you return people to the consciousness.

I think that there is a law which states that there cannot be any open fire in any area during the crop season, and those of us who live in the country districts know that burning of garbage is one of the ways of disposal.

I know, as a matter of fact, that during the crop season there is an extra accumulation of garbage because people are afraid to burn their garbage because of this statute on the Law Books of Barbados, or regulation, that makes it an offence to have an open fire during the crop season in these areas. I would like the appropriate ministry to have a look again because sometimes we only have a collection once a week.

Where I live, Mr. Chairman, there is a once-a-week collection situation, and if you have any meat dishes or fish you cannot afford to put that in any garbage can until the truck comes along in a week's time; you have to burn it.

If you cannot have an open fire, you are going to have a situation where you have to put it in a plastic bag; the dogs come and pull it out, litter the place and provide adequate food for the rats to breed on. This is an area you must look at.

I would suggest to the Minister of Health — I do not know the mechanics of the system — but whatever the mechanics are, that the Minister should try, wherever possible, to see if there is not an agent for the derelicts that would take care of the demolitions themselves without allowing him to incur that cost, or, in certain cases, if the derelict is valuable enough, to try to get a salvager to come in and use the material and therefore relieve the ministry of the cost of actually clearing that derelict.

I would like to support the measure now before the House because, like all of us here, we realise that a proper environment in Barbados is essential to the increased standard of health, it is essential to the beautification of Barbados, it is essential to our tourist industry and it is essential to proper habits being developed by our children.

I would support the Minister of Health and his Ministry in any measures along this way that are well thought out and properly administered for the development of health care in Barbados.

Thank you. (Applause)

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I rise to give my support to this Resolution.
5.20 p.m.

The honourable Member who just sat down has raised a number of points and I would be failing in my duty if I did not respond to them. I, too, share responsibility for environmental matters, and although the Minister of Health has introduced this Resolution, it has considerable bearing on matters coming under my portfolio.

The question of derelict buildings is one which has occupied my attention for a very long time ever since I assumed responsibility for the Ministry of Housing and Lands. I addressed my attention to this matter in a very positive way and the Ministry collected data related to the number of derelict buildings around, the actual location and where these derelict buildings posed health and other threats to human life.

We realise that not only is the question of health, leptospirosis and other diseases associated with derelict buildings, but that the whole question of what derelict buildings mean to the housing stock must be addressed at this moment. Whenever there are derelict buildings, it means that there is a loss to the housing stock, and that is why the Government, in its wisdom, is finalising negotiations with the United States Government to correct this situation.

The honourable Member who just sat down said that if this question of derelict buildings is not addressed, then we would find ourselves in a situation over the next twenty or so years having to move some of our housing stock. I agree with him, because over the years, we have been ignoring our very sacred policy, the policy of maintaining our housing stock. It is one that Governments in the past are guilty of, and that is why this present Government has, in its wisdom, decided that, among other things, the money which will be lent to Barbados, the US\$10 million, will be used for home improvement.

The object of that, Mr. Chairman, is to ensure that our present housing stock is maintained so that in years to come we will avoid the question of derelict buildings. Loans will be made available to house owners to enable them to repair their homes and to improve them. Surely this policy must be welcomed, and we, I am sure, Mr. Chairman, are moving in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman, we must understand that environmental matters affect all of us in Barbados. If we do not pay some attention to the environment, or environmental matters, we will lose tourism; because people come here and they look to see what sort of environment Barbados

has, and if the environment is untidy and unsatisfactory, then those persons will not promote Barbados — the image of Barbados would be dragged down. That is why this Government has decided to pay a lot of regard to the question of derelict buildings and improving the environment as a whole.

We are encouraging organizations in the districts, and, in particular, the housing estates, since they come immediately under my Ministry, to form committees of management so that they too can share in helping to develop and protecting the development.

Ever so often you see people dumping not only garbage, but old vehicles in their neighbourhood, and, in particular, in the estates owned by the Government. To this end, the National Housing Corporation has decided to meet with committees from the housing estates with a view to discussing how best organizations can work with the National Housing Corporation in an effort to maintain and clean up the environment.

I think that this policy ought to be welcomed by one and all, because, at the same time, the Ministry of Housing is encouraging organizations and committees, such as the Keep Barbados Beautiful Committee, which I must state publicly has been doing a very fine job and ought to be congratulated. All those members who have been dedicating their time voluntarily must be fully congratulated for their valuable efforts which they have put into this aspect of environmental improvement.

There is another committee which has recently been formed called the Garrison Committee, and I wish to say publicly that this committee deserves our support because, among other things, the committee will be looking at how best the maintenance of the environment of the Garrison can be maintained and improved.

We have noticed that several buildings that have historical or architectural significance have been threatened by vandals, people who have abdicated their responsibilities, and we are trying feverishly to see that this vandalism is aborted.

We must compliment the Garrison Committee, because it not only seeks to protect and maintain and beautify the Garrison environment, but it also seeks to ensure that persons who own residences or buildings that are of historical interest will maintain them.

I think, too, that we should also compliment the Barbados National Trust that has been in the vanguard in trying to improve the environment. We may have all our likes and dislikes about the composition of the Barbados National Trust but surely the Barbados National Trust existed well before 1970; its efforts and its works were

well regarded and complimented by the former Administration, and this Government feels that that work should be endorsed, and therefore we fully appreciate the work and efforts of the Barbados National Trust.

The National Conservation Commission, a newly formed commission which took over the work of the Parks and Beaches, is another organization which should have all of our support. The functions of this organization are known, because the legislation was passed early this year in this Honourable Chamber, and Members would have had an opportunity to see the functions and examine the functions, the duties and responsibilities of that commission.

5.30 p.m.

All in all, Mr. Chairman, I think that we should recognise that this Government is paying a lot of emphasis and attention to environmental matters, we are not side-stepping the issue, we are mindful that there are other questions relating to the broader aspect of environmental matters, for instance, erosion, and we have problems with oil spills.

If I were to revert to the question of beach erosion, I must condemn persons who, without any legal authority, have decided to erect groynes, revetments and so forth. We think that those persons should be told that this Government, and surely this Minister, will not condone anyone who takes it upon himself to carry out unauthorised works.

I am going to sound a warning on the floor of this Chamber, that if it is drawn to my attention and I have reason to prove that persons continue to build in an unauthorised manner, I will use every ounce of the prerogative vested in me to see that such unauthorised buildings and structures are removed. (*Applause*)

Mr. Chairman, this is no laughing matter, this is a very serious matter. As a result of the unauthorised erection of groynes and revetments, we have had erosion on the south coast of a magnitude which even residents are complaining about.

I want to say publicly that I have visited some six hotels and private residences along the west coast of Barbados and the erosion there is extremely alarming, and something must be done. Several of the hotels and owners of those properties have been calling my Ministry and threatening to erect groynes illegally or without any authority. I hope that they will hear from the floor of this Honourable Chamber that I will be using the full authority to deal with such persons. They must understand that the rule of law applies, and if they have no legal authority, they then cannot assume that sort of prerogative.

Mr. Chairman, we have got to understand what has happened. As a result of all this illegal building, we have had an escalation of the erosion along the coast. We have in St. Philip at the Crane, where a road was constructed by the former administration, this road has led to erosion which now will cause us to close the road. The road at Crane beach will now have to be closed, because the professional advice given to us says that unless the road is closed we will have an escalation of this problem and almost all of the beach up there will be lost.

Mr. Chairman, we have got to take the professional advice very seriously, but in so doing we are going to be guided by common sense, because sometimes technical advice is not 100 percent perfect. All of us know that erosion has taken place, and all of us know that people are really taking advantage of the situation.

I wish to conclude by saying that, in supporting this Resolution, I hope that Barbadians will be more aware of what proper environment and what environmental matters are all about.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will be very short in my contribution on this Bill. I am very glad that the honourable member who has just sat down has indicated a willingness to exercise the full power vested in him. I shall await the implementation of those words by way of action, because that Government has demonstrated in the past, and continues to demonstrate, that it is long on rhetoric and short on action where certain elements of this society are concerned.

It is interesting that in all the speeches we have heard from the front bench today in support of this measure, we have been able to discern what I continue to zero in on so far as this Administration is concerned: there is a measure of confusion, Sir.

We heard the Deputy Prime Minister indicating that there are now two departments in the Ministry of Health which are behaving, in the words of the honourable Member for St. John, like "independent republics". We heard two or three Ministers raising questions concerning the behaviour of the sanitary inspectors, and we heard from the honourable Member for St. Joseph, himself a former Minister of Agriculture, an indication that the Ministry of Agriculture is not doing its job properly, if it is doing its job at all.

I wish to say, first of all on the love vine, that it is my considered opinion — and I am sorry he is not in his place, but these words have to be said — it is my considered opinion that the Minister of Agriculture is not exerting the kind of effort which one has come to expect from a Minister of Agriculture, or from any Minister at all in any portfolio.

It seems to me that what is required in this system we have is some measure of inspiration.

Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the honourable Member for the City, when she was Minister of Health, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and I took her to task for almost two days during the Estimates on her performance in the Ministry of Health; but the one thing one has to say for her, whether you disagreed with the debushing or not, whether they went too far or not, she provided some measure of inspiration to the people, because she was out there making a noise and carrying on about the debushing programme.

And there was some consistency and coherence in the programme. The public media, mostly the broadcasting medium, was used effectively. Even if one did not always agree with the message, one was aware that there was a message.

The present Minister of Agriculture is long on rhetoric dealing with finance. He is the separate shadow Minister on the Opposition side, that is the Government side. Whenever there is a statement about finance, he has to make a response, either him or the honourable Member for St. Michael Central. They are reverberations, they reverberate every time there is anything to do with finance, when indeed the Minister should be dealing with agriculture, and he should be setting an example on this whole question of love vine and the bush that can be found on Government property.

I wish to stress that a substantial amount of the dereliction, so far as buildings and so far as property are concerned, are first to be found — and here I agree entirely with the honourable member for St. Joseph — in the Government sector.
5.40 p.m.

There are more derelict building in the Government sector, than I can observe, in almost any other aspect of life in this country.

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Westbury Cemetery? The honourable Member has raised too Westbury Cemetery, in my constituency.

Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry the honourable Member raised Westbury Cemetery. I was trying my best in this Honourable House not to raise that question, but, Mr. Chairman, since the honourable Member raised it, I would give it as an example.

His Excellency was there the other evening and I found myself praying that the roof will not fall on His

Excellency. I would not like to have him have the distinction of having been harmed in that little chapel.

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: There is only one Excellency in Barbados. You have just got back from the UN where they call you "His Excellency", and you are getting confused? There is only one Excellency in Barbados.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that an attempt was made to upgrade Westbury about three years ago and they stopped in the middle of it. They put on the paint on the inside, they clean half of the outside, and suddenly they stopped. Where all the roof has started to rot, nobody has gone back since; and I really would implore the Minister to have them take a look at it, because it is only a small chapel. It is used every single day except Sunday and sometimes it is used fairly often, and it really is a disgrace as a Government building that is being utilised.

I am grateful to the honourable Member mentioning it. I did not wish to mention that property because I have a Question in concerning the walls, and I believe that the Minister will be paying some attention to the wall itself.

I wish to say this: it is a matter of urgency. That wall that runs along Westbury Road towards Deacons Road has deteriorated in such a manner that it is obvious that it is soon going to fall, or at least parts of it are going to fall into the road. The problem at a particular point is that you are between a rock and a hard place, if you are walking along there.

I really hope that the Minister, if the Minister of Finance can see it possible to hear him, if the Minister can get an audience with the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, I would like him to deal with this as a matter of urgency. But I do not wish us to dwell on Westbury Cemetery. I will deal with that later on.

I wish to deal with the apparent confusion which is obvious to anyone who is observing this Government in action. I believe that some of the Ministers would like to be able to get on with their work, but they do not have any leadership. I am saying categorically that the leadership is confused.

I will show you. You heard the honourable Member who just sat down, the honourable Minister responsible for Housing, say, "Although this has been introduced by the Minister responsible for Health, it has a lot of aspects that concern my Ministry." I already spoke about the honourable Deputy Prime Minister indicating that there are two departments within the Ministry of Health which seem to be going in separate directions. I remember when I was talking about the environment around the schools

that the Minister of Education indicated that it was not her concern in the main, and I am saying, if the experience I have had is any indication, that there is a lack of coordination in the carrying out of these policies. We pass legislation in here concerning the destruction of trees, and I would take odds, Mr. Chairman, that not a single tree in Barbados has been cut down along the lines outlined in that legislation. That legislation was designed to save trees in this country, and from the time it has been passed, any honourable Member in here can remember passing and seeing trees being cut down as if the Bill had never been passed.

It is all right for us to get in this Honourable Chamber and pass legislation and utter some very wonderful words about the environment, but I wish to say that in the implementation of those very good ideas that we are not seeing the kind of inspiration which would lead other people in the community to understand that preservation of the environment is something more than lip service object.

Mr. Chairman, the attitudes of Barbadians have been affected by the growth and development in Barbados. There was a time when we did not have continuous television or continuous radio. There was a time when young people had to play out in the neighbourhood, and we had some open places, and part of the cleanliness of those open places would be that we would have to prepare the area for either cricket, or football or something.

We have moved to the stage now where we have some of the sophisticated attitudes of North America, but we have not been able, apparently at the official level, to inculcate some of the attitudes that are endemic in North America, in terms of cleanliness.

Now this is not to offer North America as any paragon or even as an example. As you know, Sir, New York City is the dirtiest city in the world. There is no question about that. On first contact with New York City, if one has left a place like Barbados, one goes into almost a traumatic shock when you see the dirty streets; and if you happen to go into certain parts, like Manhattan, you cannot believe that human beings actually exist in those conditions.

And yet, Sir, in that City, if a person drops a piece of a cigarette box on the street, such a person is liable, almost instantly to a fine. One gets a ticket for dropping something on the street and one pays a fine of \$25. I believe it has gone up to \$50 now.

But one can drive behind a car that is owned by a middle-class or a recently middle-class household in Barbados, and one can see the little children dropping sno-cone cans and sno-cone containers out of the car.

You can see the wrappings from sweets dropping out of the car. You can see the nice lady, very fine in her refinery, wiping her face with a tissue and throwing it out of the window of the car.

Now I do not believe that those people are inherently indecent. I believe it is an attitudinal problem, and no one has taken the trouble to draw it to their attention that this is a negative aspect of our development.

I am saying that when we have a television station and a radio station, which is mostly being misused in recent times by the distinguished Minister responsible for Information, who is propagandizing in a manner that is not consistent with the two party system of development — but I will deal with that at another time — he ought to be in the vanguard assisting the honourable Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture to bring to the people of Barbados, through a systematic public approach, certain aspects of our development which are considered desirable.

When the honourable Member talks about the Sanitary Inspectors, I think, Mr. Chairman, that he must recognise, as I think the honourable Member for the City indicated, that the Ministry of Finance has not been paying attention to the environmental development of the country. If one looks at the allocation for the Estimates, one can clearly see that the philosophy of the Minister of Finance is not tied up with the environmental development of this country.

I do not know what he is concerned with these days, but he is certainly not concerned with the matters of which we speak today, because the Sanitary Inspectors in the small areas are still operating the way they used to operate.

5.50 p.m.

In part of my constituency, in the Hindsbury Road area, for example, the Sanitary Inspector is invisible. He is, in fact, having to deal with a number of issues on which I had to ask his advice. The Sanitary Inspector was not in a position to advise me which department is responsible for the removal of certain things from within the constituency — let me put it as broadly as that.

He reports to his superior officer and he has a certain specified job to do, and he does it well. I am saying this so that the honourable Member would know that there are still some who are going around and inspecting the receptacles with water.

Who is to remove old cars? Is that the private sector or the public sector? If you are talking about President Kennedy Drive, that is clear private sector. When you are talking about somebody who left an old car in School

Gap in Hindsbury Road, that has been there for years, it is useless talking about having the private sector move that old derelict.

The Sanitation Department trucks cannot move that kind of thing at all, so what you have, Mr. Chairman is this: The Ministry of Transport and Works will tell you that is not up their alley. The Sanitation Department will say you have to get that moved privately. You are in a tenantry the owner of the tenantry tells you he does not get enough rent even to fix the road furthermore move old derelict motor cars and things like that. The Sanitation Department has to check to make sure that there are no larvae in the areas with the old truck or old car that can get water; so they have done their job. Who, Mr. Minister, is to move that? That is part of the problem, the lack of coordination of which I speak. That is what concerns me.

We are going to debate this and it seems as if we are *ad idem* on what ought to be done and the question is who is going to do it. I wish to suggest that in this matter of the environment that the Prime Minister when he does a reshuffle — he has tried everything else and nothing has worked, so the next thing he has to do now to take people's mind off what is happening is to reshuffle — when he does the reshuffle, let him put the Environment in one Ministry. Let the Environment deal as it should with matters concerning the environment, and if he finds that Housing and the Environment, which I don't find myself, is too much for the Minister, and if he finds that the Minister of Agriculture wants Housing, give him Housing. Give the Minister of Agriculture something that he is interested in, because he is not interested in Agriculture.

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I know you will carry the message. He cannot get A. G. If he gets A. G. all hell would break loose, so it has to be Housing. But I am saying that if he tries to interfere with the Minister, who is doing his best in the environmental area on very short financial assistance, that the country would see it to be inherently unfair and unreasonable; so what he should probably do is let the Minister go back and function as he used to function best.

Mr. Chairman, as the honourable Member has said — I wish to say these things when the Minister is here, I have a few things to say to him — what the Prime Minister must do is to create systems, bring a committee together if that is what you must do, to find out who is responsible for getting the environment of Barbados back on the level it used to be.

I don't think that any Government has to take any particular credit for having a good environment in this country. It is something that all of us should be proud of.

I want to make this point, Mr. Chairman, I don't want you to clean up Barbados for the tourist. I don't want anybody to get up in this Chamber and tell me that because this is a tourist country we must clean it up. As far as I am concerned, if it is dirty for Barbadians, it has to be dirty for the tourist, but I am saying that it should not be dirty for us.

People who are born here, who live here and have to grow up here ought to be taught and trained and assisted to grow up in an environment that is commensurate with a healthy growth and development. We have to teach them that, and we have to teach the parents, who tend to forget sometimes, and we have to get parents interested and realise that children follow the leader. We have to get the teachers at school to ask the children again if their fingernails are clean.

This may seem to be backward, in some people's thinking, but you have to teach them at that age that when they are going to pitch, that they must pitch; but that when they finish they must wash their hands.

Mr. Chairman, we have not been having that in the primary schools. If one takes the primary schools in the honourable Member's constituency, Westbury has a junior and an infant school, for a substantially long time they had a garbage dump right at the entrance open. It took about.....how many years.....

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you think I am excluding myself from blame? Do you think when I am talking about environmental matters that I see a Democratic Labour Party way and a Barbados Labour Party way when they bring garbage?

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Now you are talking ! Now you have identified the culprit. The late Mayor of the City did not believe in environment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: My time is up? You can't move that I speak for another fifteen minutes? I should give up being concerned with the environment because I knew him? And behave like you?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister that he should exercise some care in not allowing himself to be deflected

by public opinion into the belief that the rat population and leptospirosis are predominantly an urban matter, or a matter related to derelict buildings and open house spots.

In my experience — and I have a lot of experience in this area — and in point of fact, it is in the cane fields where the rats have grown predominantly over the years, and in point of fact the identification of leptospirosis over the years came principally from the incidence of leptospirosis among people who were reaping the canes during the crop season. There was a tremendous decline in the years when there was controlled burning of canes where there was hardly any leptospirosis emanating from the rural area or in fact the urban areas during that period.

Another contributing factor is where you have people working in areas where there is a lot of stagnant water and where there is heavily infected material.

So you must be very careful in recognising that when you are dealing with the rat population, you have to look very carefully at what is happening in your cane sector, and I think that cane farmers should be encouraged to place adequate amounts of rat poison in the cane fields, and that would go a long way towards a reduction in the amount of rats in the country.

In point of fact, Sir, the Ministry had an official rat catcher some years ago, supplied by PAHO. I don't know whether or not his period has come to an end, but there should be enough information in the Ministry on the best way to control the growth of the population of rats in Barbados.

I just want to make the point that whilst we are going back into increased cultivation of canes and putting more lands into cane cultivation, you may find that the rat population might continue to grow whilst, at the same time, you may be cleaning up areas overgrown with bush and other debris in urban areas.

The incidence of leptospirosis would probably also increase if you are not careful in controlling the rat population in the cane fields if you have a reduction in the number of cane fires, now that we have identified beyond any doubt that those cane fires are more industry related than due to any wicked persons on either side of this House, and there are appropriate steps being taken to introduce disincentives for the burning of canes. 6.00 p.m.

I trust, Sir, that if the Minister of Health is going to address himself seriously to the problem of leptospirosis that he should not be sidetracked by the kind of publicity that is often attached to the occasional middle class person who might contract the disease.

It is rare indeed, Sir, for anyone from the middle class in Barbados to contract leptospirosis. I certainly have only known of one or two, Sir, in my professional life in this country. It is principally a disease of people working in the sugar industry and labourers working in various types of sites in the urban areas.

Also I think that the fear of leptospirosis has been grossly exaggerated, because people do not clearly understand the way in which the disease is communicated. So many people, again, would feel that they are liable to contract leptospirosis if trees and bush happens to be growing around them. The kind of hazzard they would have is not leptospirosis from that kind of thing, unless, of course, there are other bits of stuff dumped on the land which would harbour rats because it contains material which the rats can eat.

I hope that I have been able to give some sort of direction to the Minister in the approach to this matter. I am not an expert on the epidemiological aspects of rat growth prevention, but certainly I have a considerable amount of knowledge on the sources from which cases of leptospirosis would be found in Barbados, and it is important to remember that one of our main industries, the sugar industry, constitutes an important breeding ground for rats, and, there, important corrective steps should be taken.

This means that the Minister of Health would have to work very closely with the Minister of Agriculture, who, unfortunately, is not here, because I wanted to demonstrate to him the correct way of holding a fork; but, nevertheless, the opportunity will arise, I am quite sure, in the not too distant future.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister may wind up.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, it would seem that, with the exception of the opening remarks of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, we are nearly all agreed as far as this Resolution is concerned, and the need for it.

I just want to say one or two things in respect of the last honourable Member on the question of canes and its tendency to develop the breeding of rats.

The breeding of rats is no greater in canes than anywhere else. The problem with respect to last year was that last year was a peculiar year in terms of rat breeding since many of the canes were left in the field and the rats were able to find something to live on; they had ripe canes to eat and therefore they kept to the country.

Rats are pretty clever type of animals. The rats move wherever there is food. When there is very little food in the city, they move towards the country where there are canes, and they seem to know how to exist.

In the Ministry, I have been discussing with them for some time the possibility of giving a type of injection to people who work in the sugar industry as a protection against leptospirosis. My understanding is that there are several types of leptospirosis and, of course, you will have to know the type of rats you have in Barbados and the type of injection you would have to give in order to insulate the person from the catching of leptospirosis. I heard there are over two hundred types, and, of course, you would have to know the type of rats that exist in Barbados.

I, myself, am not specialised in the field of epidemiology, and, therefore, I cannot say beyond what I have been told. But I believe that it is a question, too, of habits of people — putting out food in garbage cans and unnecessarily throwing it about breed rats around the place. There can be a lot of waste.

The honourable Member for St. Philip North, who made a very, very brilliant speech, and I certainly applaud him, made a number of suggestions which I would certainly look at and examine and if I find it necessary to incorporate them, as I may well have to, I will have no hesitation in doing so.

But he referred to the fact that garbage is collected from his area only once a week, and he said that if he has fish to put out, he cannot put it out too early; he has to keep it around.

I would only like to say that I would hope that when people like himself, who are affluent, with a lot of things in their homes would look in the district for poor people, and rather than throwing things like fish in the garbage, they can give it to the hungry people out there, because if you were to read what the Director of PAHO said in his recent speech on World Food Day you will recognise that very shortly — he said by the year 2 000, there will be something like 700 000 000 who will either be hungry or on the borderline of starvation.

I believe that sometimes when the society is affluent and there are a lot of things that they can throw into the garbage, rather than seeing themselves as their brother's keeper and giving them some of what is there, they tend to encourage rats.

But sometimes there are people out there who are less fortunate than the rats. The rats can get food to eat, but poor people cannot get sufficiently close to the

affluent people in the society, therefore they cannot even get the crumbs from the table.

That is the situation in which we live and I hope the time will come when the situation will change, and instead of throwing food away, they will give food to people who are out there suffering.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, as well as the Member for St. Michael West, and the honourable Member for St. Philip North spoke on the question of love vine. This is a matter that I am going to deal with in a little while.

When I was the Minister responsible for Agriculture, recognising the problems that existed as far as love vine was concerned, I decided to hold a meeting with the Permanent Secretary, the Chief Agricultural Officer and one or two of the other officers in the Ministry, and I said then that it seemed to me as though love vine was becoming an epidemic in Barbados. I said that the Ministry should look at a serious programme for the elimination of love vine. I asked the Technical Division within the Ministry to come up with a programme and the Chief Agricultural Officer told me that love vine was not an epidemic. He said plants can grow even though there is love vine around or between them, and that he did not see the great, big thing in getting involved.

I was certainly disturbed. I have heard some of the most disturbing things coming from that man, as a principal technical adviser to me while I was there. Certainly, I have great sympathy for any man who went there before me and any man who came subsequent to me. But these are the problems which we have, and I think the honourable Member for St. Joseph referred to the problems that you can sometimes get in the Ministry.

As a matter of fact, I would dig in. If I see the necessity, I would dig in; because I am responsible for the Ministry constitutionally. I have got to come and seek the vote for the Ministry in here, and if I see something affecting the public's interest and I drew it to the attention of my officers, they have a right to work with me.

The honourable Member for St. Philip North has raised a number of issues which I see can be very workable. As a matter of fact, he is always coming up with ideas and, of course, I think this is how an Opposition should function. Let the people out there understand that you are capable of generating ideas and giving birth to those ideas. You are not only here to attack. Attack is quite good, it can be useful, too; but the more you attack, the more you sharpen the desire and the urge of the other side to better you when you come next time, by doing thing and bettering you.

6.10 p.m.

I do not know exactly how we would work the question of the recording and indexing system. Probably we can look at that and see how it can be done. That can be a very useful method and we will look at that.

The question of disposing of the buildings, the point about utilization of coral stone; that is an extremely useful one. I remember when I came into the Government, originally in the Communications and Works, there were a number of people, sharks out there, who were only looking for any derelict building to push down. They pay the Government little or nothing for those buildings and they made huge fortunes out of those buildings.

I stopped that when I went to the Ministry of Communications and Works and I became the undying enemy of a number of people who were fruitfully involved in that type of business. Therefore, I can appreciate the points raised by the honourable Member and I will certainly look at that.

I know, like the honourable Member, that the Barbadian, wherever he goes, likes to feel that he has a stake in the rock here, and he will do anything to come back or to acquire property here.

Those are not exactly the people. They must see that the environment is kept well, they must see that the lots are cleaned up, they must try to build wherever they can on the lots that they have and to make the environment fit for other people to live in.

We are not here to crucify anybody, but there is certainly a lot of people in our community who have reached the stage in feeling that all they have to do is to go out, get into a job at 8 a.m. or 8.30 a.m. back home at 4 p.m. or 4.30 p.m. get a bath and something to eat, and certainly watch television.

Now this is not what our foreparents did. They did better than that. They were all concern about the environment. They were all concerned about keeping around them tidy. They were all concerned about having good habits.

The Deputy Prime Minister asked just now if the people in school still ask you about hygiene; look at your fingers, look at your hair, look at your teeth to see how you come to school. Those standards have fallen. In my time, that were done. Today, the school teachers are coming in worse than the children that they are teaching and, therefore, it is not surprising that standards have fallen.

I think that the contributions made have been very good and useful ones. With this little money which is at my disposal, we will move towards the cleaning up of

the situation. I am particularly targeting the area of St. Michael, since it is a place where an epidemic can quickly develop, and, therefore, I will look very seriously at St. Michael.

There is a point I want to make. It is in terms of a correction. I understand that when I was referring to problems in Jamaica, in my opening remarks on this Resolution, that I mentioned the idea of Jamaica having cholera there. It really was not cholera, and, therefore, I do not want to convey that. It was polio, because the Minister was to meet me abroad and he could not come because of that epidemic. But I assure honourable Members that all will be done to improve the conditions which are around.

With respect to the question of the Westbury Cemetery, a question has been asked on this matter, and I do not want to advise from this point. Other people are more qualified to advise than me, but I think, really, that the question might very well have been addressed to the wrong person.

No matter who it is addressed to, Westbury Cemetery is owned by the Sanitation Services Authority and I am the Minister responsible. And whatever might be the problem with respect to that, the mere fact that a matter is brought to the attention of this Honourable House, it should be the duty of any person, be he the Minister or otherwise, to ensure that this problem is remedied; and so far as it affects the public largely, there should be immediate attention paid to this matter.

I have asked the Sanitation Service Authority to look at it. I, myself, will go there on Thursday morning, about 9 o'clock, in order to have a look. If the honourable Member so wishes, he can meet me there and we can look and see what the problems are like.

Until today, I was not aware that the chapel, itself, was in a bad state of disrepair and I will look at it at the same time as well, and will take all possible measures to try to rectify the problem which now exists.

Mr. Chairman, with that very brief reply, I beg to move, again, that this Head stand part.

The question that Head 36 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 41 – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION – \$1 700 000

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, over the course of the financial year, and at Estimates time, the Tourist Board made their submission for their requirements for this year and the Government appropriated a sum of money to the Tourist Board.

At the same time, the Government indicated to the Board that it wished to have a review of the total budget of the Board, an analysis of the ratio of administrative expenses, in particular, to total expenditure, and we requested that this be carried out in accordance with norms which have been established by the World Tourism Organisation.

Honourable Members may recall that part of the programme of the Government in relation to tourism relates not only to the enhancement of Barbados abroad, but also to greater control of the local aspects of tourism development. I think it will be necessary at this stage for me, in view of the fact that there has been a lot of talk lately about the controls on hotel building, to reiterate the position of the Government.

As long ago as August 6, 1981, Cabinet made a decision which was published, and laid on the Table of this House by me, which indicated that, in our opinion, an area commencing from south of Half Moon Hotel in Dover, Christ Church, to an area along Highway 2A to Warrens, straight, going in the northerly direction along the crest, to a place called Tropicana in St. James — I think the boundary is very near — we indicated that we would not be giving hotel aids in that area on the ground that it was too developed in relation to two problems which had been identified. One was the question of the Sewerage Scheme, and, secondly, the other was the question of the development plan which was being prevailed, and we said that new norms would be brought into force to deal with the problem which we talked about earlier, namely the question of beach erosion. 6.20 p.m.

Since that date, I am pleased to say that we have processed only one application, which was before us prior to this decision, and granted hotel aids only in respect of one property in that zone.

It is my intention, and it is Cabinet's view, that there is absolutely no need for us to grant hotel aids within that zone. It is a long area, we believe it is fully serviced, it has enough hotel buildings, and nothing can persuade us to change our minds in relation to that. Of course, there may be a few people who had permission before, which has not expired, and which is not caught by the new law, which we introduced contemporaneously, namely relating to the expiry of planning permission.

I can say this, and honourable Members who have had the experience of being Ministers before will understand, that in a small community like this, when you have to make such a fundamental decision, that sometimes you are liable to receive the butt of abuse of many. Well, I have received the butt of abuse from many, but, as far as I am concerned, it is like water on a duck's back.

We will not, Mr. Chairman, depart from this policy. We have had discussions with the Town Planning Authorities to reinforce this policy, and I wish to say that only the uninformed in Barbados could truthfully say that no effort or no policy direction has been given in this respect.

Parallel with our decision to exclude any property within that area from hotel aids, the Development Bank was also notified, by way of a general direction, that Cabinet's view was that loans should not be granted for properties to be built within that area, with the exception of the expansion of small hotels to bring them up to 24 rooms where they were under 24 rooms, and for the purpose of upgrading facilities for properties owned by Barbadians which were in need of upgrading.

The combination of these two factors has had its desired impact. I, myself, believe that there is still scope, and no matter what the interest of the Hotel Association may be, I still believe that there are areas outside of that zone which are not built up, in the north coast and in the south coast, which permission could be granted for well defined schemes where they are going to bring to Barbados business from areas where we do not get business from now.

That is the policy of the Government, it has been announced since July 1981. We put it in the Throne Speech and we are following that.

Mr. Chairman, we have had a careful examination of the tourist industry in Barbados and the causes for the decline in numbers in Barbados, and we have had the benefit of analyses, not only of our own Ministry, but independent observers, research institutes, such as the Caribbean Tourism Research Centre, and the views of two other very well recognised international consultants.

One such agency was Steigenberger International which was awarded a contract in conjunction with the Caribbean Tourism Research Institute to look at the demand in Europe for the Caribbean product as a whole. That was financed by the European Development Fund. The other one, the North American Demand Study, was financed for North America by the Inter-American Development Bank, again for the Caribbean as a whole. Those are the two major studies that have been dealt with; they looked at the Caribbean as a whole and then it was segmented.

Now, Sir, the world tourism business is a very competitive business. The Caribbean is competing with itself first of all, and, more importantly, it is competing with Hawaii, it is competing with Mexico, it is competing with Bangkok, it is competing with Sri Lanka, it is competing with the African coast.

Since 1978, this competition has intensified very greatly, and the growth in the tourist industry in the world, between 1978 and 1979, was sufficient for all of those major regional areas to participate in this growth. However, since 1979, which was the year in which the Caribbean as a whole peaked at its highest level, and Barbados' position coincided with that, the situation was different.

Three factors are responsible, according to the consultants, to a large extent, for the situation subsequently. There is no doubt that there is an intimate connection between airlines, air fares and the question of the movement of world travel.

Up to 1979, it was true to say that the world airline industry re-equipped itself in such a manner, by the movement from the first generation of jets to the jumbo jets, that it was able to absorb a lot of the increase in energy prices which was occasioned by the 1973-74 energy price increases. The 747, the DC 10 and the Tri-stars all made a significant contribution because of their advanced technology, their lower fuel utilisation, towards cushioning the impact of the fuel rise that took place.

Now in 1979-80, and the significant period is January 1980 — honourable Members will remember that although the decision was made by the OPEC countries in 1979, somewhere around November — I think the implementation date was January 1980 — since then, the world airline industry has had to adapt, not only to the increase in the price of fuel, but also to a very significant feature in aviation policy by one country, namely the United States.

6.30 p.m.

The impact of deregulation, together with the rise in fuel prices, came to its fore in the years subsequent to 1980.

Now, what did we have? We had a mad scramble among the airlines for market share, particularly on the North Atlantic or mid-Atlantic, as they call it, clear zone.

The Caribbean was at, according to these studies, a tremendous disadvantage in that because of the relatively low volumes of traffic coming from Europe and the United States to the Caribbean in relation to across the Atlantic, we were at the position where we were at the outer edge of the competitive airfares style.

So it was possible for people to go from Europe to Florida at a much cheaper rate per mile than it was possible for people to come from Europe to the Caribbean, notwithstanding the fact that, in distance terms, there was very little difference.

Secondly, the impact of deregulation within the United States meant that it was possible to fly from any part of the United States to their Sun Belt at a much cheaper rate per mile than to come to the Caribbean. So as far as the airfare situation was concerned, the Caribbean as a whole was in a very difficult situation.

Now Sir, there can be no doubt that in 1980, 1981 and now that the strategies that the Caribbean have to develop — and Barbados is part of the Caribbean — and will have to continue to develop, will be to ensure as far as possible that the airfares to us are competitive; secondly, that we carry out a programme of advertising similar to the programme that our competitors use; thirdly, that on the ground, within the various destinations, we ensure that people meet an environment which they regard as being an hospitable environment.

I want to deal with three of these areas. The first one that we did last year, to come into effect for this financial year, was that we expanded the base of the tourist position to Western Canada, Western United States; we increased the staff in New York/New Jersey area and we increased the staff in the Toronto/Montreal area. That was the first point. Secondly, we increased the staff in the United Kingdom, by the addition of another salesman, and we increased the staff in Europe.

Now, I think at this stage, Sir, it would be very important for us to look at the rationale behind that, and this is very important.

Barbados, as a destination, for a long period of time tried desperately to reduce its dependence on the traditional November to April dependency on Canada and the United States.

Honourable Members will recall that Canada and the United States used to be responsible for a very large proportion of our visitors, certainly up to 1977. Since then, we have been able to diversify our range by bringing our visitors from Europe, including the United Kingdom, from a very low percentage of our total visitors to a significant percentage.

In addition to that, we spent a considerable amount of time trying to diversify even further to increase the number of our visitors from the Caribbean and from Latin America, so that we reached the stage where, roughly speaking, within two or three percentage points, the number of our visitors from Canada, from the United States, from the United Kingdom, from Europe and from the Commonwealth Caribbean and South America, were roughly equal, all around 20 per cent of our total number of visitors.

There was also another rationale in that. We were trying to lengthen the season in Barbados and to iron

out the peaks and valleys, and we were very successful in having what I would say, and what has been described by the consultants as roughly an eight month season as opposed to a four month season. I have the statistics and I will give them to the honourable Members, because it is interesting to look at what has happened. Mr. Chairman, therefore by 1979/1980, and indeed by 1981, we had a situation in which we had a relative balance of the number of our visitors from these various sources.

Now, Sir, in the United States of America, arising from the depression that has taken place there, and I think even President Reagan now concedes that in the United States of America there is a depression going on; he now concedes it

(Asides)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, you can only improve if you were somewhere where you were not improved, so I think now that everyone can see that there was a depression in the United States of America.

After all, 10.1 per cent of the labour force in the United States, the highest percentage of their labour force since 1932, is now unemployed. In the face of those facts, I do not think that anybody could fail to concede that there is an economic recession.
6.40 p.m.

For this United States business, there is a mad scramble going along. Tremendous sums of money are being spent in the United States, coming back here, coming back there, hedonism; all kinds of imaginative programmes, some very good, some would be totally unacceptable to this community. All of these things are taking place, and, naturally, if we are in this very competitive environment, it is necessary for us to indulge in a far more aggressive consumer advertising programme than it would have been before.

In Canada, our situation is much the same. The Prime Minister of Canada described the Canadian economy, when he opened the meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which took place in Toronto recently, or at the opening of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting, as being in its worst condition for forty years.

We know, Mr. Chairman, from our own knowledge of our relatives there, that they have complained to us bitterly, not only about the shortage of jobs, but also of the phenomenally high interest rates which they have to pay, and, as well, about the devaluation of the Canadian dollar in relation to the American dollar.

So a Caribbean destination has to face up to the fact that there is a reduction in disposable income in

North America, both Canada and the United States; secondly, there is intense competition for this question of the amount of people who wish to travel, and, thirdly, there is a competitive fare disadvantage, if you are in the Caribbean, in relation to domestic United States travel, and also in relation to going to Europe.

Now, Sir, all three of these factors showed themselves very visibly in the latter part of last year and, particularly, this year. As the world economic crisis deepens, two things have happened which have had a serious impact on the Caribbean. One is that the United States dollar became stronger and stronger vis-a-vis the European currencies. I think this is a fact. Earlier this year, the dollar reached its highest level ever against the Deutsche mark, the pound and the yen. One can get 7.25 French francs for a US. dollar. I think \$US.1.71 buys a pound now, so the strength of the dollar in relation to the pound is very, very high.

The impact of that is that an American going to Europe finds that his dollar stretches far more than if he is coming to the Caribbean, because we are tied to the United States dollar.

The second point, Sir, and this is even more significant, and it is one that is causing not only us but many other people some concern, is that Mexico has just devalued their currency from 30 pesos to the dollar to approximately 80 pesos. That is the official rate, but the real rate, they tell me, is somewhere in the vicinity of 90 and 100 pesos to the dollar.

As a matter of fact, all of the border towns on the United States-Mexican borders have requested the President to declare them disaster areas because the Americans have left the shops on their side of the border, gone over on the other side of the border, bought the goods with American dollars, brought back the goods over the border and sold them back cheaper than the ones they can buy on the other side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Three minutes more.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I did not know that when you introduce a Resolution you had a time limit, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Half an hour.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Very well. I can speak again.

Our position is that this year we have suffered greatly from the situation in Europe, and Europe is the most important area for us in summer time.

The first three months of the year, we held our own. In summer of this year, I am very pleased to say

that in the month of August we had a rise from the United States of some 17 per cent.

I am very pleased to say that I welcomed participation, from the point of view of a spectator, in the novel method of promotion in the United Kingdom, but that market did need a stimulus because of the fact that it dropped significantly this year from last year, and if you have read any of us who follow newspapers and try to follow the motivation and the methodology of operation of an Englishman, you would find it strange that the head of their Hotel Association, who is a member of the International Hotel Association, said that 1981 was a big year for travel in the United Kingdom, and the reason was that people had redundancy pay and they spent their redundancy pay on travel, because if they did not spend it by November in that year they would not have been eligible for unemployment benefits in this year coming.

It is most remarkable; I cannot follow that kind of motivation. To a Barbadian if you get redundancy pay, the first thing you would think of doing is saving it, but apparently, the first thing they think of doing is getting rid of it, having a good time — blowing it.

So this money that we are providing will be granted to the Tourist Board for programmes, for summer advertising, T.V. advertising some advertising in the other electronic media, co-operative advertising with the airlines, and the markets that we are targeting this advertising to will be markets in the United States of America principally, but we have insisted from the Ministry that part of this money will have to be spent in an intensification of the tourism awareness local programme.

That programme started last year, and we would like to see it intensified. It is very obvious to me that such a programme cannot be done in-house. It is a programme that has to be done to reach out to the whole community. We have to get into the schools we have to get into the churches, we have to get into the community generally, because it is very important that the whole community understand the parameters of catering to a large number of people. They must understand that.

Not only this destination has to understand that; destinations all over the world have to understand that. After all, we have been in the business now probably fifty years only. We are not like Switzerland or Austria or Germany or those countries who have had this thing going from the mediaeval time. We are relatively new in this area, and we have to educate our public in relation to this. I will be able to give some further details of the programme if honourable Members wish to have them.
6.50 p.m.

I only want to say this. On the question of the airlines, I think I made a statement here last week setting

out the Government's position. The Government has come to the conclusion that it is impossible for the sub-regional group in the Eastern Caribbean to expect that we will be able to have the same fare structure as the northern Caribbean unless we pool our resources and try and fight, as hard as possible, both Canada and the United States.

We have made some progress with the United States. I hope that the Canadian Government will accept the Government's request for designation of BWIA as Barbados' carrier for Canada. We have got the Americans to agree that we can combine our Canadian routes with our United States routes. We have requested the Canadian Government to accept our request for designation.

We are only willing to settle an Air Services Agreement with Canada, now that the other one has expired, if we get some additional points, and we get Toronto as one of those points, and we also get to pursue this question of designating BWIA to Canada.

The Venezuelans are accepting it, we are having the Americans accepting it and we do not see why Canada should not accept it. So that is our position in relation to North America.

I would speak later, Sir, if there is anything. I would like to give some more details, but I would speak later, Sir.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I really do not think that the Minister had to push what is, in effect, an open door for us on this Resolution. But I believe that he wanted to put on the record, again, the position which he has taken.

It is remarkable, Sir, that he identified two experts who have informed the decision which has now been made, and my colleague, the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was indicating to him that there was another area of expertise which had informed the Government. But I do not think he fully understood the point which was being suggested *sotto voce*.

I wish, Sir, to draw to his attention, a debate which occurred in this Honourable Chamber in June, when two Bills came before this Honourable House, in which the issue of tourism was debated. I am very pleased to remind him that on page 1728 of the Debates of Tuesday, June 22, 1982, the objectives which this Resolution seeks

tonight were clearly adumbrated, outlined and specified for the Government.

I will quote just a snippet, although I recommend that all honourable Members refresh their memories by referring to this debate. After laying some claim to expertise, based on my experience in public life in this sector, Sir, I said this — from page 1728:

"I wish to say that I do not believe that we have been spending enough money in the promotion of tourism to Barbados, and that the money which we have been spending has not necessarily been spent in the most effective way."

I then talked about the kind of promotion which we now do, or which we were doing, the bonanza type promotion, and then I went on, on page 1729, to say as follows, Sir:

"Mr. Speaker, that kind of promotion was probably useful back in the Sixties, and, perhaps, the early Seventies. But soon as we had had the energy crisis, all of those engaged in the promotion of almost anything — salesmanship, especially in the United States and Canada — came to realise that there has to be a more specific message; there has to be a different approach of sending the message of promotion, and that the third man in the communication link, between he who is sending the message and he who is receiving it, has to be eliminated to the extent that that is possible."

I then talked about the Jamaicans, and, without repeating the entire debate, Sir, I think that I am not being immodest if I suggest that honourable Members might wish to refresh themselves on what I had to say.

And so when the Government acceded to that recommendation, along with other information, which I accept the honourable Minister's point that it came from other experts or other sources — because if they are experts, they would perforce have seen this particular phenomenon — we on this side cannot find it in our hearts to be against the spending of more money in the development of tourism.

I would say, Sir, that in this Resolution, there is one word that is misplaced. In the fourth line it says:

"The sum of \$1.2 million is therefore being requested to be spent on a 'massive' advertising campaign."

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is in the Barbadian context.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You see, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about US\$600 000, and I think that the hon-

ourable Minister, with all of his exuberance, must point out, and ought to point out, that that will not be able to bring about a massive advertising campaign, especially if we are going to be using the television medium, but it will require that the message which is sent be meticulously articulated, that the promotion be carefully and correctly prepared, because the fact that we are spending a small amount of money relatively speaking, requires us to get every possible benefit from every cent we spend.

If one listens to the Jamaican airline advertising in Barbados — I found myself coming up the steps of this Honourable House today singing, "We are going to win you over"; it is remarkable, but that is precisely what happens — one wishes to go to Jamaica to see if the airline can win one over.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am going to finish the sentence, Mr. Chairman. It is a question of them utilising their dollars effectively.

I will resume after the break.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked for leave to sit again.

The time is now 7.00 o'clock. This sitting now stands suspended until 8.00 o'clock this evening. 7.00 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply; to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply; Mr. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. The honourable Member for St. Michael West. We have about five minutes more and then I will have to use the guillotine.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in view of the situation, I will merely make the points seriatim which I intended to expand on.

I already indicated that I believe that they will have to do very quality advertising in order to utilize this money effectively, and I would like to suggest to the Minister that he has got to involve the airlines in promoting Barbados much more than they have been.

The airlines coming in to Barbados have an obligation to include Barbados in the wide and massive promotion which they do for themselves, and those of us who follow these matters know that they include, certainly, Jamaica in every aspect in the promotion of this region. Time does not permit me to expand on that, but I am sure the Minister will take it as offered.

I would also like to suggest to the Minister, notwithstanding the new policy concerning B.W.I.A., that he should bear in mind that the Canadian Government is likely, if their policies toward Cuba are any indication to look with much favour on the establishment on the Grenada Airport, and will use that new possibility to the utmost in their negotiations on the air routes.

Air Canada forms a different part of their development than does any American airline and, therefore, the Canadians are unlikely to be as amiable in the negotiations, seeing as how they have no President Reagan who is looking for a favour, at least a public favour. Mr. Trudeau is unlikely to have the same attitude as President Reagan.

I believe that Air Canada has not been pushing Barbados in the last two years as they had pushed Barbados in the previous ten years. I think it is very important, therefore, that we find a road toward bridge building with the Canadians so that we can get Air Canada to take the kind of interest they used to take in promoting Barbados as a destination.

I am very sorry that Jerry Bourne in Florida has gone into bankruptcy, but I think the Minister will now agree with me that he was a bad investment to begin with. During my time as Minister, I found that his recommendations and propositions were always tending toward the imaginary as opposed to the real, and I think that our investment in Jerry Bourne was a bad decision. Again, time does not permit me at this point to deal with them.

I want to take issue with the Minister on the Western offices in the United States. I think that the western offices in Canada are probably useful, but I wish that I had enough time to expand on my view that it might not have been the best decision we have made to open offices in the west, bearing in mind the availability of our resources.

I feel, very strongly, that the exploitation of the Eastern Seaboard has not even come near to its full

potential, and that we ought to have considered expanding on that seaboard more, and better, before considering the western states.

It is extremely difficult in these times to lure people from the western United States into destinations like Barbados, when Hawaii, and, to a lesser extent, Jamaica, offer such cheaper competition — to say nothing of the possibility of flying from Los Angeles to London for less than it takes to fly from Los Angeles to Barbados.

My recommendation is that, even at this time, we give consideration to reorganizing our tourist promotion in the United States and to our closing the western offices. I am sorry that I cannot give the Minister the benefit to my thinking on this, due to our time situation but I would think that the Tourist Board has been generally, badly advised on that western states venture.

I would also like, in the light of the success which has come to the London office arising out of the cricket promotion — and on all sides it has been described as a very successful venture; it was unique — and coming on the heels of that there is a very substantial rumour that the lady in London is about to be fired.

If that is so, I think the Minister ought to intervene, because anyone who has that kind of imagination, the mere fact that she might have overspent the budget a little bit is not sufficient for her to be considered being fired. Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that it would be in the interest of the tourist promotion product to get rid of that lady at this time.

I finally end, Mr. Chairman, with a suggestion that since the CBI has not been demonstrated as a profitable enterprise in the context of Barbados — given US\$10 million or US\$20 million to be shared among a large number of countries, all of whom could use four times or twelve times that amount — that whatever finance we get from CBI be coupled with a promotion effort, helped by the United States Government, in our tourist promotion.

If they really want to demonstrate that they are interested in us, let them get the United States airlines to demonstrate for them in kind. Let us use the \$2 million or \$3 million that we get from the CBI to promote tourism.

(Asides)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I know you didn't get the money; if you ever get any.

Mr. Chairman, time has run out, and at some other time I will want to expand on those points that I have taken.

The question that Head 41 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND EXPLANATORY NOTE
TO SUBHEAD 5 – POLYCLINIC DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME (I.A.D.B.) OF HEAD 78,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, this matter is simple and straightforward. (*Asides*) I beg to move that this item stand part.

The question that Head 78, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of two Resolutions, with amendments, in Committee.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that. 8.10 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING
BY THE GOVERNMENT FROM THE INTERNA-
TIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUM OF
U.S. \$2.7 MILLION

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Government from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the sum of U.S.\$2.7 million to assist in the financing of the Technical Assistance Project in Agricultural Diversification and Energy Conservation.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the Government's Development Plan and Capital Expenditure Plan place great emphasis on agriculture, particularly non-sugar agriculture, and on energy. Obviously the resources of Barbados are not such that we can provide out of our Current Account surpluses, when they occur, a sufficient amount of money to have a meaningful impact in these areas. It has therefore been necessary for us to utilise as much of the financing that we can obtain on concessionary terms in this area.

We had a considerable amount of discussion with the World Bank on this loan. It is a structural adjustment loan as opposed to a specific project, and the components of the loan will be divided up between agricultural diversification. It is for vegetables expansion to provide certain small farmers, irrigation and marketing.

The scheme of this loan is to provide for consultants, and we will have to provide the counterparts, and bits of the money will also be used for the purpose of providing the wherewithal in the sense of the seeds, fertilisers and things of that kind which are necessary for the purpose of carrying out the work.

They had suggested a short term consultant in labour relations, but I am pleased to say that we did not think that that was necessary, whether short or long term. If there is any need for that I am sure we can get it from the other side free, gratis and for nothing, and it will be treated in the same manner as all consultants' reports are treated. It will be evaluated and when it is found of not being of any great use it will be sent out and put among the archives.

The great thing about this is that the irrigation, the marketing and the extension of services to vegetable farmers is a very, very important area. We are trying our best to build up expertise in this area. We are very pleased with the progress that has been made with our non-sugar agriculture in Barbados. I think that the momentum has continued and the statistics will show that a considerable amount of progress has been made in this area.

When you think about it, Sir, we are self-sufficient in chicken, certainly we still have, I believe, a glut of about 500 000 pounds. Barbados is probably the only country that when you have a glut situation it does not lead to an automatic general reduction in price. We do have a reduction in the price of chicken, but only in specials. However, since such a large number of supermarkets are now using chicken in specials, the benefit would filter down.

We are beginning to use the chicken industry in many other areas than using the straight chickens as broilers. I understand that we are now in a position to produce a chicken sausage, a chicken Vienna, to compete with some of the ones that were coming in here. Perhaps it is not so well known, but we have done very well with turkeys; turkeys have done very well in Barbados.

Also, we have certainly had in the area of vegetables, a situation where this year, I am reliably informed, no licence was issued for the importation of vegetables other than broccoli, some cauliflower for a short period of time, and lettuce for a very, very short period of time.

One can remember the large amount of imported tomatoes, particularly in the wet season in Barbados — we always knew we could grow tomatoes successfully between November and April, and when the rains came in it was always felt that we would lose them — but persistence, the presence of some hydroponics and persistence in variety selection has enabled us to be very, very self-sufficient in this area.

The Minister of Agriculture has just come back from Trinidad where he had meetings with his counterpart, and it is fairly clear that we have identified certain areas of production capacity in Barbados which married with their shortages — not in tomatoes, in other vegetables. Barbados can safely produce carrots very well, we can produce sweet potatoes, we can produce onions and sweet peppers.

8.20 p.m.

Now, we have been trying for some period of time to get a market in Europe for sweet peppers. Last year the trials went forward and a forward order has been given, but this is an area where one has to compete not only with your price, but you have to bear in mind that packaging is very important, grading, very important and, also, transport, very important. I think that we are beginning to understand and to lick these areas.

One of the significant things that we have had is that the Ministry of Agriculture, the Barbados Agricultural Society and the BMC seem to, at long last have hit on a working relationship in which each one understands its role. I am very glad that I persisted in the view that agricultural marketing is a specialty; and if you have a Ministry of Agriculture, it is the duty of the Ministry of Agriculture to have within its own staff, internally and through its agencies, all its competence and expertise.

Obviously if there are international matters relating to national agreement, we are quite willing to help, but, basically, the cost of production, the price they are to be sold at, how to store them, how you transport them — I think that in many countries like the U.S. Department of Agriculture the Ministry of Food does it — the Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados has to build up that kind of thing.

It is useless only to hire experts in production who have no interest in Marketing, who have no interest in cost, and that kind of thing.

I think we have got the nucleus there now, and I can only say that those who do not fit

into the concept can do us the favour of looking for other areas where they can fit into the concept.

But that is the determination of the Government that you must have within the Ministry all of that expertise in-house. Let them fight their battles in there. Let them do their barn stomping in there. Let them put their brains together to deal with that.

Now the question of the energy conservation. This is a very important area, also. We have done, under the Caribbean Development Bank AID Programme, what is called an Energy Demand Study in Barbados for the non-traditional various sectors in the economy. We want to pursue this further, and we have now reached a position where we know the demand for particular types of energy, what they are, and what we need now is to get comprehensive advisory services to your architects, your house-builders, your hotel people, your supermarkets, your commercial people and, to the most important of all, the transport industry.

Transport is a very very important utiliser of energy in Barbados. There are a number of energy saving devices that have been discovered, are put in use in other countries, and although it is fairly safe to say that certain sectors of the economy of the energy users in Barbados are making some progress we need to look at other areas. Of course we have made great progress in solar water heating; Barbados is now the envy of many countries when the experts come here to find out how far we have got in that area. The capital cost may be a little high at the beginning, but that has been mitigated by tax exemptions that have been given and also by the realisation that there is a significant difference to be gained.

So the other part of the loan relates to energy conservation for implementing the policy now — we have finished the studies. And this is not alternative energy, but it is a straight question of energy conservation and there is great scope in that area.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, and reserve my right to speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, if you move fast you will always be on time and you will not be late.

The honourable Member, Sir, has addressed himself to one aspect of this particular Resolution, which seeks, Sir, to obtain a loan for U.S.\$2.7 million or Bds \$5.4 million to finance part of a \$7.506 million Technical Assistance Project, and he has pointed out that the purpose of the loan is to assist Government in achieving its goals of agricultural diversification and energy conservation.

The first point I would like to make, Sir, is that this is one of a series of loans, which this Government has entered into, which provides for a moratorium of some years.

Those of us who have the responsibility of monitoring very closely what happens in a situation like this, it would seem to me that when this is taken in conjunction with a series of other loans, which will have to be repaid, starting in 1985 and 1986, that serious problems might well be created in managing the external position of this country.

I must point out to the Government that although it might have some very serious problems at the moment, not only in raising funds, all they are doing in this way is further building up the problems for the future.

And it is of interest to me that the dates being selected for the commencement of payment either fall into the year 1985 or 1986. I think we have had a \$60 million loan not so long ago with a moratorium of four years, which means that the commencement date would be in 1985; and that would carry a pretty high interest rate, depending on the rate of the Eurodollar at that particular point in time.

I think that the time has come when the Government has to seriously examine its commitment to further external borrowing. I am not going into too much details at the moment, but suffice it to say that our external commitments, either direct or guaranteed, are expected to rise to the astronomical level of 30.6 per cent of the GDP next year. And on the assumption that Government is able to reduce that percentage to 25 per cent of GDP in the following year, thereon hangs the credit worthiness of Barbados.

8.30 p.m.

The Government has been cautioned by the World Bank that these broad criteria are most essential to follow, and, certainly, they have been cautioned to look into the area of other areas of short term borrowing within that period.

Since that document was produced, Sir, the Government has found itself in a situation where it has had to resort to the facilities of the International Monetary Fund, consequential on its own internal mismanagement of the economy and of export shortfalls.

That will be a substantial amount of money, and, over and above that, Sir, the Government has indicated that in the agricultural sector alone, it is seeking an external loan to re-finance the monies, which, according to the Minister of Finance, were wrongly applied, for a long term purpose in terms of the construction of Portvale factory. That, too, will involve external funds.

I understand that there has been a considerable amount of difficulty in raising money domestically for the projected sugar bonds, in that there was an element of non-compliance by the domestic banking companies and by the insurance companies with whom the Government met

Mr. SPEAKER: Please

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I am evaluating this loan.

Mr. SPEAKER: And I wish you to leave Portvale and its bonds exactly where they are.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, this relates to the agricultural sector.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know what it relates to. You have one speech from the day you come here until the day you leave. I do not want to say you are treacherous, but it is high time you be told this. Yes, and I want to repeat it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I will continue. The point I am trying to make is that, quite clearly, the Government has exhausted its capacity to borrow in the present circumstances, that a consequence of this external borrowing has been a disruption of the resilience of the Barbados economy, which has always been based on the fact that, despite the ups and downs, it has always had the capacity to borrow in times of difficulty, and the capacity to move its external commitments upwards and downwards within a very short framework of time — which has always been evidence of its credit worthiness and its capacity to meet its external commitments consequential on its borrowing.

I, myself, feel, Sir, that the Government, by continuing to borrow money without clearly analysing the implications of such loans, and simply saying again and again that it necessary to borrow in order to keep your capital projects going, has failed to understand that when you borrow money externally that it is vital that you demonstrate that you have the capacity to service those loans in terms of your exchange earnings, which means, in the final analysis, increased productivity, or increased savings within the particular sector, so as to set aside enough foreign exchange in order to meet such commitments.

Now, Sir, many of us have felt, for a long time, that Government has lost sight of the fact that one of the basic aspects of the economy of Barbados, and perhaps, it is the most fundamental sector, is the agricultural sector.

I have heard much talk about progress in agriculture, and that certainly has not been substantiated either

by statistical data, nor has it been substantiated by our export earnings, nor by our foreign exchange savings, nor by the inability of that sector to exist as a viable entity without various forms of supports, either domestically or externally.

A successful diversification programme in agriculture must relate to the use to which you are going to put the available lands and resources in Barbados. Not so long ago, we committed ourselves to a policy of producing some 150 000 tonnes of sugar per year, which means that a substantial percentage of the acreage of our land will be taken up by sugar; and in order to provide for that level of sugar production, it means that we have to look for a domestic price support over the next three or four years amounting to some \$75 million or so.

The implications of that, plus the fact that we have to be looking for a further hard currency loan in that area, means that in the event of external markets being not what we expect them to be at the end of that point in time, we may very well find that we have thrown a lot of money down the drain and probably committed ourselves to another \$100 million in debt, which the taxpayers of this country will have to pay. That is on the one hand.

On the other hand, the argument against diversification has been two-fold. It has been said that (1) it would be too expensive in that we do not have the infrastructure in place in Barbados to make maximum use of a diversification programme, and I refer, Sir, to such matters as cold storage, such matters as agro-industrial development, packaging, marketing, transport both within the country and outside of the country.

But I will say this, Sir. The history of Barbados is one of agricultural diversification, and, no matter what the experts say, the fact remains that over the years in Barbados, before the agricultural sector was run down, when agriculture constituted the main contributor to the Gross National Product of this country, there was a significant element of agricultural diversification in Barbados.

It is a fact, Sir, that we were able at the time when our external position was largely autonomously regulated, that is a technical term, where in the absence of Central Bank facilities our external position was autonomously regulated, one of the major regulators of that situation was the agricultural sector, and, in particular, the capacity of the land in Barbados not only to earn enough foreign exchange to provide for those needed goods and services of the country, but, also, to effect savings so that your foreign exchange was not frittered away on the purchase of proteins,

carbohydrates and related foods which could be produced locally in Barbados.

8.40 p.m.

Now, Sir, we find ourselves at the end of the day having to go, on the one hand, to support a traditional industry, probably — to the tune of \$100 million, putting that at risk — I refer to the sugar industry — and now we are, on the other hand, looking for external funding for what we call a structural adjustment loan.

It should be called a structural re-adjustment loan as far as Barbados is concerned, not a structural adjustment loan. It is a question of putting Barbados back on the footing, recognising the capacity which it has had in order to have a vibrant, non-sugar component over the years.

Many people, Sir, may well recall that, if you were to examine very closely the dietary patterns of this country over the past fifty years, you will find that basically we have been able to improve on the health of this community, to provide the basic protein and other nutrients, to provide for adequate mental and physical growth of the community; and that took place and exploded in an era where there were very few imports in Barbados.

Only today, I was reflecting that there was a time, apart from salted meat, pigtailed and jowl, salt fish, pilchards, sardines, salmon, corn meal, flour and rice, when there was very little else imported into Barbados. And, also, that over the years, just as people's taste and their approach to diet can be changed from one direction to another, similarly, it can be re-adjusted.

I have always argued, Sir, that the millions and millions of dollars that we have thrown away over the years — I can only think, Sir, of the tremendous wastage of money on the Heywoods Project, wastage of money on CARIFESTA and elsewhere; and you can think of other areas where there have been massive amounts of money wasted — if that money had been pumped into agriculture, and if much of the concessionary financing, which has gone to the Barbados Development Bank from the European Investment Bank and a wide, other range of sources over the years, had gone into agriculture and fisheries over the past six years, today we would have a vibrant agricultural sector.

Now, Sir, let me try to explain the importance of this. No industrial development, in any country, can have a safe footing unless it is securely rooted in an indigenous product. Agriculture has provided the basis for the earliest attempts of industrialisation in Barbados; the very earliest attempts of industrialisation of Barbados arose out of

agriculture, and there are many other areas where there could have been further development of the industrial sector of Barbados arising out of agriculture and out of fisheries, if the amount of effort that we have spent trying to raise a quick dollar in the tourist sector had been spent trying to establish certain structural adjustments and backward linkages in the new sectors of the economy which were being generated by those externally borrowed funds.

For example, Sir, during a period where there is a slump in tourism, if you had a firm linkage between your agriculture and your tourist sector, the impact of such a decline would not be as great — the cost of earning the tourist dollar would be substantially reduced because you have another industry that is very much related and forms part of the support services for your tourist industry through the backward linkages which I have spoken about.

You know, Sir, there are many people who do not seem to understand the entire tragedy of this kind of borrowing, and they do not recognise the difficulties that will be facing this country in the ensuing months, or maybe years, and the speed with which we get out of these difficulties, would be entirely conditional on the fact that we have wasted a lot of money that we have borrowed externally rather than using it for proper investment purposes within the country.

Now, Sir, all this talk about non-sugar agriculture is coming from the honourable Deputy Prime Minister. His position is clearly different from that of the honourable Prime Minister who has, on many occasions in this Honourable House, pointed out — and I do recall that on the last occasion I spoke on this matter, I quoted from a position taken by the President of the Chamber of Commerce. The President of the Chamber of Commerce made a comment on the possibilities of developing non-sugar agriculture — and the Leader of the Government certainly takes the position that this kind of approach to agriculture in Barbados is a relative waste of time, and that the only approach to agriculture which is acceptable to him is one where you depend exclusively or predominately on your sugar industry to earn enough money in order to purchase the other things, where Barbados, as he says, will become the shopping centre of the Caribbean.

So it seems to me, Sir, that there is a great divergence of opinion in Government circles on the role of non-sugar agriculture in Barbados. And the time has come when this Government should give the country a clear policy position in relation to non-sugar agriculture.

This loan, Sir, will be just a small amount of money. But we have had more than enough money available to us in Barbados that today we could well be the garden

of the Caribbean, in terms of the amount of food that we could produce for ourselves and also food that we can export.

Now, the honourable Minister has said that either he, or someone went down to Trinidad recently and has identified areas in which Barbados can export things to Trinidad and so on. But that has already been identified a year ago. A year ago, when CATCO first came into Barbados, one of the very first things they did was to try to make specific contact with the persons particularly responsible for the School Meals Programme in Trinidad and Tobago to see whether or not Barbados and the other Caribbean countries would be able to supply, continuously and in volume, to meet those needs.

There is no question, Sir, that there is a market locally for non-sugar agriculture. There is no question that there is a market externally, not only in CARICOM, but outside of CARICOM.

8.50 p.m.

Sir, within the past three or four years, a U.S. \$20 million export industry, which revolves around peppers and the processing of peppers to form curries in order to meet the demands of West Indians, and principally West Indians in North America, has been generated in another country here in the Eastern Caribbean along with some in from a South America territory.

Basically, Sir, it just shows that in one area, in the area of peppers alone, that you have the land in order to produce the peppers, the capital input is very low, and the market is there externally in order that that can be exploited. The same, Sir, applies in almost every area.

I have for some time pointed out that it is absolutely important that we in this Parliament should establish a Select Sub-Committee on Science and Technology, for a select variety of reasons. Because it would seem to me, Sir, that any thrust in agriculture has to be matched by a major thrust in science and technology as it relates to agriculture.

There is a whole area of canning that has tremendous importance in order to avoid the gluts that occur in Barbados from year to year, in terms of meeting your domestic demands, in terms of meeting your potential, external market, Sir, and, also, in order to enable Government to enter into an arrangement where they can probably guarantee a minimum price to farmers.

If you can eliminate the gluts in various areas, Barbados can produce the volume; or if you cannot eliminate the gluts, because of rainfall and other factors that are intrinsic to the geographical situation of Barbados, then you have to find some means of overcoming that.

That is what I mean, Sir, when I talk about the importance of establishing an industrial base in Barbados which has its roots within the agricultural sector.

Now, Sir, it is important also to recognize that whereas sugar agriculture, which certainly has an industrial base in Barbados, has served this country over the years, that that particular aspect of our agriculture is one that has always and will always be dependent on external factors, seriously dependent on external factors, and it looks very much to me, Sir, as though, in the foreseeable future, those external factors would be adverse.

On the other hand, Sir, non-sugar agriculture unlike sugar, if you invest heavily in non-sugar agriculture, there is one thing for sure. All you get out of canes as far as what you can eat will be sugar and related products, unless you have further industrialization in relation to that. But in the area of non-sugar agriculture, Sir, you have the capacity to provide for your entire population and to provide all the protein and caloric needs for this entire nation.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have now reached the hour of interruption, and I am to enquire if the matter under discussion is controversial.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir, it is controversial.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you need me to take a vote on whether it is controversial or not?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I don't think that is customary, Sir. When one gives an indication from this side that it is controversial, normally, as far as I can recall, the tradition is that that is accepted.

Mr. SPEAKER: If this matter is controversial, we have to leave this matter and go to another. Mr. Leader.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We do not have any other matters tonight that we can proceed with, and, therefore, I move that this House do now adjourn until 12 noon on Tuesday, October 26.

ADJOURNMENT

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 26, 1982 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly. 9.00 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Confirmation of Minutes of Tuesday, October 12.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. B. A. MILLER:

Resolution re sum of \$14 029 to supplement the Estimates 1982-83 Part I - Current as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1982 -83, No.5.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN:

Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government of the repayment of a sum not exceeding the equivalent of U.S. \$7,500,000 or Bds \$15,000,000 and the principal and interest thereon to be made by the Off-Shore Banking Unit of Barclays Bank International to the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government for the borrowing of \$17,000,000 by the issue of sugar Industry Bonds by the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

A Bill to amend the Barbados Telephone Company Act.

A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act.

A Bill to amend the Final Appropriation (1980-81) Act 1982-21.

Hon. L. R. TULL:

A Bill to amend the Prisons Act.

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY POWERS BILL, 1982. (J. G. ODLE, Chairman).

Interim Report presented, asked for leave to sit for further two months; granted.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. L. R. TULL:

Bill to amend Prisons Act.

HON. H. B. ST. JOHN:

Bill to amend the Barbados Telephone Company Act.

Bill to amend the Income Tax Act.

Bill to amend the Final Appropriation (1980-81) Act, 1982-21.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1982-83, No.4 (\$2 500 000)

1 A (1) HEAD 14 -ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION - \$550 000.....Mr. ST. JOHN, Mr. TAITT, Mr. HAYNES, Mr. BRATHWAITE, Mr. BOLDEN, Mr. SANDIFORD, Mr. GREAVES.

(2) HEAD 36- MINISTRY OF HEALTH - \$250 000. Mr. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Dr. HAYNES, Mr. BOLDEN, Miss MILLER, Mr. FRANKLIN, Mr. BRADSHAW, Mr. TAITT.

(3) HEAD 41 - CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION - \$1 700 000. Mr. ST. JOHN, Mr. TAITT.

B. RESOLUTION TO AMEND NOTE TO SUBHEAD 5- POLYCLINIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (I.A.D.B.), CAPITAL HEAD 78 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH.....Mr. L. B. BRATHWAITE.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING BY GOVERNMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF US\$2.7 MILLION (f.c.p.).....Mr. ST. JOHN, Dr. HAYNES.

Adjournment

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BRADSHAW, Hon. DeL. O. (St. Michael South East).
BOLDEN, C. L. (St. Joseph).
BRATHWAITE, Hon. L. B. (St. Andrew).
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North).
GREAVES, P. M. (St. Michael North).
HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central).
HINDS, His Honour W. C. B. (St. Peter).
MILLER, Hon. Miss. B. A. (City of Bridgetown).
ODLE, J. G. (St. George North).
ST. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church East Central).
SANDIFORD, L. E. (St. Michael South).
TAITT, B. M. (St. Michael West).
TULL, Hon. L. R. (St. George South).