

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday June 14, 1983.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.25 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. L. S. Craig, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
and Leader of the House)
Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, (Minister of Education)
Hon. L. B. Brathwaite, (Minister of Housing and Lands)
Mr. J. G. Odle, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. V. L. Johnson, M.A., (Minister of Transport
and Works)
Hon. L. R. Tull, Q.C., M.A., (Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Mr. R. E. Brathwaite
Mr. A. Truss

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, June 7, 1983.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that the Minutes of the Meeting of June 7, 1983 be taken as read, Sir.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no objections or observations, let the Minutes stand confirmed.

Messrs. H. A. BLACKMAN, W. O. FRANKLIN, P. M. GREAVES, and B. M. TAITT entered the Chamber and took their seats.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Government Business be the instant Order of the day.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting. I want to give the assurance to honourable Members on the other side, that there will be time for them to have Question Time and deal with any Private Member's Business which they may hope to do.

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

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

ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TWO MILE HILL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE BARBADOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Two Mile Hill, St. Michael for the expansion of the Barbados Community College and housing development.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE (St. Andrew): Mr. Deputy Speaker, in moving this Resolution, I would just briefly say that the property which this Resolution seeks

to acquire is a property known as "Morning Side", situated at Two Mile Hill, in the parish of St. Michael. It is contiguous to the property known as "Eyrie", which is now the premises of the Community College of Barbados.

This property was put up for sale by the original owners, and my understanding is that one of the christian churches in Barbados had an interest in this property. But it was thought that because of its proximity to the Community College and the fact that there was need for further expansion, that it was desirable for the Government to acquire this property, whereby the Community College could expand eastward, and any lands which were not utilized by the Community College could be used for housing development within that area.

This property is very useful, bearing in mind that although the Community College serves a fairly large population of students, it nonetheless has other faculties which are situated outside of its campus. At "Ladymeade" they have the School of Nursing in Jemmott's Lane, and the Hospitality Division the building at Marine House.

It is felt that, with the acquisition of this property, those two faculties could come within the compound of the existing Community College, thereby making the administration much easier than it normally would be with scattered divisions to control. And bearing in mind the burden which is put upon your traffic situation with the roads and bus service and what have you, having these areas spread out as they are, it is considered that it is useful to have the additional space at "Morning Side" for the expansion of the Community College.

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

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the idea of acquiring this parcel of land for the extension of the Community College does not pose a problem to the Opposition, and we are not against the acquisition of this land for that purpose.

There are only two things to which I would like to invite the honourable Minister to reply. The first one is that I happen to know of this parcel of land. It is a fact that the Wesleyan people had intended to use this for their Theological College, and they were a little bit put off by the fact that the Government is now seeking to acquire it.

However, in the interest of the wider community, we are quite in agreement with this. I would only invite the appropriate authorities in the Ministry to see how

speedily the compensation question can be settled, so that the Wesleyan College would not be put out and have to wait too long to find alternate accommodation for a college.

If the Minister would be graceful enough in his reply to give some indication as to what stage the negotiations have reached, and if they have made any offer for the parcel of land, it would also be very useful.

The part that I am not in agreement with, however, is the intention of the Ministry to use the remainder of the land for housing, and this is for two reasons. One, the Community College is not a static organization, so it is very obvious that the Community College would continue to expand. And if you use the lands now remaining from the present expansion programme for housing, you will restrict the use of the Community College for any future growth in this area.

The Community College is one of the products of the Democratic Labour Party that has justified itself, quite to the contrary of the experts of the day and the problems it had. It is now growing into a very useful institution, insomuch that the Minister of Education, quite rightly, has made an assessment of its usefulness, and has also made the decision that the N1 courses now being pursued at the University of the West Indies should be done at the Community College — at a much cheaper cost to the taxpayers of Barbados.

The Community College is playing the role as the intermediary between secondary education and university education, and is expected, quite rightly to provide the type of technician-class people that we need, and the semi-professionals, para-legal people, the medex people, and those encompassed by all of those areas that we now have, such as the hotel industry middle management courses. It is very obvious that this type of role would expand for the Community College. Therefore, I think it is a little shortsighted that we should seek now, having acquired something like 17 000 square metres, which is approximately 170 000 square feet or four acres, to use any that they will not use immediately for housing.

There is also another reason why I take objection to this. In my personal opinion, it is not the best of planning practice to encourage housing near to colleges and schools. With all of the schools that are near to this area, you would discover that there is a lot more vandalism in these institutions than other institutions. For argument's sake, if you have a look at Combermere, you would certainly appreciate that there is a lot more vandalism at Combermere than you would find at Harrison College, or at Lodge, or at Queen's College, or at Foundation.

12.35 p.m.

As much as we are trying to teach our people to appreciate Government's property, it is a fact that up to this moment of time there is a lack of appreciation by the general public that vandalism of Government property ultimately comes out each individual's pocket, and I would therefore like the Ministry to seriously consider that second point in considering any possible allocation of the land that they are now purchasing.

But the original point is strong enough on its own that the Community College, being a dynamic body, will obviously be expanding in the future, so we should have that reserve that we are not using for a logical expansion. It can certainly be used now to provide recreational facilities for the college, and also for the adjoining districts, until such time that the college will need this land to further expand its programme.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like the Minister to reconsider the possible use of any of the lands to be acquired, and I would be grateful if the Minister would give us some indication of the price being offered to the owners of this land for the property.

Thank you.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should just like to confirm that even before we started to build the Community College, the Democratic Labour Party Government negotiated with the original owners of "Morning Side", which the Minister will find on his file no doubt to take in a part of "Morning Side" to extend the playing field for the Community College.

The original owners, the people who were there for a large number of years, were reluctant to sub-divide the property in that way, because it would have created some problems as to what we call, in speaking of easements, *terminus a quo* and *terminus ad quem*, the exit and entrance of the property, and the proximity of the playing field to the dwelling house.

We did not abandon the idea of acquiring part or the whole of "Morning Side", as we had not started construction on the site, and we put it on what we call "the slow back burner". So there is no way that we on this side are opposed to the idea of acquiring the whole property, which is approximately four acres — they say it is 17 000 square metres; my quick calculation would bring that out to a little over four acres of land, including the site of the dwelling house — for the purposes of the Community College.

Now it appears that the Minister who carries around the portfolio of Welfare in his brief case — no matter what Ministry he moves to, that particular department moves with him — we know that he has been very active

in his constituency filling in the spaces where spaces exist, demolishing structures where they stood in his way. And I really equate him to the famous poem of young Lochinvar coming out of the West: "Of all the best horses, his team was the best. They say he stayed not for brook and he stopped not for stone, he swam the river wherefore there was none."

So the young Lochinvar who represents that constituency, he is staying not for brook, nor stopping for stone. He is anxious to have an in-filling, a permanent project going on continuously, cluttering the potential playing fields with houses, and I would enjoin the Minister of Housing to put his foot down. The time has come when we must stop all this filling in of our spaces.

We need housing, but let us plan. What about the cities in St. George — the tale of two cities — the satellite cities in St. George? Are we going to fill in all the spaces in the Ivy, all the spaces in Howell's Cross Road, and then go to Tichbourne, and I believe now I see some dilapidations taking place in a Zone 1 area close to the Belle Gully. I know they are filling in some depressions in the Belle Gully with a lot of unsightly garbage; I believe, contrary to the wishes of the Ministry of Health.

But as the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin) demonstrated, the Community College is not a static institution, it has organic growth. In the same way the Minister anticipates that we need more room for the facilities which are already in demand, I am positive that in one or two years time, everyone will come to the conclusion that it would be undesirable to put housing in the area which is not immediately required.

I am really asking the Minister to have a serious look at that. You would be sending back the people you brought in this time. When you find that you are a bit congested they will be going out probably three or four miles away, which would be inconvenient to the students. That is the only stricture I would level against the proposals. And I think the Minister of Health (Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman) should let the honourable Members who represent constituencies, like you and me, get a chance to get some housing, too.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me start by declaring my interest. I am a member of the teaching staff of the Barbados Community College and, naturally, I am quite pleased at the decision of the Government to take steps to expand this very important, very desirable, and very worthwhile institution, which has played its part in the educational development and educational progress of this country.

As the two previous speakers have said, we welcome the decision to expand the facilities, because there are definite indicators that expansion is required. The Minister has indicated that the Health Services Division is at Jemmotts Lane and the Division of Hospitality Studies is at Marine House, and it is desirable that these two divisions should be incorporated on the campus, so that the facilities for teaching and learning existing in those divisions should be integrated fully within the Barbados Community College.

But Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are, of course, other areas where the college may be in need of expansion. The library itself is under pressure, and I envisage that in due course they will be asking for more space for that. Already, particularly around examination time it is becoming difficult to find a place in the library for the students to study, and clearly there is an indication that an expansion in that particular area is required. There is also an indication that new facilities for the students will have to be provided in due course.
12.45 p.m.

I would like to draw attention, Mr. Deputy Speaker to another area for development. In the original Act establishing the Barbados Community College, provision was made for the establishment of a Division of Agriculture. Now, we have spoken a lot about agriculture in this country, but every time we come

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are we going to debate subjects other than land acquisition in respect of the Community College?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I would hope not, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I am not debating agriculture. What I am debating is the need for the expansion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would hope the honourable Member would keep within the framework of the Resolution before the House.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Sir, I will try to do that. This particular Resolution is for the acquisition of land for the expansion of the Barbados Community College, and the Minister in introducing the Resolution has indicated certain areas for the expansion of the College.

I am indicating at this stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker, other areas in which the needs for expansion are clearly indicated, and I am suggesting that a Division of Agriculture and the teaching of agriculture are certainly requirements at that institution, and I would hope that in the expansion plans, in respect of the acquisition of this land, there is planning for the establishment of the Division of Agriculture.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is as far as I will allow the honourable Member to go.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There is also an indication that there will be need for further development in the sports and recreational area, and therefore the land that is being acquired, it appears to us, will be needed totally for the immediate and medium term development of the Barbados Community College, and we are really querying why some of the land should be allocated for housing. We believe that the total area should be allocated to the Barbados Community College for the purposes of expansion of that college.

And I would, with your indulgence, Sir, draw attention to the fact that the original premises which sited the Barbados Community College at Sherbourne — I believe about seven acres — to the best of my knowledge are unused and the building, like a lot of other Government buildings, is there falling into a state of disrepair, when there is a crying need for housing development and other requirements in this country.

I believe that if the Government puts its mind to the whole area of further housing development, maybe they will wish to look at a part of Sherbourne for the housing, but do not go and put a housing development on land which may very well be required, either in the immediate or in the medium term, for the purpose of the development of the College.

I wish the Government would address itself to this question of the property at Sherbourne for housing purposes, and I do hope that the points that we are making would be taken into account when the Government replies on this matter.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the points raised by the Opposition are worthy of consideration, and I want to assure them that I will take the points which they have raised into consideration when the matter comes up as part of the utilisation of this land.

The primary purpose of the purchase is for the use of the Community College and the expansion thereof. The question of housing would be secondary in the sense that there are a few houses in Alleluia Bottom, which is somewhere along Howells Cross Road, where they are doing some road widening, and it is thought that a small area of land could be utilised to resite those houses and not remove them too far from the area in which they are at the moment.

But again, we can look at that. If it is thought that it is more advisable to take them elsewhere and leave the area intact, we will consider that. Therefore, I consider the points raised by the Opposition to be valuable and we will take them into consideration.

The honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin) asked a question about the price. The Government's valuation, based upon what was given by the Chief Valuation Officer, was \$280 000 for the property "Morning Side", but the owners, through their attorneys, put up a figure of well over \$1 million, which the Government considers to be unreasonable in the circumstances. At the moment I am not entirely sure at what stage they are, but there is still a wide difference.

Of course, we are dealing with the church, and I hope that the Divine guidance, which they should always have, will dawn upon them; and that they will certainly not be too greedy in the sale of this property to the Government, because the Government is privy to the price which they paid.

I am not suggesting that because you might have paid one dollar for something yesterday, and the value has been enhanced to the extent where it would be worth five dollars today, that you should sell it for one dollar, but I do not think the prices have been rising so swiftly in Barbados.

On the contrary, prices have been falling within recent times, not only in the food area but in buildings as well. My understanding is that properties which were being sold a few months ago for three and four hundred thousand dollars are now being sold for \$150 000 and \$200 000, so therefore it would mean that things are moving downwards.

I hope that when the church meets to pray that they will ask God's guidance in these matters and that they will see the needs of the Community College and the reason why the Government is purchasing the land.

In terms of Sherbourne, the Government is really not allowing the property to fall down. In a previous discussion in this Parliament, I made the bold suggestion that wherever Government properties are not in immediate use and they look to me as though they will go into decay, that I would be quick to suggest that they be utilised or be sold.

Sherbourne, in my view, is a very valuable area. I think Government will have to look very carefully at the use of Sherbourne, whether they want to utilise it for the construction of houses or to house other Government departments.

The Government is at the moment reasonably restricted in terms of accommodation, and there are a number of international organisations that are coming and are requesting space — I do not mean given space, but rental space — and if you are going in the market in terms of international agencies coming in and seeking your assistance in terms of accommodation, Govern-

ment may have to extend a hand of friendship to those bodies.

I would think that we should be very careful lest we rush into the utilisation of Sherbourne without giving serious consideration to its long term use, and therefore not plan for it.

All the points raised will be taken fully into account by the Ministry of Housing and Lands and by the Government generally.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe I have covered all the points raised by the other side. I appreciate the views which they put forward, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

12.55 p.m.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1983 —84 No. 2

HEAD 80 — MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE

Subhead 1: Improvements to the Library Service
Subhead 14: (New) Improvement of Cultural Facilities

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$110 000 is needed to provide air conditioning for the Public Library and also some upgrading of the electrical system.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not be very long on this Head. It is clear that the Public Library would have to have air conditioning, if the value of the books are to be retained, at the temperature that would make their life longer and hence contain their value.

One must, however, be amazed when one sees words that this matter was not drawn to the attention of the Ministry until late. It would seem to me that, in the preparation of the Estimates, something as fundamental as the environment in which the books are to be kept would hardly have been missed; but we have to accept whatever is said to us in good faith.

I really wish to speak on Subhead 14, Sir.

(Hon. L. R. TULL: I have not done that yet).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You cannot do it twice.

The Minister has indicated from his seat that he did not get to introduce Subhead 14. We assumed that we could do the subheads, whereas, as you know, we should in fact be doing Head 80. Are you going to allow this? I would sit and allow him to introduce it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will call the Subhead 1.

The question that Subhead 1 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Subhead 14 – (New) Improvement of Cultural Facilities

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): I understand that certain works were carried out to the theatres in Queen's Park during 1981: for instance, the provision of permanent electricity supplies in the case of the Steel Shed, and also certain structural work.

It was also necessary to undertake the task of putting the building at Gun Hill in St. George in shape for the storage of sound and lighting equipment, which as you know, Mr. Chairman, is an asset in the region of \$1 million that was acquired during CARIFESTA.

Now, while this work was done, it was not possible for all bills to be paid before the end of the financial year, as was originally envisaged. Therefore, this sum of \$42 000 is required at this stage to meet that particular expenditure.

In respect of Queen's Park, I think I should mention again that we now have three well-equipped, functioning theatres in Barbados: one at Queen's Park House and one at the Steel Shed. We also have a very good and well-functioning theatre at Combermere School.

Those of us who have been following the activities in the tents in recent weeks will know how very well used are the theatres that are now in a place, like Queen's Park, Combermere School, which is also very heavily used by the artistic community.

A substantial amount of sound and lighting equipment, which we acquired in 1981, is now stored under

safe and adequate conditions to ensure that such sensitive equipment is not damaged by the elements, or by imperfect storage, or by unreasonable usage.

At the moment, hardly any cultural performance of any size is being held in Barbados without the use of the equipment owned by the Ministry of Information and Culture. Particularly at this time of the year, Crop Over Festival time, it is clear that artists and performers in Barbados, have gained considerably from the exposure to quality work, quality equipment and quality performance in CARIFESTA, 1981.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Attorney General, the former Minister responsible for Culture, (Hon. L. R. Tull) talks about quality. He did not tell us about the quality price.

I see that CARIFESTA is going to be with us, like the poor, forever. We still have a small bill included in this supplementary to pay for the CARIFESTA. I think that although this is a very small one, it is symptomatic of why CARIFESTA cost as much as it did.

You see this little firm, Audio Visual Techniques of the U.S.A., there were a large number of amorphous firms like these which drew large sums of money for very interestingly doubtful work.

But we have heard so much about it, and we have had so many denials of it, that it is perhaps not worthwhile to pursue it any further. People, in the end, will have to make their judgment, as they seem to be doing on various Sunday nights across the country.

I wish to invite the Minister, who says that there are now "three well-equipped functioning theatres in Queen's Park", to go to the Steel Shed, not to see a show on stage, but to use it after the sun has gone down, for any purpose, and to come back and report to this Honourable House if he was able to use it effectively. 1.05 p.m.

Week before, Sir, the Annual Synod of Barbados rented the Steel Shed to have its session. I have the honour to be the representative of one of the Councils on Synod, and we were most embarrassed when it was discovered that there is no lighting in the Steel Shed capable of allowing anybody to use the Steel Shed after a certain time. In other words, whoever designed the Steel Shed only intended for it to be used as a theatre when shows can be put on, so that the only lighting that would be necessary would be that which you use to go to your seat after the play or the show has begun. It is the first theatre or auditorium I have ever seen where, if the house lights are turned up nothing, happens.

I do not know if it is that they were not functioning that week, but having had the experience the first night, and the Bishop having indicated that he had paid for the premises, he was directed by the Synod to see if we could have lighting that would be appropriate for the second night. I regret to inform you, Mr. Chairman, that the lighting we had was contrived by bringing two or three spotlights together and shining them down on the head table, and the rest of us had to catch as catch can to be able to read our papers.

It is a remarkable feat by somebody who designed the theatre and who left out the basic and the simplest thing — lights in the top that could shine down so that the ordinary person could read a programme. I make bold to say that it is impossible to read a programme in the Steel Shed during a performance if the lights are turned up.

And that is symptomatic, because when you examine the persons who seem to be getting most of the work for the construction of these theatres, you will find that there was a substantial cost. But now we come to the use of the facilities, we are finding a number of difficulties, which ought not to occur, given the amount of money which we spent on these centres.

I think it is fair to say at the same time that when one contrasts what was done on the Steel Shed with what happened upstairs of Queens Park House, one can immediately see that the person or persons who designed the Queens Park House understood the needs of the theatre, and the person who designed the Steel Shed, I do not know who it is, was obviously experimenting at very high cost, a thing which a developing country like Barbados cannot afford.

However, Sir, I thought that since the Minister was of the view that this money would solve the problem, that he might wish to amend the \$42 000 to include an additional amount to provide proper lighting in the Steel Shed, or he will have to make the decision that the Steel Shed will not be rented for certain types of activity, because it is not fair that anyone should pay money to the Ministry of Culture to rent the Steel Shed and then not be able to use it properly because there are no lights in the Steel Shed at all.

It is not that the lights were off, or that the bulbs were not burning. It is that there has been no provision at all, except for some very soft and special lights in the roof of the Steel Shed. That is the point I wanted to make.

I believe that within these three theatres some activity has been going on in the calypso tents, and I think it is abominable, Mr. Chairman, that a country can spend so much money on the expansion of culture, and

then when the calypsonian, in pursuance of his artistic ability, produces a particular type of calypso, which is available and can be heard in the tents nightly, that that calypso does not get the benefit of the exposure on the Government-owned station because it is deemed by the Government that the calypso is not in the best interest of the Government.

I would like to ask the former Minister of Culture if he could shed any light on the information, which is permeating this society, that two calypsoes, one called "Boots" and the other "Mr. T", have been banned from CBC. Mr. T is being played on Rediffusion, and on VOB, that progressive institution on River Road, but on CBC, apparently the Minister responsible for Culture, in whose name we are passing this money, has issued instructions that the calypsoes cannot be played, or ought not to be played, on Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I say it is a waste of time and money for us to be developing the arts in one direction, and in the area where you can bring the arts to the people at the least cost, you are frustrating the artistes.

There is a purblind scribe who masquerades under the pseudonym called Henri Christophe, Henry Christopher, who took it upon himself recently in the daily press to castigate the best calypsonian in Barbados for daring to write calypsoes which are critical of the Government, as he alleged, and who proceeded, in the most puerile fashion, Mr. Chairman, to assault the intelligence, both of the people who read the column and the people for whom he is an apologist, to be suggesting that the Mighty Gabby is somehow a dangerous person because he dared to have his name mentioned in what purported to be a poll in a branch constituency in a political party.

In other words, what this columnist, who represents the Barbados Labour Party's point of view, was saying, is that calypsonians do not have the right to join a political party of their choice. Or if they do, they do not have the right to continue to ply their wares if these wares happen to be calypsos which are critical of the Government. The honourable Member for St. Michael West Central (Hon. V. L. Johnson) did not have to give up his profession when he joined a political party of his choice. Why should Gabby have to do the same?

But that is not the point, Sir. When in 1976 the same calypsonian wrote a scathing attack on the Democratic Labour Party called "Licks Like Fire" — Mr. Chairman, when any member of the Democratic Labour Party heard "Licks Like Fire", it was like a whip going across the back — we heard no word from the Government party at that time. But now that all the calypsonians in Barbados are echoing and manifesting the views of the vast majority of people in Barbados, and they are begging 'Mr. T' to let them go — that is all that is happening, begging 'Mr. T' to let them go — and they are telling him that in 1976 he came and told them

"No more tricks" and they believed him, but all this is over, the Government, through its spokesman, or one of its spokesmen, finds that it is necessary to attack the man's character.

That is the point that is dangerous. They attacked his character. They did not attack what he said on principle. He did not say that what he is saying is untrue. He attacked the man's character. The argument was *ad hominem*. And if that, as we believe it is, is an expression of the Government's point of view, that free expression in this country is only to be allowed when that free expression is in consonance with the views of the Government, then we are truly running into dangerous waters.

1.15 p.m.

(Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: He could not sing it about you.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Nobody would write a calypso about you. You are not worth a calypso. Nobody would write a calypso about you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No cross talking, please.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is about up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I hope the Minister would recognise that if you build all the buildings in the world and put in all the most up-to-date equipment in the world and you label them theatres, and you seek by another route to remove the fundamental aspect of what truly constitutes a theatre, that you have done nothing more than wasted money and wasted time.

I hope we can look forward during this festival to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation allowing the free expression which the Government promised way back in 1976 when it said it would bring open Government.

If the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. Adams) wants to have some true relaxation, he should go to Battleground Tent at the Auditorium. That is where I recommend he should go.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that this point under the Ministry of Culture was brought into the debate here.

If there is one art form in Barbados which has developed considerably over the last couple of years, it is the art form of calypso. And the development of this art form, Mr. Chairman, is a direct result of the type of persons who have opted to take part in this art form. The present list of calypsonians spans the gambit of

professions in Barbados. They range from managers to teachers, graduate students, masons, carpenters, bank clerks and so on. And it is my contention that the growth of this art form is a direct result of the people out there having seen that there is no stigma attached to the art form, as was thought some time ago.

It is a little bit surprising and alarming, Mr. Chairman, to observe the type of treatment that is being meted out to these artistes. Only on Saturday, the calypsonians were having a meeting in the Queen's Park Theatre. I am not aware whether permission was granted or not, but the meeting was well in progress when a security guard came and told them that the meeting would have to stop; that his instructions were that the meeting could not continue any longer. And the meeting was brought to an end.

If you notice the attitude of the Ministry towards the calypsonians, it is an attitude that is creating a lot of problems in Barbados, one of confrontation and one of take it or leave it.

The calypsonians formed themselves into a body to represent their interests and sought to meet with the authorities of the Ministry of Culture, and quite rightly put forward the case for the calypsonians for their piece of the action and what they think they are worth. The Ministry's attitude was, "This is what we are offering, take it or leave it". No discussions, no negotiations — this is what it is! Mr. Chairman, that is creating problems in Barbados.

This present Administration has already caused a lot of hard feelings among the workers by legislating salaries, and the workers are reaching the stage where they are beginning to lose faith in their institutions.

In this particular case, I think the least that could have been done was that the body representing the calypsonians could have been given a hearing, even if, in the long run, the Ministry's stand remained. If this attitude is going to exist at all levels of the community, it will not encourage negotiations between representative bodies and the Government. It is not healing the wounds in the community, it is not making it any easier for us to have a peaceful community, when people are beginning to believe that they cannot say their piece and at least have a hearing for the betterment of everybody concerned.

If we, including the Member for St. James North (Hon L. S. Craig), who I know is an avid calypso fan, put our ears to the ground, we would realize that the calypsonians are very discontented with the attitude of the Ministry towards them in everything that they are doing this year.

Let us take a simple thing like the number of calypsonians going through to the final. In a year when you have 125 calypsonians, good material coming out, you are seeking to reduce the finalists from eight to six, which was thought at that time to be a petty reaction to the calypsonians' demand for an increase in prize money. I am happy to report that I have heard — I do not know how true it is — that the Ministry would allow the eight to go through, as it did in previous years.

We must encourage art form. It is going to redound to the betterment of the tourist industry in Barbados, because the festival is beginning to develop as a direct result of the calypsonians. If you go to the National Stadium with all the belly dancers in the world, all the kings of the crop and the queens of the crop and you do not have the calypsonians, you would not have more than three hundred people at the show. This is a fact. So to try and downplay the part of the calypsonians in the national festival is not fair to the calypsonians, and it is not fair to the people out there who want to hear the calypsonians and relax and have a good festival.

I can only invite the Ministry to show a lot more consideration in their negotiations with the calypsonians' body, and to take the people's view into consideration as well and make them part and parcel of the organization for the Crop Over Festival.

Thank you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, I rise to make one or two brief points on this matter.

Firstly, one would wish to hear a definite assurance from the Floor of this House that there will be no political censorship of the work of calypsonians in relation to Government owned media in this country. I understand that a partial assurance was given at a public meeting on Sunday night by "Mr. T", who stated that his concern was that Mr. Cameron Tudor has written some of the calypsos.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That was my understanding!

The second point, is that I would hope that the Government would disassociate itself from the remarks appearing in a National newspaper under a pseudonym, "Henry Christopher", a well-known, hired mercenary with his pen. The views expressed by this person in relation to cultural matters are reminiscent of what has taken place over the years in countries which are dictatorships and countries which use public funds and which abuse culture in a manner which would result in the entrenchment of the Government or the party in power, rather than the fulfilment of the cultural needs of the people.
1.25 p.m.

I believe that Members will understand very clearly what I mean when they look at totalitarian countries and they see the emphasis which they put on culture, and, at the same time, the extent of censorship which is exercised in those countries, which has stultified the growth of true cultural expressions within those countries.

This is the third point, and here I am appealing on behalf of all the taxpayers of Barbados. We have been trying again and again to get a definitive statement as to the total cost of CARIFESTA. At no time have we been able to get a clear statement from anyone on the Floor of this House. The only alternative statement that I have seen is in the Quarterly Report of the Central Bank of Barbados, Volume 8, No. 3, September, 1981, where there is a clear statement on page 8, which reads as follows:

"Total spending for CARIFESTA originally planned for \$8 million turned out to be well over \$20 million."

That was September 1981. Since then several settlements have been made with various people who had not been paid up to that point. Many people had catered for CARIFESTA in various respects, whether it be in terms of food, transportation, or various other services. Now today we have another Resolution relating to further cost in respect of CARIFESTA.

We know that, certainly if the Central Bank is correct, up to the end of September, 1981, the cost was over \$20 million. We do not know how much it is over \$20 million. We know that at that time large sums were owed to a large number of people in Barbados. I have not heard any complaints from those persons who were owed money at that time, so I presume that their claims have been satisfied in one way or the other.

I believe that the opportunity exists today for this Parliament and the people of Barbados to be assured of three things:

1. How much money was actually spent on CARIFESTA up to today, including the amount of this Resolution.
2. That there will be no further political censorship of calypsonians works on the Government-owned media.
3. That the Government will dissociate itself, firmly and decisively, from the views expressed by one of its agents in the Press, Henry Christopher, because that statement contains a dangerous and destructive germ. We reach the point where we begin to put more and more public funds into cultural efforts and then we find a spokesman coming out suggesting, very strongly, that there must be areas of public censorship.

We all know that that person, whom I regard as a hired mercenary, as I said — and the Government may be interested to know that he is hired not only by them, but also by the one-armed bandit operators from time to time to augment the price — that kind of person can defeat all the efforts made by the past Government and by this Government to enhance cultural expressions in Barbados. Those are the three points that I would like to make.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, really the personality of the Prime Minister seems to dominate something even like CARIFESTA. A supplementary of CARIFESTA: talk about "Mr. T"; censorship; hired mercenaries; and "the Prime Minister should know," the "paid agent of the Government."

What I will say is this, that the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) knows all about the hiring of journalistic mercenaries, where there are stables of journalistic mercenaries, and where there are statements made in the dining room at the House of Assembly about "the Democratic Labour Party does not have to have a newspaper,"; that "I can buy a journalist any time." The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central may be able to say who is the author of those statements, and, as I look around, who he has identified as the potential hired mercenaries available to his pocket. So do not let us hear too much about hired mercenaries.

Where a man supports a political party and writes on behalf of that political party, I do not call him a hired mercenary. I call him a man of principle. I would never call Cameron Tudor a hired mercenary, never, and I am not saying that sarcastically. I would not even call Herbie Arthur a hired mercenary.

Certain remarks made at this stage by Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS were ordered expunged from the Record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Leader of the Opposition is, of course, right, that one should not make derogatory statements about others. I am sorry that he did not get up when Henry Christopher was described as a hired mercenary and make the same point.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): I would have risen if the Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) had called somebody's name. As far as I know, there is no person named Henry Christopher....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Today is obviously the day for giving unnecessary offence to people who have done no wrong. Obviously, you could just as well

say that there is nobody called "Dipper". Must I come in here now and curse "Dipper".

1.35 p.m.

I would like to say this. We cannot have anybody behaving to the Chair as the Leader of the Opposition just behaved to you. The statement "Are you going to rule or not" is an improper statement and should be withdrawn.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not withdrawing it, the Chairman has ruled and I am satisfied.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what have you risen? You cannot get up until.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am on a point of order. He said I must withdraw a statement. I know you would not be so misguided as to ask me to withdraw that. That would be stupidity.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get ahead with this debate.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, when the debate on CARIFESTA started, I dare say that most people would have thought it would have taken the line which it took during a short part of the speech of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central — CARIFESTA cost a lot — and that then it would have continued in the direction of pointing out that the levels of cultural consciousness have been heightened enormously in the country in the last five years, and that CARIFESTA, no matter if it cost a lot — as I said to an audience on Sunday night in another place, CARIFESTA cost more than the Spring Garden road — has served as a springboard for artistic achievement. But instead, we are hearing about calypsoes. The very fact that CARIFESTA has heightened the development of calypso in the country seems to be a matter of accusation for the Government.

Sir, there is nothing new in calypsoes being critical, being criticised, being banned, being argued about in their homeland, in Trinidad, in Barbados, and no doubt in other parts of the Caribbean.

I am quite sure that no member of the Government took any steps to ask for the banning of any calypso on CBC. I myself have never heard any calypso "Mr. T", I have heard that such a calypso exists. The only calypso which has made its way into my collection recently — I do not listen to them — is one given to me by Mr. Adonijah. He met me in No. 1 Record Shop and he gave me an autographed copy and engaged me in some conversation about politics and discussed one matter or another relating to public affairs, and asked me to play some of his calypsoes and listen to them.

I am not opposed to the principle of calypsoes. The banning of calypsoes, as I have said, is a thing that happens. In Trinidad, "The Doc's Secret Wedding", which referred to the alleged fact that Dr. Williams had married a lady at, I believe, Toco, was I believe, banned, and it caused a great deal of disturbance and confusion at the time.

The calypsonians in Barbados perhaps are rather more political than the calypsonians in Trinidad. I would have said that 80 or 90 per cent of our calypsoes deal with political themes, always against the Government. I have never heard a pro-Government calypso. It may be my ignorance, I just have never heard one. Maybe there are.

Calypsoes are political in Barbados rather than sexual. They exhibit the Barbadian spirit as opposed to the Trinidadian spirit. For example, I have never heard a Barbadian calypsonian make sport at himself. It is beyond consideration that you can imagine a Barbadian singing of himself like Lord Melody does "Mama, Look-a-Boo-Boo Dey", "The creature from the black lagoon is yuh father" and so on. You cannot imagine even a political calypso such as "We Like It So", the one which came from Sparrow. Sparrow made sport at himself for supporting the Opposition and losing in the last Trinidad election.

The calypsoes in Barbados, some of the political ones tend, I would say, to be a little more spiteful than you would normally hear coming out of Trinidad. But they are reflections of this society and of a young calypso industry. They may, in the fulness of time, change, but in the meantime, we must recognise that we live in a critical society.

People prefer to say something bad about others than to say something good. This is a fact about Barbados. I heard Senator Trotman put it very well. He said that if you are standing up talking to somebody by the side of the street and a man passes down the street and you say "He is a good fellow, you know", the other person would say to you, "How you know that?" But if you say: "He is a vagabond", the other person would say "Uh always knew that". It is perhaps an unkind description of our society, but it is something that is unfortunately perceived and perceivable about the way people speak of others in Barbados.

On the reception of the calypso "Jack", I belong to the minority that thinks it is a very unfortunate calypso. It is nothing to do with whether the tourists understand it or whether the tune is good. The point of "Jack" is that the calypsonian is seeking to tell the Barbados public that the Chairman of the Tourist Board, and the Government by implication, do not want them to go on the beaches, they want tourists to go on the beaches.

That is the message of the calypso. It is a false message, and the point about it is, the calypso may have some merit in warning that the public feels strongly about the subject, but the pushing into people's minds, which is the secondary effect of the calypso, that there is a movement to get them off the beaches in favour of the tourists, is an expression of that long standing psychological resistance to tourism that exists in every tourist destination in the world.

It has been observed in Venice that the Venitians actually hate the tourist. The Venitians would support the building of a motor road to the west of Venice so vehicles could drive right through to Murano and Torcello. The Venitians quarrel about the tourists. They welcome the floods and they love to see pictures of the tourists walking through St. Marks — well, not walking through, but wading through the foot of water or so. I know Venice well, I have been there many times partly on tourist business, and I know that, apart from the people who are making money out of it, the Venitians are not particularly friendly to the tourists.

Sooner or later we will get this in Barbados too, that people do resent the tourist presence despite the money that tourists bring. "Jack" is an exacerbation of that. On the one hand it has a good purpose, the effect of warning the hoteliers, and warning perhaps the Tourist Board, not to deprive Barbadians of facilities. On the other hand, it has a very bad effect because it is telling Barbadians, who listen to the words, that they are being deprived of the facilities.

1.45 p.m.

If you can find a Barbadian who has been put off the beach at the instigation of the Tourist Board or anybody else, I would be very surprised. One of the best known things about this country, well known to the very tourists, is that there are no private beaches. The beaches must be shared by all.

For what it is worth, a survey has just been done of attendance at the beaches, and I could hardly believe the figures when I saw them. There are nearly always, on any given day, more Barbadians on the beaches than tourists. I can show you the figures. I do not have them here but I can show you the printout figures.

On the East Coast at any given moment there are always ten times as many Barbadians on the beaches as tourists and there are a very large number, too. You would be surprised how many Barbadians can be found there on a Thursday morning — that is when they went to the East Coast to make a check — on the beaches. On virtually all the beaches along the other coasts, except occasionally Accra, you find more Barbadians than tourists.

Pebbles Beach is dominated by Barbadians.

(Mr. SANDIFORD: Check Bath this Sunday morning).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the honourable Member of the Opposition issuing an invitation to Bath on Sundays?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I would be too busy listening to the words of wisdom being published to the residents of the Pine Housing Area on Sunday, Mr. Chairman. We do not need to hire a mercenary to hold a meeting near ours in the hope of taking away the crowd. It does not happen. We do not have to do that.

I have said my piece about calypsoes. It has nothing to do with the Government or the Opposition. We just have to live with rather anti-Government calypsoes. If the Government changes, sometime in the 1990s, I hope that honourable Members, such of them that survive to that stage, would be able to stand the anti-Government calypsoes that they are going to hear.

I think it is very magnanimous of them to take in Gabby after all the things Gabby said about them in 1976, very magnanimous indeed, and it shows a tolerance that they never used to exhibit when they were in Government, but I suppose opposition makes strange bed fellows.

Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The honourable Member is talking about "We Like It So". The point about "We Like It So" is that it contains something that Barbadian calypsonians would well be advised to emulate, a little self-mockery — do not take themselves too seriously; do not be too spiteful and allow a little amusement to get into the product, and do not say something bad about somebody to hurt them.

No calypso says that, not in Trinidad. That is not the spirit of calypso. You say it to make sport of somebody, not to hurt them, and as Barbadian calypso develops, it will learn not to hurt. But while you get the attitude of mind that the Democratic Labour Party has sufficient authority over the airwaves at Rediffusion that Rediffusion can be expected to carry an unpleasant calypso where other stations might not care to carry it, you only encourage the calypsonians to produce unpleasant songs for partisan reasons.

I do not think it is wise for any politician to write calypsoes and hand out to people to sing, to encourage calypsonians to say something unpleasant about politicians when, if they make a calypso about corruption and they speak about our side, somebody is sure to say:

"But so and so used to 'thief' worse" or "so and so will 'thief' worse", about the other side. When you drag down politicians on one side, you are dragging down the profession of politics, and it might not be wise for any politician to exult in a calypso which contains a sufficient amount of spite and hatred to satisfy the tastes and instincts of political partisan on one side or another.

I am not in the banning business, Sir. A certain sort of obscene calypso, or a certain sort of calypso that says something unpleasant about people not in public life, I think is sufficiently distasteful, and I would hope that radio stations would exercise their discretion in dealing with them.

I do not think that private persons should have their private business dragged over the air for private reasons, and I would not like to see that. I would not like to see people's families, with children and all of that, made a mess of through, perhaps, unpleasantness on the part of a particular calypsonian. But calypso is an unkind art form, and we just have to live with it the way it is.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I want to take just five minutes.

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): I have not spoken yet. The honourable Member had a chance.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am entitled to speak twice. I will only be for five minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. George South will speak.

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Mr. Chairman, I am not winding up the debate, but it is only fair that I should be able to say something too.

I started the debate on the allocation of supplementary funds for certain repairs to be done at Queen's Park. The debate has roamed pretty far and wide, and has dealt with calypsoes and a range of other topics. I do want, Mr. Chairman, to express my dismay at the turn the debate has taken, principally because the Opposition would make it appear that somehow they are defenders of the calypso and the calypsonians and the Government has some antipathy to them.

But let me get the record straight. In the 1950s there used to be fairly thriving calypso in Barbados, and it was during the period of the Democratic Labour Party Government that calypso came almost to a standstill.

Asides.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) again in his ignorance, could learn a few things if he would just keep quiet, Sir.

In 1980 I, as Minister of Culture, started the calypso contest and for the first time, the Government of this country put up money for calypsonians who excelled. So to hear the honourable Members on the other side making this kind of criticism really amazes me.

Not only that, Sir. I do not know of any directive from this Government to any radio station to ban a calypso.

(Mr. B. M. TAITT: Ask Nigel Barrow).

The honourable Member for St. Michael West, again — he always walks and does it — calls the name of the Minister of Information and Culture. I am challenging the honourable Member to produce evidence, direct or indirect, that the Minister of Information and Culture ever issued such a directive. It is very easy for irresponsible people like the honourable Member

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: The honourable Member says about irresponsible? The shout across that it might be the Minister of Information and Culture is based on my personal experience that the Minister of Culture took home the tape of the statement we made in 1981, carried it home and edited it at home with a woman from CBC. That is the basis.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Take your seat.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I am still challenging the honourable Member, if he says it is irresponsible, to produce direct or indirect evidence that the Minister has issued such a directive. Because, to my certain knowledge, he has not, and it is very easy for Members of the Opposition to put it out to a lot of the unknowing public that somehow the Government has taken a decision on the banning of calypsoes in this country.
1.55 p.m.

It is a categorical untruth, and if the honourable Member for St. Michael West cannot accept that, let him get up and state what is his truth.

Political censorship? What political censorship! I am a greater fan of calypsoes than anybody on the other side. I like them and I enjoy them, including "Mr. T" and including "Boots".

Mr. B. M. TAITT rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have this.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member has given way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has not intimated to the Chair that he has given way. The honourable member for St. Michael West must please take his seat.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I like the calypsoes. I listen to them and they are good, and if somebody is too sensitive about them, that is their business. That is my point of view. I believe that if you are in this business, you have to get attacked and you have to get a little criticism. That does not bother me the slightest bit. But I want to reiterate that banning is not the position of this Government.

I listened to a programme on the radio last Sunday in which the position was set up by the panelists and the moderator, that somehow the Government was banning calypsoes. They started off on the wrong assumption and went into a whole long panel discussion related to the wrong assumption on which the discussion was based. Now that is unfair, Sir.

The honourable Members on the other side are the last people who should get and talk about political censorship and not wanting to expose the points of view of all Barbadians. The honourable Members are responsible for banning political debate on CBC. Not only did they not want calypsonians to be heard, but important national debate they did not want, because the members of the Opposition in Parliament could not even get five minutes a year on television and radio. Now they are complaining about calypsonians, when that is not even the case.

Mr. Chairman, we also listened to a lot of talk about CARIFESTA. Again, Mr. Chairman, and I will say it every week, and I will say it out on the corners, and I will say it at every corner of St. George, and I must say it in Brittons Hill when the time is ripe and at Quakers Road, that every single cent that was spent on CARIFESTA I believe should have been spent, and you need to spend more money in these kinds of things — on culture. That is my view. I have no apologies to make for it. That is my point of view, Mr. Chairman.

I will say further that I do not myself care what the Central Bank Report said. It is not true, whether it is good, bad or indifferent. I do not care about that report, because it is a categorical untruth that there was any plan to spend \$8 million on CARIFESTA. I was the Minister responsible, and at no time was I ever given a budget of \$8 million. Moreover, I say that it is also untrue that \$20 million was spent on CARIFESTA. That report, again, I say is untrue.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, we have a very serious problem. A Minister who represents the Government is now saying that a document put out by the Central Bank has in it two categorical untruths.

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member just shows his tail all the time. I am saying that that report is untrue. I do not care whether it was put out by the Central Bank, I do not care whether it was put out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I do not care if it was put out by the Ministry of the Attorney General, I am saying that that figure is not true. The Ministry responsible for planning CARIFESTA was never given a budget of \$8 million.

(A VOICE: What is the truth?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I cannot have these interruptions.

Hon. L. R. TULL: If honourable Members were more inclined to listen, they would not have to be asking what is the truth, what is the budget figure, because I said three times already in the last two minutes that I was never given a budget of \$8 million for CARIFESTA. I have said that four times now.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make another point in relation to this business about Henry Christopher. For a long time I used to read this Henry Christopher in the Sunday newspaper without even knowing who was Henry Christopher, I am not talking about weeks or months, but possibly years. I did not know who was Henry Christopher. I found out some time later.

But I am making the point that I do not know of a Henry Christopher, whatever anybody on that side or this side would say, who is a spokesman for the Government of Barbados. I do not know of that, and it is therefore a little bit ridiculous that in a debate in this Chamber, an honourable Member on that side should get up and ask the Government to defend something written by a Henry Christopher in a Sunday newspaper. I can defend the Government Information Service, but certainly I cannot defend Henry Christopher. As I said, for a long time I did not know who the man was.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin) quite rightly says that there is developing of art forms in Barbados, not only calypsoes, but several art forms being developed, and I believe that they have their genesis, in fact their re-gensis — their rebirth — in the type of cultural programme that this Government has had in train over the last five or six years.

It has not happened by accident. You do not suddenly wake up one morning to find the serious development of an artistic form out of the blue. It is a conscious result of policies taken by this Government, and anybody who is familiar with history will know that cultural expression finds its roots in freedom and a consciousness of freedom.

If you want Mr. Chairman, to look at these things, look, for instance, at the relative position of Athens, a nation state where architecture, music, poetry and literature and all forms of artistic expressions were at their height because of the environment in which they had a chance to flourish. If you want to compare it with a contemporaneous period, look at the sister state of Sparta, a totalitarian state, a military dictatorship where people were afraid to express themselves. And if you want to do a comparison, not between two states at the same time, but between one state at one period of its history and that state at another period of its history, you would look at Germany at a period before the rise of fascism and you would look at Germany in the period after fascism and see that the arts thrive in an environment where people feel a sense and a consciousness of freedom.

Now whatever deductions may be drawn from that statement, one can draw. But I want also, Mr. Chairman, to reiterate the point that the Government of Barbados will continue, as it has started, to give as much assistance through financial resources, even though the Opposition will keep criticising the Government for spending money on cultural festivals. Despite that, we will continue to spend money on cultural festivals. We will also continue to spend money on the provision of facilities for culture in this country.

The criticism of the Steel Shed as given by the honourable Member for St. Michael West re the lighting, has made a substantial debate, when all he needed to do was to pass a note to somebody on this side to ask me to take a look at the lighting. I have been to the Queens Park Shed to productions in the last two months and I was certainly in a position to read the programme without my glasses.

The honourable Member went on to make the point about Queens Park House and drew the distinction. Well the same architect who worked on the re-designing of Queens Park House worked on the designing of the Queens Park Shed.

2.05 p.m.

(Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is not true.)

(Oliver Messell.)

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Not quite true.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member tells me it is not true. I am the one person who should know. I am saying that the same architect who worked....

(Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not believe you.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves) says he knows.

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Of course.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: In 1980 when the two theatres at Queen's Park were re-designed, I do not know what was the connection of the honourable Member for St. Michael North with them.

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The Seventies.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: But at that time I was the Minister responsible for Culture, and I am saying — not to my certain recollection, but to my certain knowledge — that the same architect that did one did the other.

Mr. Chairman, I know you are watching the clock.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said that there was a dangerous and destructive germ in something that was written by somebody in the newspaper.

I think that perhaps the most dangerous and destructive germ that has been sown in this country for a long time has been sown by honourable Members on that side who, for no good reason, have told people in this country that democracy was on trial and that their rights and liberties were threatened. I think, Mr. Chairman, that the germs were sown by those people who articulated the need for a one-party state, the honourable Members on the other side, by people who said that it was necessary for them, as a Government, to depressurize all opposition

(Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes. Yes. Do not run Blackman.)

Hon. L. R. TULL:.....and to keep people's mouths quiet.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the germ of destruction and danger was planted by people who, as bad losers, put out that an election was held by fraud. All of that, Sir. I believe that these are the germs that work towards the destruction of our society as we know it, ...

(Aside: You are running them out.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: because people have a way of saying that they heard it from somebody important, and they believe that if they hear it from somebody important, it is true.

And the Opposition, Sir, in its relentless quest for changing this Government, — they have a lot more pursuits to make in that regard —

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) were ordered to be expunged from the Record, by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress to Mr. Deputy Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that this sitting be now suspended until 3.10 p.m. today.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
2.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

Mr. DEPUTY 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 of Supply.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

AMENDMENT TO EXPLANATORY NOTE
TO SUBHEAD 3

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that the Explanatory Note do now pass.

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

The question that the Explanatory Note to Subhead 3 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That brings us to the end of Government Business, Sir, and I now beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, July 5, 1983 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly.
3.20 p.m.

CONTENTS**MINUTES**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, June 7 1983	3698
---	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	3698
-------------------------------------	------

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TWO MILE HILL RE BARBADOS COM- MUNITY COLLEGE	3698
---	------

Mr. L. B. Brathwaite, 3698, 3701; Mr. Franklin,
3699; Mr. Barrow, 3700; Mr. Sandiford, 3700.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1983-84 No. 2	3702
--	------

HEAD 80 - MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE	3702
--	------

Mr. Tull, 3702, 3703, 3709; Mr. Taitt, 3702,
3703, 3710; Mr. Franklin, 3705; Mr. Haynes,
3706; Mr. Adams, 3707; Mr. Barrow, 3707.

SUSPENSION	3712
------------------	------

ADJOURNMENT	3713
-------------------	------

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ADAMS, Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. (St. Thomas)
BARROW, Rt. Hon. E. W. (St. John)
BOLDEN, His Hon. C. L. (St. Joseph)
BRATHWAITE, Hon. L. B. (St. Andrew)
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North)
HAYNES, R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
SANDIFORD, L. E. (St. Michael South)
TAITT, B. M. (St. Michael West)
TULL, Hon. L. R. (St. George South)