
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, March 1, 1983.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 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. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry)

Mr. L. E. Sandiford, M.A., (Econ.)

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)

Mr. B. M. Taitt, B.A. (Hons), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.)

Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw, (Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport)

Mr. L. L. Sisnett

Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, M.A., M.Sc., (Econ.), (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs)

Dr. R. C. Haynes, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)

Mr. R. E. Brathwaite

Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., (Minister of Health and Community Services)

Mr. W. O. Franklin, A.I.A.S., J.P.

Mr. H. A. Blackman

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, February 22, 1983.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of February 22, 1983 be taken as read.

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning:

Statements showing Net customs and Excise Receipts for 8 and 9 months ended 30th November and 31st December, 1982, respectively.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Waldrons, Christ Church for the purpose of road improvement.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question by the honourable Member for St. Michael South re the difference in the Barbadian context between a Minister and a Minister of State.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am to ask:—

Will the Prime Minister indicate what is the difference in the Barbadian context between a Minister and a Minister of State?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question by the same honourable Member re inquiry into matters at the Prison.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to ask the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:—

1. Will the Minister cause the report of the Gallop inquiry into certain conditions and disturbances at the prisons to be laid on the table of this Honourable House as a matter of urgency.
2. Will the Minister state why it has taken the Government such a long time to make the results of the inquiry public?
3. If the Minister is unable to lay the Report, will the Minister make a statement at the next sitting in relation to the findings and recommendations of that inquiry?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Government Business be the instant Order of the day. In so doing, Sir, I would like to notify the House that I propose to deal with a Resolution, which is coming down some time during the course of the day, which involves travel again and also funds from the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of looking after the caretakers and thing of that nature.

I do not believe that it should be controversial. I know that in Parliament, at times the seas can be relatively calm – and then there can be an outburst, but I sincerely hope that there will be no problem. I have discussed this with the Member for St. Michael West and I have been given the assurance that they have no objection, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in dealing with the Resolution in all of its stages some time during the course of the day. Sir, I beg to move that Government Business be the instant Order of the day.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Standing Orders, 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting. I also give Members on the other side the assurance that if it is possible for us to do any Private Members Business today, I will have no objection in accommodating them, Sir. But I would like to try to get the Order Paper as clear as possible in the light that Estimates is coming up and should be made in another week or so. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is the position as it stands right now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no objections, those Standing Orders are now suspended for the remainder of today.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Order No. 5.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 5.

NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION ACT, 1983

Order No. 5 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of a cultural foundation for Barbados.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, out of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Sir, no doubt we have seen a degree of success over the past years. You may recall that, on last Tuesday, the Ministry of Information came under a rather stormy session. The debate was cut and dry, and I think that I enjoyed it very much. The Ministry of Information, and the Minister in particular, was attacked with all the force and command at the disposal of Members on the other side, and I have no doubt, Sir, that the Ministry was equally defended – and successfully so.

Today, we are dealing with a Bill to establish a cultural foundation, which comes out of the Ministry of Information and Culture. The Foundation primarily, Sir, is set up for the purpose of looking after a number of things, as the Bill will obviously spell out, rather than having the Ministry itself doing the day to day administration of the Foundation. There are a number of provisions in it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I am quite sure that Members on the other side, who may have a great interest in the cultural life of the country, will have a contribution to make.
12.30 p.m.

The Bill is setting out to take care of the theatres, all the necessary equipment and so on, which is rather expensive in these days, to raise funds where funds are to be raised, and to disburse the funds where they are to be disbursed.

The foundation is going to be managed by a Board of Directors, and I am one who believes that when you are operating within certain financial constraints one must still give thought to the fact that no financial measure is too great to forge the cultural strength of the Caribbean territories in one togetherness.

Only last Tuesday I recall the Deputy Leader of the Opposition making out a case, and he has always been a firm supporter of regional movement, but I would like to salute all those persons concerned with CARIFESTA for the success it was, being the first festival

of that nature and of that magnitude to be held in Barbados. It is out of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Ministry of Culture has gone beyond that thought and is setting out to establish this foundation.

Crop Over is a gala of which all Barbadians can be justly proud, although I have certain misgivings where it is concerned. I have absolutely no qualms about the festival as a whole, but sometimes the conduct of people involved in the revelry of it is something which needs to be looked into very, very carefully. I will make a plea today to all Barbadians who are taking part in the Crop Over Festival, which is just around the corner, to make it possible for everyone to enjoy the festival as much as possible.

I am told that even more elaborate preparations are being made on this occasion and that the Ministry of Culture is doing everything within its power to control certain areas to prevent the harassment of those people who spend thousands of dollars to bring joy to so many other persons. I am not directly involved in any of the planning but I would think that as much protection must be given to those people who spend their money to buy their costumes, then to have them torn off and to be harassed by young men. I would say, Sir, it is doing the country no good if this continues.

I know Barbadians living overseas who are now planning every year, wherever it is possible, to come home to enjoy the Crop-Over Festival, and we must therefore demonstrate to those Barbadians who live overseas, to the visitors, and to ourselves, that we can enjoy all the revelry that goes with Crop Over and yet conduct ourselves as proud Barbadians. This is my plea today from the floor of the House.

I, myself, have jumped in the bands. I remember the Barbados Labour Party had a band in 1977, and Mr. Deputy Speaker and myself were among those persons who were narrowly beaten into second place, and I enjoyed the day very much. I would hope to see some of my colleagues on the other side enjoying some of the revelry along the street, but most of them prefer to confine themselves to closer quarters thinking up areas like the International Monetary Fund, and seeking information from their brothers in Grenada so as to determine how best to help run Barbados.

I have no doubt the Member for St. Michael South Central will walk with the people — he would say the workers — of the Telephone Company as a bluff to say that he is with the workers, but we will hardly see him on the street among the people enjoying that day.

Sir, with those very few and brief remarks, I think the Bill sets out quite carefully all the areas that are

necessary to bring this into fruition, and I have great pleasure to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

I may also add, I know this is probably one of the questions I should make very clearly, that the staffing of the Foundation would comprise an executive secretary, two clerk/typists, a theatre manager, storekeeper and one cleaner in its initial stages, Sir.

I would hope that whatever questions are posed from that side of the House, I would be in a position to give them adequate answers.

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

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am moved by the manner in which the honourable member for St. James North has introduced this Bill, which, on the face of it, until the very last set of sentences, suggested that there was going to be a fundamental departure from the methods that have been used to promote culture, and that the Foundation was going to be indeed providing the thrust for further cultural development in this community.

When he indicated the level of the staffing which is anticipated, I believe that it is fair to say that my own understanding and anticipation of what this Cultural Foundation would achieve took a sudden turn downward. I shall explain my position on that a little later in my presentation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the word "culture" in Barbados and what it signifies, especially since I became an adult, and since I spent some time outside of Barbados, and the way in which culture has been interpreted and the manner in which it has been dealt with, has always been a source of amazement to me.
12.40 p.m.

I believe that the dictionary definition of culture, and the usual definition of culture by those who write history or write in the area of the social sciences, tend to embrace the total lifestyle of a particular community in a particular group of people. We, of course, who have come through what may be termed "the lower socioeconomic groupings in the original Barbados", also had another connotation for culture, where a person was considered to be "cultured" if, indeed, he had managed to absorb all of the graces and teachings of those whose responsibility and/or fate it was to colonise territories such as Barbados.

In the broader sense of the word, they did bring with them the culture, and to the extent that the indigenous population, or those who were brought to become the indigenous populations, were unable to absorb the broad culture which has been brought by the masters, they were deemed to be uncultured or uncultured.

In more recent times, however, culture in Barbados, in particular, has come to embrace a certain set of activity, and, indeed Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the difficulties, if not dangers, of the attitude which has been evolved about by this issue of culture, is that it has seemed to appear as if culture reposes in the breast of only a relatively few indoctrinated individuals in Barbados.

I have, as an individual, as a person, been amazed sometimes when I have heard or read expressions by people, who ought to know better, indicating that some six, or ten, or sixteen people in Barbados were the repositories of all that is cultural, and were the knowledgeable persons about what constituted Barbadian culture.

From time to time, we see effusions in the newspaper columns from varying and sundry people who seek to indicate that they are the experts in culture. And, more recently, we have had the Minister, himself, in a fairly long and rambling interview, seeking to put culture within certain parameters and to expound deeply, if some what superciliously, on the areas of "culture in Barbados".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have seen a number of what have been described as "characters" in Barbados subsequently, and especially after their demise, venerated as having expounded Barbadian culture. I have seen, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where one set of culture vultures, as I like to call them, decry another set of persons, and seek to suggest that such things as hymn singing and other similar activities were not expressive of Barbadian culture but, rather, were expressive of some alien attitude thrust upon the good people of Barbados; and so, in some young people today, any interest in, or love for, say Anglican hymns or Methodist hymns is seen as an alien form of behaviour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we, who have lived in Barbados for the last 300 years, — and when I say "have lived in Barbados", obviously none of us in here have been living for 300 years — but we have come out of a stock of people who have been sojourning in this community for over 300 years, and I think we have to realise that all of the things that have happened in that community over that time collectively constitute the culture of Barbados. I think we have to recognise that there are some aspects of what have occurred in Barbados

during that time which require us, of this generation and generations to come, to seek to preserve those things so that the generations to come can have a vivid picture of what life was like in this country many years ago and what were some of the things which our foreparents did and had caused to be done.

It is therefore very desirable, when we set up a foundation, when we seek by Parliament to set up a cultural foundation for Barbados, for us to fully understand what it is we are proposing to do and for us to have thought it out in such a way that there can be no doubt in the minds of any Barbadian that this foundation would redound to his or her particular benefit, and the benefit of his successors.

I do not know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this Bill in its present form has done that, but I am not even going to criticise the Bill for not having done that, because there is hope and there is room for a further expansion of these concepts. I, myself, might not have gone via the foundation route, but Mr. Deputy Speaker, in almost every country in the world, people have become aware that expressions of culture of those particular countries take the form of massive inputs of money and resources. And those who have had the opportunity and are familiar with such things as the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the great Museums in Philadelphia, of the great museums in London and the great cultural foundations in these various cities would know this; and those who are familiar with the establishment and the creation of the State of Israel know that, between 1948 and today, the Israelis have managed to bring the whole Judaic and Israeli cultural heritage within the confines and the ambit of human activity within the state of Israel.

They spend massive sums of money on these pursuits, because they recognise that the people can only survive if the people are able to look with pride on its history, to accept its position in the present time, and to aspire and look with hope to the future. And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we in Barbados cannot fail to accept that we have to expend some time, money and energy in these pursuits.

I think that it is where we seek to alienate, or where we seek to particularise and demonstrate that culture is the subject or the object of only a few persons; or where one Government or another party would seek to suggest that they have made more progress in the development of culture than the other, that we begin to run into problems associated with a proper appreciation of our cultural development.

12.50 p.m.

For a substantial amount of time in Barbados, all the things which the vast majority of the people in Barbados had done as part of their lives, were frowned upon and relegated as being not worthy of civilised people. That was not done by any Government. I do not believe that the Barbados Labour Party Government of the first time or the Democratic Labour Party Government, or even the present Barbados Labour Party Government, can be accused of going out of its way to bury the things which made up the Barbados that we all claim that we love. I do not think anybody could accuse governments of being participants in that, what I call "defamation of culture."

But the society and the elites in the society, who set the pace and set the tone and who create the standards by their behaviour patterns, always managed to make the vast majority of the population feel inferior, and it is only in more recent times that, with the thrust in mostly the southern United States, black people have come to feel that they can regard themselves in a mirror without horror, without fear, and without revulsion.

Unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are still a substantial number of our people who need to be assisted in recognising their true human worth. I believe that in time, that, too, will come to pass.

I believe that we in Barbados should not fool ourselves as to what constitutes the culture of Barbados. I, for example, have been defined by one of the culture vultures as a traditionalist, but I believe that, along with all the things we have, we in Barbados should have a national orchestra. I believe that there ought to be by now in Barbados a national orchestra — I mean one that is supported as part of the development of the country, not one that is a voluntary organisation.

I believe that the youngsters in school in Barbados, now in the same way they will aspire to become a Prime Minister, ought to be able to aspire to hold a leading role with one of the instruments in the national orchestra of Barbados. I believe this country can afford to pay a Director of Music other than the Director of the Police Band Orchestra. I believe that this country ought to be able to give a full orchestra proper conditions of work such that a man or woman could feel that it was a worthwhile pursuit to aspire to be part of that national orchestra.

I believe that, concomitant with that, apart from the choirs which we have in Barbados, the village choirs and the other choirs, as part of the aspirations of the people of Barbados there should be a national choir to which persons could aspire, and for which, as used to be the case, certainly when I was a boy, to be a member of that top choir would be a point of pride.

I used those two examples, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not because they are peculiar to my own taste and wishes, but because they are examples of what could happen in other endeavours. In this country, Sir, a young man aspires to become a cricketer, to play cricket for his country and to play cricket for the West Indies, and every boy who gets interested in cricket has the possibility of playing for the West Indies as his goal.

When a young boy in Barbados wants to be a good pianist, a good violinist, a good calypsonian or a good poet, the levels for his aspiration, the goals that have been set, are such that he or she must include a departure from Barbados as part of his or her plans. You have to leave Barbados and go somewhere else in order to earn a living in some of the pursuits which have been described as cultural. I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that is an area where, if we have a Ministry of Culture, ideas and ideals along those lines would have been coming forth as part of the promotion and development of culture in the community.

I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if one looks at the national approach in Trinidad and Tobago, one would see that a vast amount of effort has been made in that direction. And even so, in a television programme a few nights ago, the Mighty Sparrow, who I believe is probably the greatest artist that has come out of the Caribbean in the last two decades — his genius as far as I am concerned ranks *pari passu* with that of Shakespeare and the rest of them, because if anyone, who knows anything about the calypso form, examines the range and the depth of Sparrow's output in this field, then he or she would recognise that the man's capacity is sheer genius — even the Mighty Sparrow, appearing with a number of his colleagues in a television programme, was heard to say that in Trinidad and Tobago they have not got a good recording studio. He was heard to say that if he presses an album in Trinidad and Tobago, he has to bring it to Barbados to get the number of copies that is required, and indeed if he gets more than 500 copies for any one pressing, within a reasonable time, you can be considered as lucky. So even in Trinidad and Tobago they have some difficulties.

What I find particularly unfortunate is that here in Barbados, when the people have contributed significantly to the expenditure in the Ministry responsible for Culture, when large sums of money have been expended to get equipment and to get advisers, and indeed to expand the staff, both in quality and quantity, we end up with the same set of groupings in our cultural exploits as we did before we had this money expended.

I know someone will say to me that that is not, strictly speaking, true, but I will give you an example of what I am talking about. We have the great festival; we have CARIFESTA. I really do not wish to spoil

my thoughts by referring to the Minister's reference to CARIFESTA. I do not believe that even the most charitable person on the Government side would accuse CARIFESTA of being an unqualified success.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member says that they spent so much money in setting the standard, the honourable Member is saying they set so high a standard, that no one else wishes to host it.

I am not here saying that there was nothing outstanding or nothing successful about CARIFESTA, but the planning and arrangement for CARIFESTA were hopeless, and the amount of money which was spent on CARIFESTA is a national scandal in relation to what happened.

When we have a national or a regional CARIFESTA, and we have the opening and the flags of the country are not flown, that can only be described as a national scandal. These are matters which emanate from a failure to plan. And when you have people who do not know what they are doing, who are super-imposed on people who know what they are doing, these are the kinds of problems we have.

The then Minister of Culture sought to absolve himself from blame by passing the blame on to a particular individual. I have no brief for that individual, but I believe that when a captain takes a ship to sea and the ship goes down, the captain should go down with the ship, and since Ministers take the praise when things go right, the Ministers must take the blame when things go wrong. The Minister responsible for Culture should not seek to blame an individual for any shortcomings in CARIFESTA — he should take the lashes himself.

I do not think that anybody can accept that having that tent at the St. James Secondary School, which I understand will cost \$¼ million to remove, because it would have to be removed specially and with special techniques

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: For us to have had, as a legacy of CARIFESTA, that tent at St. James Secondary School, is a blot on our capacity to plan as a community. For us to have the number of snafus where delegations were unable to move from point A to point B in time to perform at the appointed hour; for us to have some of the more well-known bloopers which occurred during CARIFESTA, is not a tribute to us as a planning people 1.00 p.m.

It was the first CARIFESTA, but it was not the first time that we had planned anything on a large scale, and I wish to suggest, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there has never been a sufficiently acceptable accounting of the \$25 million expended for the CARIFESTA project

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member seems to be suggesting that he now has two consultants. I am not going to get involved in trying to find out the extent of the capacity of either of those consultants.

The point is, though, Sir, that we have never had a satisfactory accounting, nor have we ever had a satisfactory explanation. We saw the Prime Minister and the then Minister responsible for Culture doing a number of body weaves, we saw them doing a number of shifts, but we have never had a proper explanation of how the money went the way it went — without the result which we had, as a people, the right to expect. Of course, Barbadians have put CARIFESTA to rest so far as that is concerned, and, as the honourable Member has suggested, other people will take CARIFESTA and run with it.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the staging of CARIFESTA while being identified as a great cultural event, is not the culture of Barbados. That should be incidental to, that should provide the great cultural meeting from time to time. It is the ongoing, everyday attitude and activity of the Ministry of Culture or the Cultural Foundation which will determine to what extent we make the people of Barbados, first conscious of their cultural heritage and their cultural expectation, and second, give them the capacity to participate in the activities in the community.

Now, I have to be critical of the Ministry of Culture in one respect. There are a number of people who believe that the Ministry of Culture is the mobilization department for political activity. There are a number of people who believe that, and I know that some of the people who work in the Ministry of Culture have been very embarrassed and upset because that particular connotation and interpretation has been placed on their activity. But the fact is, Sir, that the Minister responsible for Culture has made no bones about his own understanding of culture to include certain political activity.

Now, broadly speaking, one cannot argue with him if one is looking at culture as a broad subject matter. One would have to agree that certain political activity falls within the ambit of what is described as culture. But where the man who is making the top decisions in culture, to wit, the Minister of Culture, sees part of his role as mobilising for partisan purposes, when the Minister can

be seen as using the department for partisan purposes, or when people believe that he is doing that, then he is not fulfilling his role and the Department of Culture is not fulfilling its role. That is why, Sir, when I saw that we were having a foundation, I said: maybe this, too, like the Electoral Boundaries Commission, will be shifted out of the purely political arena into a genuine arena where all the people from both sides of the fence can participate with a clear mind.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I fully anticipated that the Director of Culture and his whole entourage would have been transferred wholesale to this foundation, and that this foundation would indeed form the basis for the activity in Barbados, and that it could become truly non-partisan.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I hear from the honourable Member that there is going to be an Executive Secretary. But that cannot be the Director of Culture, unless he is going to be carrying two posts, so it means that they are going to have a Director of Culture in the Ministry, and a Minister of Culture in the Ministry, and, really, from what I have heard so far, this foundation will provide the logistic support. All they are going to be doing — a theatre manager, two typists — will be handing out the equipment, so that will provide a few jobs.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the greatest respect, you cannot say to me that you are creating a cultural foundation and then staff it in that way and expect me to believe that you are serious. If you are going to put culture on that basis which this Bill suggest, do it properly. Take the whole Cultural Department, except for the broad policy lines in relation to Government policy, because that has to remain at the level of the executives, and let the cultural expression that it is going to be part of Barbadian development come from this foundation, if you are going to have. Otherwise, one can believe the rumours that are going around, for example, that this cultural foundation will be nothing more than one of the places where casino money will be received without any problems. I have heard that. I have been told on reliable grounds that casino money, from gambling and casinos... ..this is what is being said.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, whether I believe it or not, I am suggesting that the people out there, when they hear that we have a Cultural Foundation, ought to be able to come to it with clean ears, as the Government ought to be able to come to it with clean hands. It is as simple as that. I do not believe that we ought to allow these kinds of institutions to fall prey to foolish rumours, or real rumours.

I believe that the Minister responsible owes it to the community, if he is going to have a Cultural Founda-

tion, to make it a serious Cultural Foundation. It is useless for us to pass legislation saying that we are creating a Cultural Foundation when all we have done in the end is to add another little piece — like when in the old days they used to build a house and add on a room every three years, and in the end, what you have is a series of rooms rather than a house.

I do not believe that this is going to do anything for us, Sir, not if what the Minister says is the case. I do not believe that the objects and reasons, so beautifully set out in this Bill as to what the Foundation will do, in Clause 3, Sir: "to stimulate and facilitate the development of culture generally;" — how can you stimulate and facilitate the development of culture generally with an executive secretary, two typists and a theatre manager? What foolishness are you expecting me to accept? You are going to stimulate culture with an executive secretary and two typists, "to develop, maintain and manage theatres and other cultural facilities and equipment provided by the Government."

1.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is too much to invite people to examine this seriously in the context and in the light of the information which we have received. I really and truly anticipated that the Director of Culture would be finding a resting place, free of having to look behind his shoulder, free of having to wonder if the next Government coming in is going to retain him. We are concerned, I am saying that culture is above and beyond that kind of partisan political foolishness, and anyone who has a role to play in the area of culture should be free to have his serious idiosyncracies in relation to the development of culture uncontaminated by political input. I feel so, and I feel that way without reference to which party is in power.

The position of the Democratic Labour Party on culture can be examined in its gift to the community of the auditorium. I say gift, and I hope the honourable Member who is sitting to my right will not be embarrassed if I say that the right honourable gentleman from St. John has, within the political party which I have the honour to head, constantly fought for a non-partisan approach to culture. Always when my more, shall we say, adamant colleagues have wanted us, both inside and out of the Government, to approach culture in terms which suggest that there is a Democratic Labour Party way of culture and a Barbados Labour Party way of culture, he has always resisted it.

I will say that it is one of the things which one learns from elder statesmen, that sometimes they put forward their theses or theories which are unacceptable on the face of it, and then on reflection and with the passage of time, one comes to recognise that these theses and theories are themselves steeped in experience and,

therefore, can only be arrived at when the necessary experience has in fact been gained.

The auditorium at George Street can be said — and I hope he will not be upset by my saying it on the floor of this Honourable House — to be a dream which the honourable Member had for a very long time and which we brought to fruition almost single handedly.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The right honourable Member for St. John. He was the chief builder, he was the chief fund raiser, he was the chief planner, and indeed he refused to be the auditorium. When those of us who felt that the amount of work he had put into it required that he be recognised, he himself was the leader in making sure that he did not become, as the honourable Member put it, the auditorium.

I used that only as an example to demonstrate that the Democratic Labour Party does not have to run and hide on the issue of culture. The Democratic Labour Party may not have expended as much money in the area of cultural development as it should, and that is a criticism which can be levelled at almost any Government, especially in times of economic difficulties, and so if that criticism came to us in retrospect, we would accept it — at least I would, because I would recognise that we could perhaps have spent more and done more. But no one can question either our *bona fides* or our commitment, and all that has been put forward in this community as if the culture in Barbados began on September 2, 1976, all that has been put forward in this community that would suggest that, flies in the face of the facts, because it was under the Democratic Labour Party that certain concepts were given birth.

They have been changed. For example, the national festival. We have a national festival in Barbados now. It has been changed in its concept, and the perspectives are different. Maybe that is as it should be, but no one can gainsay the fact that we were able to perceive that such a national festival was desirable in bringing out the best in our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are some things which upset me as an individual. Some time in 1982, in my capacity as representative of the well-beloved constituency of St. Michael West, my constituency branch wrote a letter on behalf of the whole community. It was not a letter from the constituency branch *per se*, it so happened that the constituency branch was part of a broad cultural group. We wrote a letter to the Ministry of Culture asking them to assist us in certain activities during our national day, Independence Day. We wrote the letter, we wrote to the schools asking the managers of the St. Leonard's Schools to allow us to use the compound. They agreed

readily, because they knew that the group was made up of a constituency-wide group, and it could be said to have been a bi-partisan group, because it included persons who are well known supporters of the Barbados Labour Party. As I prefer, it was a non-partisan group. It was a community group that wanted to have at St. Leonard's School on Independence Day an expression of the cultural habits and pursuits of the people who live in that area.

We wrote to the Ministry of Culture and we asked them for some simple assistance. We said we would like to have a stage and we would like to borrow some lights and equipment. We got a reply from the Ministry one month later, three days before Independence, asking us how, specifically, we would like the Ministry to help us. Earlier we had written asking them to help us. They wrote three days before the function asking how they could help us.

(Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You were lucky. In your time there would not have been a reply at all).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I may have the sequence wrong, but I know the month is right — they took a month to reply — and we responded to them telling them how we would like them to help us, and to this day they have not responded. To this very day they neither responded nor did they lend us the material — but we got through. Do you know how we got through? We did something illegal, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They had about 26 stages up at the Garrison and we sent a truck and borrowed one temporarily.

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I hope you sent it back).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We sent it back. We got a little inside help. You have to get inside help when you are dealing with people like the honourable Members over there. You must get some inside help or you will die.
1.20 p.m.

The point is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Ministry of Culture never replied; we never got any assistance from them — and the show included a number of little children from the Thomas Gap area, who put on a fantastic show.

You know how we got a light, Sir? We sent around about three or four persons, and there is a man called Michael Yashi Foster, who has a lot of ideas, and he went, when faced with the possibility that the people in his community might not be able to put their show on, to every single person in Barbados who had anything to do with the theatre, and we eventually got two lights; and we ran some current from the new Science Block in the St. Leonard's School out to a pole and we shone the light on to the stage — we made do, as our parents before us has to do.

We wanted not to believe that this was not a partisan effort. But you know something, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in all of the constituencies where there is a Barbados Labour Party representative, and where there was any kind of activity, they had no hitches, no problems and no difficulties. They got everything they wanted – and more.

The lights and equipment of the Ministry of Culture were purchased with the taxpayers' money. Those taxpayers have every right to believe that the \$6 million in equipment – or \$20 million in equipment, depending on where you get your information – I am going to take the lower figure – that that \$6 million belong to all the people in Barbados.

There was a group at St. Margaret's in St. John. They wanted to have a cultural function. They could not find, via the Ministry of Transport and Works, via the Police, via the Ministry of Culture, via any of the institutions; how they could get the use of a little roadway – you know that you block off the road when you have these little Independence festivals. The lady came to me three days before the function – I happen to have met her at a funeral – and she said she was trying to get hold of her representative and she told me the problem. And you know how we solved the problem? I told her to set up the stage. She called me the next day and told me that she could not get any stage, that whereas the Ministry had promised them a stage in the past, now that they were coming to the festival, they said no stage was available. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know where all the stages were? According to the information we received, there were commandeered by the Defence Force.

The Defence Force was able to override the Director of Culture, apparently, and commandeered all of the stage pieces. All of the stage pieces were up at the Garrison while the people, who paid for them could not get one; or you had to send one to this group today and the group had to get a truck ready to move it by tomorrow so that the next group could get it, when, in fact, there are enough pieces of stage in the Ministry of Culture that, with reasonably good planning, everybody could have been satisfied, including the Defence Force and the national parade.

They said that the Prime Minister had commandeered all the equipment. I did not get that from the Ministry; so I do not know if it is true; but the information coming out was that the Prime Minister had commandeered all the equipment. He wanted all the equipment for Ilaro Court and other places. I do not believe that the Prime Minister is so insensitive. They must have been blaming him wrongfully.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not sure if they were blaming him wrongly, but I feel they were blaming him wrongfully, as we say, culturally speaking, because, Sir, I cannot believe that any Prime Minister could have such a view of culture in Barbados that he would want only those at Ilaro Court to have proper equipment and nobody else have any.

I recall that the right honourable Member for St. John was himself Prime Minister living modestly and comfortably at Culloden Farm. He had the good sense to recognise that Culloden Farm, as a structure, formed part of our culture too, and he found Culloden Farm acceptable as an expression of Barbadian culture and a place where Barbadian Prime Ministers could live.

And you know what is interesting when you paint a portrait of an individual? He was able, comfortably and without any pain, to allow the small people in the surrounding area, represented by my good friend, the honourable Member for St. Michael South, to set up makeshift fields just around the Prime Minister's residence and to play their games; and after a while, he was able to assist them in making their organisation a little better than it was. I do not want to spend a lot of time going into the details of that, but the honourable Member for St. Michael South can confirm this.

So we get a Prime Minister who finds that Culloden Farm is not a good enough place for him to live – for some reason, we have a decision to go to Ilaro Court. This is not the basis on which I am going to.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member will not be allowed to carry this debate into the housing of the various Prime Ministers. We are dealing with the cultural foundation, and I will expect the honourable Member to stick to that.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: As Your Honour wishes, Sir. I was merely coming to the basis given for the purchase of Ilaro Court – that it would provide a lead in the cultural activities in the community, Sir. My only reference to these two areas was to show that the honourable Member, as Prime Minister, saw Culloden Farm as part of the culture and the present Prime Minister does not see it as part of the culture, even though, Sir, most of the money spent for its renovations and construction comes under the Head of Culture. But I think I understand what Your Honour is saying and I will not seek to carry the debate into areas that are unnecessary.

I would say, Sir, that anybody looking at this cultural foundation, and hearing the pre-Seconding Reading publicity which was given to it, had the right to expect that there was going to be some new thrust in the cultural field. Anyone reading the newspapers, or hearing the television, had every right to believe that this was a lion. Instead, Sir, it is a mouse that is not even roaring.

It comes to us, and it makes many promises; but unless we are going to hear additional information, unless the honourable Members on that side who carry this portfolio for the substantive Minister are going to enlighten us as to some overall plan for the cultural development of the community, including this foundation, or by use of this foundation, we will see it merely as another bit of legislation placed on the Statute Book for no other particular reason other than somebody else somewhere has it, somebody else some where has recommended it to us, or we feel we can say in our manifestos that we have done a lot of things, including the creation of a cultural foundation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that there are some other areas that can be touched under this legislation, but I do not think that any purpose will be served in seeking to expand in those areas.

1.30 p.m.

I think, however, that the relationship of community development to culture as seen and forged by the Minister responsible for Culture, or indeed the Government in its classification, deserves some comment before I sit. As seen by one group of people, community development cannot go forward without cultural input, but I have never been able to understand the Government's philosophy where Community Services are administered by one Minister and Community Development is absorbed into what is described as culture and administered by another Minister. I cannot myself understand a clear distinction which they have been able to make between Community Services and Community Development.

It would seem to me that, for a country the size of Barbados, any attempt at community development must include the services provided in the community, especially for those who are not in a position to provide them themselves. It seems, therefore, to me, Sir, that either the Community Development Division should embrace the Community Services sector, or, vice versa, the Community Services sector should automatically embrace the Community Development Division.

It seems to me that there is a school of thought that would justify separating purely cultural activities, if they are given a relatively narrow interpretation, from the community development activities, but I choose to accept the concept that community development and culture are the obverse and reverse side of the same coin, and therefore can be joined together. I just cannot accept as part of that thesis that community services can be separated. I believe further that those persons who have to plan community services are better equipped to understand the

role which should be played by the very young, the handicapped and the older persons in the community. I believe that a vast majority of the cultural

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the honourable member try to enlighten me about how he is moving to community services and community development on a cultural foundation?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am coming to it, Sir. You see, Sir, it is this Administration that has joined the two together.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are not dealing with the Administration now. We are not dealing with specific Government departments. As I understand it, we are dealing with development of a cultural foundation. The honourable Member has moved from that to deal with two departments of Government, and unless the honourable Member can enlighten me as to how he intends to join development and community services as spread between two different Ministries into cultural development, I will have to ask him to refrain from speaking on that point.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: As Your Honour wishes, but I was perhaps guided by the fact that Section 3, which seeks to identify the functions of the foundation, is to stimulate and facilitate the development of culture generally, and I was merely making the point that we have had two expressions of what constitutes culture. I went further to point out that in one, the one practised by the Government, they joined Community Development and Culture.

There has been a specific statement by the Minister responsible for Culture which says that he is taking community development and culture as equal and part and parcel of the same thing, and I am merely raising the question philosophically as to how it is possible to segment community development, culture and community services.

But, as Your Honour wishes, I will move on. If Your Honour says that in so doing, I am dealing with Government departments, I apologise, because the government departments are only incidental to the philosophical base on which these matters have been determined. But as Your Honour wishes, I will move on.

Suffice it to say that the foundation concept which this Bill suggests to us is, I do not wish to say, a sham, because I do not know that it will be accepted, but I would say that what is proposed to us here in the foundation falls far short of what we would expect when we hear the honourable Member indicate how it is proposed to staff the foundation. We would expect that such a foundation would at least have had an advisory body,

some kind of council, some kind of organisation that would itself be in a position to advise the foundation, or itself be part of the foundation in advising on culture and cultural development.

I would like to hear the Minister on this, because all it says is that the National Cultural Foundation is established and that it will be a body corporate under Section 21 of the Interpretation Act, and then it goes on to say what the functions are, and it does not even in the miscellaneous part seek to suggest how it is going to function. But I will wait until further debate and I believe we will get some information on this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am grateful to Your Honour for allowing me this opportunity to speak on a matter which is not debated in this community very often.

I will sit down by saying this: there are too few people engaged in the activities of the planning of culture in Barbados. I believe we should have in the various communities, whether in the constituency or the parishes, a series of, if you will, cultural communities. I believe that they should be made up from within the communities, and that they can be of tremendous assistance in helping to formulate a cultural policy. I believe that such committees, if allowed to function in the way that I envisage, would bring a tremendous amount of thinking and planning talent at the disposal of those whose responsibility it would be to make final decisions in cultural development.

I hope, Sir, that the Minister will take back to his substantive Minister our concern that the foundation does not appear to be what we were all led from the process of the pre-publicity, and indeed the Act itself, to anticipate in a cultural foundation for Barbados.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party's policy with respect to the establishment of a cultural foundation is not new. It is to be found at page 15 of our 1976 Manifesto and at pages 21 and 22 of our 1981 Manifesto.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have had in Barbados for some years, and will continue to have, a National Arts and Culture Council. That council is meant to be an advisory body to the Ministry of Culture and, as I understand it, will continue to be so. The Barbados Cultural Foundation, which I think is an excellent idea — I think it is a correct move in the direction of urbanisation — is meant to be more of an administration arm of the Ministry of Culture, although not exclusively so.

We are made to understand that in recent times, and particularly since Barbados hosted CARIFESTA, that

we now have in this island over \$1 million worth of theatre equipment apart from everything else. We are told that there are three theatres. We have the Steel Shed, we have the Queens Park Theatre, and we have Combermere, which is shared between Combermere School and to some extent the community as a whole, and the cultural foundation is meant to administer the equipment, very expensive, sophisticated and delicate equipment, which, contrary to what we are hearing from the other side, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to my certain knowledge is available to community groups. In very recent times, I have directed a community group from the New Orleans in the City of Bridgetown to go to Culloden Farm to the Ministry of Culture so that they might borrow equipment for a show of some kind.

1.40 p.m.

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

Hon. Miss. B. A. MILLER: No, I am not giving way on a point of elucidation. You do this all the time, get up and interrupt people unnecessarily. I am not giving way.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two honourable Members are on their feet.

Hon. Miss. B. A. MILLER: The machinery and equipment need to administered and so do the theatres. The theatres have to be cleaned, equipment has to be maintained, bookings and so on have to be made, and all of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my understanding is part and parcel of, but not entirely exclusively, the functions of the Cultural Foundation.

The Cultural Foundation, I am told, is going to be involved in the planning and the conduct of festivals. We have in Barbados no less than five large scale festivals. We have the Oistins Fish Festival, we have the Hometown Festival, we have now the St. Andrew Festival, we have NIFCA and we have Crop Over and, from time to time in any given year, you may find that one or two other organisations may plan festivals on a large scale. So the planning, organisation, and the conduct of festivals will be a very time consuming and a large part of the work that the Cultural Foundation will do.

It is so expected that the Cultural Foundation will look into the setting up of various agencies which will encourage what is known as cultural expression.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West spoke about the need for a national orchestra. He is not to know, of course, that I have appointed a committee in the Ministry of Education which is looking into the matter of giving me the advice of an establishment of a National School of Music. That committee is about to report to me. I believe that they are about to have one more meeting. It sits under the chairmanship of Mrs.

Janice Millington-Robertson and it is very soon now going to be reporting to me. But I have been looking at its minutes, and its minutes begin to show me that it is willing to advise me on more than a National School of Music. Its advice may well cover the entire area of the arts in general.

The intention of the Ministry of Education was that we would also set up an advisory body to advise us on the establishment of a National School of the Arts, which will encompass the traditional fine arts, the graphic arts, sculpture, photography, everything that you could think of in the arts. This committee, I believe, from looking at its minutes, is going to give me very comprehensive advice in this direction. So the formation of a national orchestra may not be very far off in the future.

I am hoping that, with the help of this Cultural Foundation, a National Gallery will not be very far in the future.

Like the honourable Member for St. Michael West, I hope that the Cultural Foundation would look into the revival of the village choir that we knew, that at least my generation knew when we were children. The village choir was an integral part of community life in Barbados. There was the Eagle Hall Choir, the Chapman Lane Choir, which still exists, and have singing every Sunday night. Those two choirs in particular I remember used to vie for the first place in that festival choir competition, which used to be held on New Year's Day at Kensington Oval every year.

There were choirs from St. Andrew, from St. Lucy, St. Philip, and choirs from almost every village in Barbados. There used to be a test piece and there used to be a free piece, and the choir master would stand up with his tuning fork and he would conduct the choir. Kensington Oval was the venue for the competition, and I remember this very clearly as a special New Year's Day treat.

I am not suggesting that the village choirs might be reorganised on exactly the same basis as in the past, but I think that the kernel of many of those old choirs still exist in our communities and are in fact looking for an outlet, so perhaps the Cultural Foundation might examine the possibility of reviving those community organisations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is also my very clear understanding, and I am pleased to say it, that would be part of the function of the Cultural Foundation to handle and conduct the conservation of certain aspects of our cultural heritage. Things Barbadian, certain antiques, certain works of arts, certain papers, such as the Codrington Papers among many others, and the like, we hope would be acquired by the Cultural Foundation and that some of those objects which now reside outside of Barbados can be purchased and repatriated to this country.

There was a committee in former years whose function it was to advise the Government on the acquisition of objects and papers, and things of that sort. I sat on that committee for a few years and found that, for most of the time, it was in limbo. It did really next to nothing and it acquired very little during the time that I sat on it. No vote of any substance was ever allowed it, and when you wanted to buy anything, particularly papers for other objects from abroad which cost any realistic sum of money, you always had to go to the Cabinet for a special vote to get to purchase.

I am pleased to see that this will be one of the proposed undertakings of the Cultural Foundation. It is a very important part of our heritage which absolutely must be conserved and preserved. I know that there are many important pieces of furniture, many important papers, many important paintings, many important pieces of sculpture and other objects outside of Barbados which really ought to be either in our Museum or in buildings of national importance in Barbados.

I hope that it will also fall into the province of the Cultural Foundation of Barbados, Mr. Speaker, to see to it that Government buildings are permitted to house these aspects of cultural heritage in a way that they never did before.

During the time that I was in the Ministry of Health, and now that I am in the Ministry of Education, I have found it very difficult to preside at the official opening of any building without at the same time satisfying myself that some form of artistic expression was part of that ceremony, even if it was as simple as the planting of trees.

1.50 p.m.

We have two wonderful murals, very large scale murals, down at the Black Rock polyclinic. At the Oistins polyclinic the intention was that we would have a large triglyph in stained glass depicting scenes of the old Oistins, which have now disappeared forever, and I hope that it will be pursued. A huge portion of the upper wall on the western side of the Oistins polyclinic was designed so that three huge panels would be available for this, and I hope that what I am saying will not fall on deaf ears, because I see officials from the Ministry of Culture here in this Honourable Chamber.

It was hoped that the sculptor, Karl Broodhagen, would have sculpted a frieze maybe the length of that wall at the Wildey polyclinic and I hope that that plan will not fall to the ground. The plan was to have a massive frieze, all in terra-cotta. A niche was designed at the Warrens polyclinic to house a huge piece of mahogany sculpture. At the Maurice Byer polyclinic at Speights-town, the landscaping was designed so that a huge out-

door sculpture, possibly in coral stone or steel, might be found for it, or designed for it, at a time when we could afford it. These things are important.

This honourable and ancient Chamber in which we meet every week is resplendent with its stained glass, both here and in the Other Place, and is a building of much architectural interest. We have over the years been building new Government buildings, and it is very sad, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that those buildings are devoid, absolutely, of any embellishment. They say nothing about our culture. A hundred years from now they will say nothing about ourselves as a people and about the times in which we live.

We have the National Insurance building, which could be a building anywhere in the world. There is nothing of the National Insurance building which bespeaks the architecture or the culture of Barbados. We have the Treasury Building, which, in my view, is perhaps the ugliest building we have built in modern times in Barbados. We have the Ministry of Agriculture at Graeme Hall, again there is absolutely nothing outside or inside of that building. You could find it anywhere in the world and not know that it was a building designed for Barbados, and I hope that this kind of adventure is something that the Cultural Foundation will look to.

The Central Bank is to build a monstrous building, I am told. Well, not monstrous in that sense, but monstrous in the sense of monumental, a building which is going to be a monument in the middle of the City of Bridgetown. I have to be concerned about it, because Bridgetown is the constituency that I represent, and I not only represent the people but I represent the environment in which they are expected to live. Well, I have seen the plan — the Governor of the Central Bank is very anxious to show it off to everybody; he has got a model in his present office — and I am not satisfied that that building will make any statement about Barbados.

The Post Office, in my view, is not making any statement about Barbados, and I think that it is now a very important function of this Cultural Foundation to see that they find ways and means to embellish our buildings so that, coming from another country, people will be able to look and say, "Well, that is Barbados." It is very difficult to do this since the architecture is not helping a great deal. I mean it is all concrete and steel anywhere else in the world. It will be very difficult to do this in a post building operation, but I think that an effort has got to be made.

There is no reason why the foyers and the conference rooms of these buildings cannot be decorated with Barbadian indigenous art. There is no reason why the exterior

of these buildings cannot be landscaped with trees which say something about Barbados, which make a Barbadian statement, and why the exterior of these buildings cannot be decorated in such a way that we feel comfortable with them and not begin to get the feeling that we could be in New York or Taiwan or Singapore, or wherever else.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my clear understanding is that it is also part of the functions of this Cultural Foundation to generally give encouragement to cultural activity in Barbados, and I am supposing that, in that sense, the Cultural Foundation would therefore have a greater role to play than the exclusively administrative role to which the honourable Member who spoke before me repeatedly made reference. This is a very important role. People will tend to down-play culture. People in this country have a very fixed and a very narrow idea, for the most part, of what culture means, and of the way in which culture can be recognised in our community. I believe that it is a great danger.

There are a few people who think that they know what it is all about, and that only they know what it is all about. There are a few people who are looking at it with very blinkard eyes, who can only see it from a particular perspective. But it is a very wide and a very varied, a very rich, a very vital and a very important thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A people cannot live without it, let there be no doubt.

I have grown up in this community hearing people — some informed, some uninformed — saying that Barbados has no culture, Barbadians have no culture. I have never known this to be true, because a people cannot live without culture, no more than they can live without water. Much has been done to what we like to describe as our culture in many years gone by, and much has been done in the very recent past, but there is a very fragmented heritage that we have got literally lying around this country.

The National Trust of Barbados has done a great deal as a particular body, and I would want certainly to commend them very highly for what they have done for certain aspects of our culture. The Barbados Museum, which has very recently undergone a face lift, has done a great deal during the fifty years of its existence in yet another aspect of our culture. In the schools, both at the primary and the secondary levels, yet other aspects of Barbadian cultural expression are to be found. If this Cultural Foundation can somehow pool all of this together, weave all of this together in something that we can more easily recognise, in something that we can have easier access to, in something that will be long-standing and that a hundred years from now we can point and say that in the year 1983 a very particular and a very important step was taken in the area of culture in Barbados, then,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that it behoves every one of us in this Honourable Chamber to support this motion.
2.00 p.m.

I wish to say that my compliments go to those people in the Ministry of Culture and Information who have managed to take the concept of a cultural foundation off page 15 of the 1976 Manifesto, and pages 21 and 22 of the 1981 Manifesto, and make it stand up now and walk like a man in this Barbados that we love.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the past few years I have become increasingly confused as the word "culture" becomes bandied about, very often by the speaker to demonstrate the attainment of a certain level of sophistication. But there is very little understanding as to what we mean by culture. Is it a concept? Is it a thing that is hot or cold that you can touch? These are some of the questions which ordinary people ask when they hear the confusing and nebulous usage of the word culture in the discussions by people trying to present themselves as sophisticates.

It is therefore necessary for me to start with some basic definitions, which may be found within the discipline of social anthropology. Culture, in short, represents everything that human beings in any given society create and is divided into two basic categories.

There is the ideational, which embraces all thought within the community. Within the context of Barbados, the ideational in our culture may relate to what is known as the aesthesiological - the concept of spirit, the concept of life after death and so on - which, upon close historical analysis, is unique of all people who live within the African diaspora.

The second category is the artifactual - all things that are built and created by the hands of human beings within the culture.

If this, therefore, is a very shorthand definition of what a culture or any culture is, what specifically do we mean by Barbadian culture? And here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am in profound disagreement with the general view that Barbadian culture, or what is understood by Barbadian culture, is a given that all Barbadians are in unanimous agreement about.

Nothing could be more superficial

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is with much regret that I draw to Your Honour's attention that this Honourable House does not now carry a quorum, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum formed.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, within the Barbadian milieu, if we want to understand the problems in understanding what constitutes a Barbadian culture, it is necessary for us to look at two of the dominant theories in respect of the culture of post-slavery societies that has been advanced within this century.

Barbados is a society that, historically, is made up of two major people. The majority of people in this society have come from Africa, in one way or another, whether they like to hear it or not and the minority which preceded them here, and which decimated the indigenous inhabitants of this island, came from Europe.

In recent times, representatives from other continents have found their way into the population of this country, but have not, as yet, been established to influence what can be called the culture of Barbados in any profound way; so the origin of our culture, therefore, is dualistic in that we have the European strand and an African strand - and here the two views of what constitutes a culture in a post-slavery society, give rise to some controversy.

The view expressed by the well-known American social anthropologist, Herskovits, is one which holds that the African communities brought into the Caribbean were not made up of people whose minds were like a *tabula rasa*, a black slave, on which the European cultural text was written, but there were carriers of a long complex and rich cultural tradition.

A consequence of this is that, this view of a Caribbean culture, like Barbados', perceives the culture as basically an African culture adjusting to a dormant European class which was forcibly superimposed upon it, an African culture in the process of continuous adjustments.

2.10 p.m.

The other theory, and I will use a Caribbean sociologist in order to give it more validity, is that expounded by the Jamaican sociologist Orlando Patterson, who holds that a culture like the Barbadian culture cannot be an African culture in the state of adjustment, and even although there are Africanisms present within the society, that it is a different culture; it is neither African nor European, but a cultural synthesis. It is something completely different.

Now I believe that, in the last analysis, when one looks at contemporaneous social problems, Patterson and Herskovits are merely describing the same phenomena in different ways, although, from my stand point, I am an unrepentant Herskovitsian, because the particular danger in accepting a doctrine of cultural synthesis, which I do

not believe exists, is that if we accept a cultural synthesis, we run the risk, given the dominance accorded to Europeanism and European tradition, that we continue to subordinate the African contributions to an inferior status which I now argue they incontestably occupy. I am going to show, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this leads to very serious problems for human development and other kinds of development within the society, and it is critical to an understanding of these diverse theoretical approaches, it is critical to an understanding of this as a prior development in any administration within the Ministry of Culture.

If these philosophical questions are not clarified at an early stage, then there can be no dynamic or effective cultural programme executed within the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Culture would therefore become a stumbling block rather than an enabling mechanism for creating the kind of ambience which would unleash social dynamism within this country.

The question of Africanisms and their existence as part of the culture of a society in all host slave societies, has been grudgingly admitted, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but the admission has come in a form that is derogatory to people of African descent.

Today, I listened with great care to the contribution made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West, and his presentation, when it dealt with culture as distinct from political rhetoric, indicated a fundamental error of equating the African contribution within the Barbados culture with the expressive traditions of the people, namely music and dancing. I listened in vain to his contribution about what constitutes a substantive culture of this country for anything except music and dancing, as one writer disparagingly called it, a view which believes that the sum total of the African contribution to the culture of Barbados is working out. That is a view which was strongly supported in what I consider to be an unbalanced presentation by the honourable Member for St. Michael West, when he did get into the question of culture at all.

But the African influence has been much more pervasive than that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is in the language of the people. If one listens to what is called Barbadian and compares it with the Haitian dialect, you will see that the basic linguistic structure is akin to that of all African languages, in that in conjugation, the verb never changes whether the subject is singular or plural, and there are many other aspects about Barbadian language which indicate very, very clearly that the language syntactically and semantically is presented as an African language.

There are two kinds of words which we use routinely, that are words that have their origin in the languages of West Africa. Cou-cou, backra and so on are

African words that are used without thinking, and we have been led to believe that these are English words, or a corrupt Barbadianisation of English words. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It has been said by a philosopher "consciousness is social protest". On the face of it, it looks abstruse, but consciousness in human beings means nothing more than thinking and feeling in language, and we only learn to express our feelings for our brothers and sisters through language.

It therefore follows that a language that is, in essence, African, must of necessity produce an African psychology, and this is critical to understanding the people for whom culture bearers, in their arrogance, would want to dispense culture.

Culture cannot be dispensed to anybody. Culture is something that develops among human beings. It is part of the mode of living. What may well happen is that a dominant group can so establish itself as to ensure that, over a period of time, the cultural practices of the people are substantially modified.

You can modify a culture but you cannot destroy it, as Herskovits precipitantly pointed out when he argued in the "Myths of the Negro Past" that each individual has a primary as well as a secondary culture. The secondary culture changes and disappears during the process of adjustment in an alien society dominated by an alien people, but the primary culture is never destroyed, and he argues that the primary culture that the people of African descent in Barbados share with all African people in the African diaspora is their religiosity, and if one carries out empirical research which is extensive on the religious practices of people in Barbados and elsewhere, you will see the thesis expounded upon by Melvin Herskovits validated in its entirety — about religiosity being the primary culture of people of African descent.

There are religious practices within churches, which may be called Baptist, Wesleyan or otherwise, that bear strong resemblances to what are considered primitive religious rites in Africa. And even within the European Church, the Anglican Church, one finds important modifications of the British practice within these churches. It is not an accident that within the Anglican Church there is a season of evangelism, known as the Patronal Festival, where people go out and express themselves in a way that resembles that of an African religious rite rather than the staid, rigid, formalistic approach within the Anglican Church.

So I am arguing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is no cultural synthesis. We have two basic strands — Africanism and Europeanism. It is true there are people who look like Africans, — they are called Afro-Saxons —

who appear to have no trace of Africanism in them at all. I believe the sociologists describe them as "declassé individuals", and declassé intellectuals constitute an elite in this society, an elite that takes flight from its African roots and creates the impression, by their existence within the society, that they constitute some mysterious Western force which gives the lie to the view that Barbadian culture is one continuous dynamic operation of African adjustment, in an underclass, to a cultural superimposition by a more powerful European minority.

2.20 p.m.

There is also this factor, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that greater credit is accorded to the European strand in this culture than the African strand. We hear the physiological expression, that A has better hair than B. A has a better complexion than B. All these relate to European standards and European value judgments.

I am prepared to argue that a cultural synthesis exists in Barbados if, and only if, in our dualistic cultural heritage the African strand is given its proper weight within our society. Until the African strand is considered to be a valid contribution to our Barbadian heritage, then it is nonsense to talk about a cultural synthesis. There are two strands interacting and mutually modifying each other, and I believe that it is the role of a dynamic Ministry of Culture to ensure that this balance in our cultural heritage is established. That is a primary task of a Ministry of Culture.

I support the Foundation as an important piece of the administrative infrastructure for doing this. But I want to make it clear that the criticisms of the honourable Member for St. Michael West are misplaced and demonstrates ignorance as to what constitutes culture.

No ministry or no individual can bring culture to anyone. They work with what they find and they work in such a way as to ensure the people of this society develop to the fullest extent. No group of people, whether you call them culture vultures or whatever — culture bearers — can arrogate to themselves the capacity to go anywhere in Barbados and tell anybody that they are bringing culture to them. To assert this is to imply ignorance as to what constitutes culture within our society.

And so, this is a mechanism in order to create the ethos in which drawing upon the cultural history in Barbados and relating it to what is contemporary, we can proceed to ensure that the people in this society become highly productive, dignified human beings. Because let there be no doubt about it, as long as the African strand is deemed to be inferior to the European strand, people of African descent within this society will consider themselves inferior and, to that extent, will be unable of maximizing their talents.

So a tragic problem immediately confronting the Ministry of Culture to correct is the situation where one historical strand is deemed inferior to another historical strand. And having done this, they will have purged many of the members of this society of an inferiority complex, which is an inhibiting factor to the development of this country.

One of the principal interests of a Ministry of Culture would be to create a situation where the people of this country can be creative. A man who has doubts of his own worth as a human being, a man who has doubts about the texture of his hair or the color of his skin, is a man not capable of fulfilling himself and his potential as a creative individual within the society. I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is the important task that the Ministry of Culture faces today.

I would hope that the Ministry of Culture, as soon as the establishment of this foundation is achieved, will be able to move away from its pre-occupation with more episodic activities — CARIFESTA, Crop Over, NIFCA; episodic activities. What we want is to unleash cultural energy that makes this activity ongoing, and not carried on in fits and starts. The season of culture does not begin with Crop Over and end with sweating bodies on the streets, or, for those who consider themselves more genteel, with going into a theatre at Combermere and then coming out and think that they have had a dose of culture. It is a continuing activity that leads to the release of creative energies of people within a society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope, therefore, that in the future, discussions will begin to focus upon what really constitutes Barbadian culture and not take it for granted.

I believe that it is in the interest of certain races within the society to have Barbadian culture talked of in these universalistic terms. Because in using the word "Barbadian", which is a racially neutral term, it is possible, under the cover of it, to carry out all kinds of racist acts. So once one recognises the strands as black and white, and you are not afraid to face the truth, then you can deal with the questions that arise in this society in a fair and fearless manner.

2.30 p.m.

It is not surprising that, in a society where there is no clear definition of culture, you have people of African descent confused over the issue of South Africa — as to whether black cricketers should go to South Africa and contribute to the perpetuation of a diabolical system.

There are some politicians who are afraid to speak on it, because they believe that the majority of people support the cricketers. I have no such fears. There is only one right position in this question, and it is that every black man of pride and self-respect, who is aware of what

is happening in South Africa, should keep as far as possible from the South African red necks who visit all kinds of indignities upon black-skinned people in that society. There can be no other position for any right-minded person, acquainted with the facts of South Africa, to take.

South Africa is a cesspool of racism. South Africa is a dirty, stinking place as far as black people are concerned, and I believe that I would be failing to exercise leadership, out of courting cheap popularity, to pretend that I agree with a handful of wrong-headed black men, who have prostituted and prostrated themselves as mercenaries to prop up and whitewash an iniquitous system of racism.

And that there could be confusion in this society about this question derives directly from the fact that there is confusion about what constitutes Barbadian culture, and the nature and origin of Barbadian culture. That is precisely the problem, because, on the one hand, you have the European strand with its dominant philosophy of pragmatism. On the other hand, you have the African strand, and since both of them are our heritage, we tend to slip from one to the other without the grinding of gears, and so it is easy to justify going to South Africa by embracing European pragmatism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is but one of the problems that has arisen as a result of utter confusion in this country as to what constitutes our cultural life, and I hope this Foundation could be used as a vehicle through which there can be greater enlightenment about the nature of what constitutes our cultural history and our cultural presence.

In conclusion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to make one other point. There are a lot of people walking about parading as culture what happened in the 18th or 19th Century. I saw people at the last Crop Over Festival dressed up as slaves and disporting themselves proudly on the streets of Barbados. I do not believe that the experience of slavery, with all of its degradation, is anything that anybody can be proud of, yet I do not argue that we should forget it, because how could we, when the remnants of slavery can be seen all around us. Many of us wear suits and ties, but, in fact, we think and function in precisely the same way to the dominant class as our slave ancestors of yore. So the slave mentality is not a thing of the past, it is with us, and there are many other aspects of slavery that can be identified in Barbados of this year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty three, even although slavery was legally abolished in 1834.

I mention this to say that if we use culture as a tool for development, culture must be functional. There is no point in looking at pictures of a slave woman and a slave man, and dreaming of an idyllic past, and believe

that this can in and of itself be used as a tool to development of the present and of the future. It can only be so used if the lessons of history are understood.

Your art, in so far as it reflects your culture, must be functional. If it cannot be used as a tool for development, then it is of no use to anybody.

So we must not become intoxicated with culture to the point where we grab things and say this is an Africanism, therefore I will latch on to it, and talk about it and use it. This foolishness was exposed about 15 years ago in the United States of America when certain black groups wanted to speak Yoruba, and it soon became painfully obvious to them that while Yoruba was a language spoken by some of their ancestors – to be respected – that it was nonsensical to introduce it into an American social audience, because it could not help to further the progress of the people that they were identifying with and helping.

I would want to urge that we do not have a situation where we waste our efforts in having culture for its own sake, but culture must be functional and used as a tool to further our development.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for 45 minutes, until 3.30 Sir.

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

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

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, earlier in the day, I indicated that I would have a measure coming down, a Resolution, and I propose at this stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to revert to the appropriate item to give notice of this Resolution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would also like to indicate that I propose to withdraw two items from the Order Paper – The Narcotic Drugs Bill as well as the Immigration Bill – from the Order Paper in its present form, and I would take Your Honour's guidance in having this measure proceeded with.

However, Sir, I beg to give notice of the Resolution, if it is the pleasure.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no objections, let Government Notices be re-opened.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$603,260 from the Consolidated Fund and 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. 24 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Sir, I also propose, under the appropriate Standing Order, the procedure in keeping with Parliament, to withdraw from the Order Paper the Item.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the honourable Member would indicate the Order under Government Business he wants to deal with.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg your pardon, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you would indicate the number of the Order you are dealing with first.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: To withdraw Order No. 2, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 2. Clerk, please call Order No. 2.

Order No. 2 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Immigration Act, Cap. 190.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: At this stage, Sir, I propose to move that Order No. 2 on the Order Paper under Government Business, be now withdrawn.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 6.

Order No. 6 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Narcotic Drugs Act, Cap. 140A.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Order No. 6, on the Order Paper under Government Business, be withdrawn.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: As a matter of courtesy, I just want to inform the House that the Government wishes to examine both Bills, Sir, and probably make them a little more comprehensive after examining them for a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are now back under Government Business, since the Standing Orders have been suspended, and you may take charge from there. I am ready to wind up, and I think at this stage I may as well wind up, Sir, if no other Member on the other side proposes to speak.

I know that the Shadow Minister of Culture came late so the Member for St. Michael West was fighting all day and struggling until he got here, the former Director of Youth Affairs. I will be answering him anyhow.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken, the House was dealing with Order No. 5. To that it now reverts, Order No. 5.

RESUMPTION OF NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION ACT, 1983

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a small contribution to the debate on the Bill which is before this House. I believe that the Minister for Health, as he is now, started in the vein in which I would have liked to start, that is that there is a necessity to explain to people in this country exactly what culture is all about.

Sometimes we hear that Barbadians have no culture. We do not seem to understand that culture is something which comes from the people itself and that it is always developing. We speak about it as though we were cut off from our foreparents and so everything is over. This means to me as well that, as far as this Bill is concerned, we should understand that culture is something that comes from the people, and it seems as though we are coming from the top down.

Now, in looking at the Bill itself, I am wondering if, as I understand it, – I was not here – that a staff of six can really carry out the functions which this Foundation is intended to carry out. Indeed, in the aims and objects or the functions of the Foundation, under (c), I notice that it is to organise cultural festivals. In my humble opinion, I believe what this should have said is "to assist in the organising of cultural festivals" Cultural festivals are things which come from the community and

the most that a foundation or a department can do is to assist people.

I remember at our last festival in Holetown, we sought the assistance of the Ministry of Culture and when we contacted them, we were asked to submit a letter — and this is one thing which I think we have got to look at very carefully. Committees such as these have not got the wherewithal to constantly write letters to various organisations. It is done on the basis of personal contact, and it would seem to me that if the foundation is set up to organise cultural activities, it is going to defeat the purpose. It depends largely on the goodwill and voluntary work of a large number of people in the community, and people who are invited.

As I was saying, we were asked to write the Department of Culture and ask for technical assistance and, as of today, we have not seen the technical officer. This brings me to the point of staff again. Unless we can get sufficient staff to man this Foundation or to carry out the aims and objectives of this Foundation, then we are going to fail before we start.

It would seem to me that this has been one of the shortcomings for a number of years in Barbados, not only in the Culture Department, but indeed in the Community Development Department, as it was before. If we were to look throughout the country and look at the number of Cultural Officers or Community Development Officers they have, one wonders how they could begin to do the work which they are supposed to do.

Again, as a man from the country, I would ask the appropriate Minister if it is their intention at all to put facilities out in the country. I can remember when the new St. James Secondary School was being built, I had a word with the then Minister of Education, who is now the Attorney General, and asked if they would be so kind as to put an auditorium in that school. We have got to understand that we cannot at all times build independent facilities but we should try our best to make use of the facilities which we are building for other things, and I believe that in the country, wherever we are building new schools, particularly secondary schools, that they should include auditoriums so that the people in the area can perform.

Unfortunately, nowhere in the country districts — in St. James, St. Lucy — but only in Bridgetown, St. Michael, we can see the facilities which give people the impression that they are being catered for on a cultural level. This is something which is sadly lacking and if the Foundation does come about, I believe this is something which they must look at.

The other aspect which concerns me is the technical staff. To my mind, we have little or no technical staff to carry out the functions of the Ministry of Culture at the present time. I am not quite sure what they are going to do about it, but it is something which needs to have an urgent look into. Indeed, I believe that most of the equipment of the Ministry of Culture has been destroyed because of the fact that we have not got the expertise to use the equipment.

3.45 p.m.

While I am talking about that, I notice too that there are certain persons who are getting scholarships overseas to study, and then they have to be employed in other countries. The last person who went to England a couple of years ago I believe is now working in Jamaica. There is a young man who is about to go off to Manchester in October, I believe it is for a six-months' training course, and I hope that when he returns, the Ministry of Culture will make the best use of his knowledge, experience and expertise in this area, because unless we can have Barbadians themselves being involved in this exercise, it is of no avail.

While I am at it, I had better mention something about CARIFESTA because I believe that we made a great mistake, first of all, in hosting CARIFESTA, but, secondly, I can recall that when we were looking at our theatres, we had an expert living in Barbados and yet we found it necessary to go to England to recruit somebody to come down here and advise us on the interior decoration for our theatres, only to find that when that person arrived, the person whom we had here was his lecturer in England, and it meant that we had wasted a whole heap of money sending for overseas people when we had the experts in our own country. So we must try as far as possible to make the best use of the people we have.

I just want to conclude by saying that I believe that this is something which should have been put to the various groups involved in cultural activities to see how best we could formulate the policy for the development of culture in this country. Although I would hate to think that the efforts made by those who have got the interest of culture at heart in introducing this Bill will fail, it seems to me that this is far from even touching the surface of the problem which we are faced with in this country.

If we look at even the housing areas or, as we call them, the housing schemes in Barbados, I can only think of one, and that is in the Pine, where something culturally is taking place. A lot of the problems which confront us in this country is due to the fact that the youngsters have little or no avenues for their energies, whether cultural or otherwise, and I notice that we have

some patrons that do not even get involved in cultural activities themselves, but one of the problems in our schemes is that the youngsters have nothing to uplift them and, indeed, most of their time is spent in non-constructive activity. I hope that, when even more detailed thought is put into the functioning of the Foundation, some effort will be made to try to deploy their forces to work in what could only be considered now as the five areas.

What happens in most of these areas is that youngsters, because much attention is not paid to them, become frustrated, and, due to a lot of the frustration, they end up doing destructive jobs and, indeed, very often they become involved in crime.

As I conclude, I should just like to say that I hope that, when further discussion is had on this matter, more emphasis will be placed on consultation from the various groups in the community so that we will realise that cultural activities are coming not from the top, from the bureaucratic system, but indeed from the people themselves.

Thank you.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to make my contribution in this debate. It is not very often that this Honourable Chamber gets an opportunity to discuss matters relating to culture, and I think it is right and appropriate that on this occasion, which is one for the establishment of a National Cultural Foundation, opportunity be taken to say something generally about culture, about culture within the context of Barbados and about the kinds of institutions which are being established for the dissemination and development of the national culture of this country.

I generally take a position in which I believe that for a country such as Barbados — small, open to a lot of influences — that our culture has taken in and must take in the tributaries from the various rich, cultural rivers of the world. I do not believe that it can be any singular river or singular tributary which can formulate or contribute to the culture of this country, and, therefore, I may find myself in some disagreement with my distinguished colleague, the Professor, who is against any dualism, as I understood it....

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was at pains to indicate that there are two central strands from which the culture of Barbados originates, and two strands which continue to manifest themselves. What I am arguing is that these strands have not amalgamated themselves into something new and different, but continue in large measure to be two separate strands, even although they modify each other.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: With that particular elaboration of the thesis, as just made in that point of explanation, I can have no quarrel at all. I can have no quarrel at all with that particular elaboration of the matter, the doctrine of cultural parallelisms. But I make no apologies about it. I believe in the synthesis of cultures. I believe in syncretism — I believe the Minister of Health would appreciate that word — I believe in syncretism as far as cultural matters are concerned, and I believe that a country, which tries to exclude or extrude from the whole basis of its culture any important contributions that can be made from other cultural manifestations, becomes the poorer.

I believe that Barbados would be the poorer if it tried to force its cultural development into a single stream and blocked off any worthwhile or creative influences that can come from other cultures. I am saying in plain words, therefore, that African influences in our culture must be the prime source for the development of the culture of Barbados. I am saying also that the tributaries — which may come from Europe, or which may come from Asia, or which may come from whatever source — can make significant inputs to our cultural development, and it for the ingenuity of our people to take these different tributaries, to take those different strands, and to weave them into something that can be creatively new and something that can be distinctly Barbadian, or something that can be distinctly Caribbean, whatever term they use.

This is no small matter. It is not going to happen overnight. I think we have got to be factual about that. There are those who believe that the only culture that exists is the culture that comes from Europe, because centuries of indoctrination have caused us to believe that whatever comes out of Europe is good, and whatever comes out of Africa, or Asia, or from Barbados or the Caribbean itself, is inferior.

3.55 p.m.

It will take many years to eradicate that kind of thinking. I do not believe we have to go back to that *tabula rasa* that the Minister of Health spoke about. I believe that the process has already started and that there is a growing recognition in this country that things of ultimate cultural value can come from different countries.

My particular problem with this whole debate today is how we can really erect all of these hopes for the cultural development of this country on such a very weak cultural foundation as may be proposed in this particular piece of legislation. Because when we talk about developing our culture, trying to do something new, whether it is to do with the housing areas, the national festivals, the regional festivals or the parochial festivals, whatever they may be, and then with all of the theses being developed concerning our culture, we

asked ourselves what is really the mechanisms which we are going to use in order to push this cultural development and then we come to the Cultural Foundation, I must say that I feel a bit let down.

I feel a bit let down when I read this Bill. When I was expecting that we would have an institution set up which would be capable of separating our cultural development from the political elements which may effect the very cultural development that we are trying to achieve, when I examine the Bill I find that, in fact, we are setting up a very weak cultural foundation with very few powers and with very little authority to do anything on its own.

A careful reading of the Bill will cause one to ask the question, what is the difference between this particular foundation and the Department of Culture? One has to ask oneself, what is it that this cultural foundation can do that the Ministry of Culture itself cannot do? What is the difference between this foundation and the Department of Culture proper? Up to this point in the debate no member of the Government has explained this difference.

I find that the political directorate can intervene at many points in this cultural foundation, at even more points than you get in a statutory corporation. It is a weaker body than a statutory corporation, and some of the statutory corporations are fairly weak indeed. I really have to ask myself this question, if we are really talking about cultural development, are we, as a House of Assembly, taking the right decision in setting up such a weak cultural foundation when there is such an enormous job and such a great task to be performed.

I think that this is a very fundamental question, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is one that we cannot sweep under the carpet. We have got to address ourselves to it and I must confess that to date, up to this particular point in the debate, I would have to say that I am not convinced that the Cultural Foundation as elaborated in the Bill is strong enough to achieve the kinds of objectives that I have heard Members on both sides of the House speak about, and, secondly, I have to ask myself the question: will our culture be able to develop, to expand and to grow at the kind of rate and in the kinds of directions that we consider to be desirable without being given that breadth of freedom, that breadth of independence that breadth of separation, from the kinds of influences that might very well stifle and hinder the very thing that we want to develop. I have serious reservations on these scores.

No one can have any quarrel about the objectives as set out in the Bill that is before us. The functions as set out in Clause 3 are quite clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I do not think that we can have any quarrel

with the general objectives. But the question I am asking, when we go on from these general objectives, which we may be able to subscribe to, is, can this cultural foundation really deliver the goods, really lead to that efflorescence of the cultural imagination in this country, in all of its diversity, that Barbados would be better off with?

When we come to look at this Bill in Committee, I will attempt to look at some of those areas where I believe that the kind of independence and freedom that a cultural foundation should have — and these are missing from this particular piece of legislation. The term "foundation" evokes certain connotations in the minds of people — of a body which has a wide measure of freedom. But the actual provisions of this piece of legislation before us then come and belie those kinds of expectations.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I may move on from that particular point and speak a little more specifically in terms of the cultural development as it relates to the different communities in this country, I am in agreement with the thrust which was reintroduced by the Ministry of Culture and stressed in terms of taking the cultural activities right out into the communities.

I would like to say that I believe that the Member for St. Andrew, together with those persons based in his community, was right to try to get some kind of festival going in that area. I believe the Member who represents the district of the Pine, which was mentioned, was right to be associated with any cultural manifestations in that area. I believe the Member for Christ Church East Central was right to try to get something going in that particular area, and I believe my colleague, the Member for St. Michael West, was right in trying to get something going in the St. Leonard's area, even though on the floor of this House he announced that he was having some problems with the Ministry of Culture.

4.05 p.m.

Now the Ministry of Culture is only part of a wider Ministry. As I understand it, it is the Ministry of Information and Culture, and it may be that when the Ministry of Culture is co-operative, or appearing to be co-operative, the Ministry of Information might not be co-operative, and when the Ministry of Information is co-operative, the Ministry of Culture may not be co-operative. I do not know what he was complaining about, but I saw that the Ministry of Information, through its connections with the Caribbean Broadcasting Station, gave him wide coverage on the television for his particular activities at St. Leonard's. Let me not forget my friend also, the Member for St. Michael North East. There is the Waterford Festival as well, I believe, and those are very good directions in which we can go.

But I want to reinforce a plea which has been made, there is no way that we can develop the culture of this country on a politically partisan basis. It has to be on a non-partisan basis, and I would like to get that point straight from the start. I mentioned the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture, and it is my hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the persons who constitute the staff of this Ministry of Culture may in fact have a little more freedom of operation than the members of the staff of the Ministry of Information. As I understand it, some of them may be sent here, and thither, and back here and thither and so on, as far as information is concerned. I have not heard those reports of the Ministry of Culture yet.

Some very strange things happen, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do not think this House is aware of all the strange things that happen in that particular regard, but I know that the Minister has his heart in the right place. I have no doubts about that at all, but sometimes some problems occur and what you believe may be a solution only serves to compound the problem.

I will just leave that particular problem where it is at the moment. I believe it is like an iceberg, because there is only a certain amount that is on the surface, but down below, there is a vast expanse of damaging ice that can do destruction to a lot of people, and to a lot of institutions as well.

I believe that if our culture is to develop, we cannot only think of the national galas, we cannot only think of the big festivals; it has to be those activities which should be multiplied throughout the country in each community, and it should not be done on any particular political basis.

Let me put the matter bluntly, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I believe that there is no point trying to exclude members of the Opposition from any cultural penetration which may be taking place in the community simply because an Opposition member may happen to represent that particular constituency. I believe that if a Government Department is going into a particular area, if the Ministry of Culture and now the Cultural Foundation is trying to develop certain initiatives in an area, they should do everything in their power to associate the Member of Parliament for that particular constituency with the initiatives that are being taken. Just as all kinds of assistance may be given to Government members, similar assistance and involvement and association should be extended to the members of the Opposition.

I know normally I will hear the kind of arguments that because something happened in 1951 or in 1961, that is some kind of explanation or justification why it should happen in 1981. I am not in that line of

argument. I believe that if something is wrong, whether A. does it or B does it is no justification why C should do it. If it is right, I say do it; if it is wrong, you should change it.

I believe, therefore, that if any committees are being set up, if any cultural groups are being developed, the appropriate foundation — in this case when it is set up, the National Cultural Foundation — or the Ministry proper, should make it a point of duty of consulting, or advising or involving the representative of the constituency, whoever he may be, in that particular development.

I think this is a principle to which very close attention should be given, because when we are talking about culture, we are talking about a diffusion on a broad base of material, we are talking about the diffusion of the performing arts, we are talking about the diffusion of the whole cultural milieu, and I believe that in that regard, unless we go on this broad base, we are going to create more fractures and divisions in our society, and this must be avoided at all costs. I do not think we can bear those kinds of divisions.

I make those few general points, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and hope that in time we may be able to improve on this particular National Cultural Foundation. It is a very weak foundation at the moment. Any one who reads it can see; very, very weak.

(Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Give it time to grow).

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: We will give it time to grow, but I am very surprised that this is the particular measure, weak as it is, that could be brought to the House at this time. Even though it is a step, it is only a very small step.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to give my support to this particular Bill which would bring a cultural foundation into being.

I do not wish to get into the philosophical arguments, since I feel that this is a subject which all Barbadians have heard over the years. What we are seeing is the Ministry of Culture establishing a body which would now supervise all cultural activities. This in itself is a very good thing, because we have seen cultural groups springing up over the years. Some that come to mind include Yoruba House, the St. John Cultural Group, the Tyrone Dance Troupe, the Pinelands and Wilkey Cultural Group — and all of them have served very useful purposes indeed.

4.15 p.m.

I heard members from the other side enquiring about why the Director of Culture has been omitted from the body of officers that are supposed to take over this foundation in its initial stages. I too, share that concern, because the Director of Culture is a person who has demonstrated over the years that he not only knows about culture and directing cultural affairs and activities in this country, but he has also gone to the extreme of setting up his own group and providing accommodation for them as well.

I must say that I have had the privilege of discussing certain cultural activities with the present Director of Culture. I am satisfied that he knows, and in his hands the cultural future of Barbados is well placed. Therefore, I would wish to see, at the very earliest stage, the present Director of Culture having some say in developing or helping to mould and fashion this cultural foundation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we can go on and on talking about the weaknesses of the Foundation, but, as I understand it, in the initial stages there will be a few officers that are identified, but it is hoped that as the Foundation grows, it will become stronger and hence there will be less ministerial or departmental involvement. But, for the time being, one reasonably understands why such precautions have been taken to see this foundation get off the ground.

Some mention was made of the cultural activities in communities, and the honourable Member for St. Michael South as well as the honourable Member for St. James North made mention of the Pinelands Group.

What I would wish honourable Members to remember is that we must not talk in terms of cultural activities and the expressions of people in areas unless we, ourselves, are prepared to get involved and set the example. The Pinelands Creative Workshop, which is an arm of the Pinelands Development Council, of which I am very proud to be associated with – I am the patron of that group – has done a very fine job, and I am sure that Barbadians are very proud of that group. It had the honour of being the very first group of putting on a play which was televised on our local television station.

I must say that Pinelands Creative Workshop had personnel like Mr. Ralph Walker, who was then associated with the Community Development Division, then headed by my colleague, the honourable Minister of Health who was then Minister of Community Services. He saw to it that every assistance was given to that group, and he made a financial contribution available in order to help that group reach the stage that it has reached today.

I also had the pleasure of going to the stadium two Sundays ago and seeing the group perform before an

audience of some 6 000 or 7 000 people. That in itself shows what a group, if it is well put together and well supported by people who are interested in cultural development, can do for a country.

The Yoruba Dance Group continues to play a vital role in our cultural development. I have said before – I do not need to further the cause of anyone but we must give credit to those who deserve the credit – that Elombe Mottley was responsible for this. I think we should be honest enough to say these things.

The honourable Member for St. John, helped to develop the St. John Cultural Group. He helped Pearson Bellamy and that group and I am sure that the St. John Cultural Group is one of the very good cultural groups in Barbados today.

We heard some members say a couple months ago that they were called by their leader to donate part of their salaries to worthwhile causes. I am going to invite honourable Members to put their money into some of these cultural groups, and you will be able to get up at some point in time, as I can get up in here and say that I am satisfied that I have put my money in a group that Barbadians and I are proud of.

You do not have to identify which worthy cause you are going to put your money in. You can put it in a cultural group. Do like I did. Put out \$1 500 a year in the groups and then you will see the results that we have had.

Certain remarks made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were ordered expunged from the Record by Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the years, from since 1973, I have been making contributions to the cultural groups in that area. The area was regarded as one of the worse areas in this country. You used to hear "P for Pine, P for Prison and P for Perry", and from the time the Pinelands Cultural Group was formed, we saw less and less crime and vandalism in the area.

I am proud, and I am sure that the honourable Minister of Education will say that she heard representatives from the Ministry of Education and the headmistress of that school say that today there is no vandalism in that Pinelands area – thanks to the development of that cultural group.

Certain remarks made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South were ordered expunged from the Record by the Deputy Speaker.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I think that the honourable Members will get up all the time and interrupt

because they do not want to take a cue. I told them put their extra money into the cultural groups and then they will see how they would operate. They would be proud to be able to get up like me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the position is this that we have got the cultural groups in Barbados, there is a number of them, and what we needed all along is some body that would be able to harness these groups and to guide them along the right paths. They lack direction in some cases. Most of them have got to raise money to carry out their activities, and I feel that the Cultural Foundation will be able to inject funds into these groups so that they will be able to do a much better job in the future.

4.25 p.m.

We have seen this Government from time to time paying a lot of attention not only to the cultural aspect of life, but also to the preservation of our historic site and all that goes to make our cultural heritage a meaningful exercise, and that is why we feel that a cultural foundation should be established. I do hope that now that the Ministry of Culture has got under its umbrella the Queens Park Shed, the Queens Park Theatre and Combermere, which was actually furnished with equipment coming out of CARIFESTA, that they would be able to put the equipment to better use.

I had the experience, when I was Minister of Lands, where people could not get access to the equipment, because the responsibility for the equipment and the use of these halls – the Queens Park Steel Shed and the Queens Park Theatre – were under two different Ministries. Now that we have got them under the Ministry of Culture, one hopes that the Ministry of Culture will assign these premises to the Foundation so that they will have them as their premises rather than allow them to remain in the hands of the Ministry itself, because, as I see in the Bill, it is proposed to give the Foundation assets, and I think one of the first things the Ministry of Culture should do and consider is to invest these buildings into the hands of the Cultural Foundation.

I do hope that the Cultural Foundation will look at areas like the Tuk Band and the Landship and bring them together, because all this is part of our culture and our heritage. But as I said, there is too loose an arrangement today, and the Cultural Foundation will go a long way in bringing them together so that we can have more co-ordinated and well organised cultural programmes in the future.

I do hope that the Foundation will get off the ground very smoothly, because ever so often we come here and pass legislation to set up some bodies, but in the meantime we find them experiencing problems.

I do not mind the honourable Member for St. Michael South alluding to the fact that there might be some political interference. He wonders whether there would be any political involvement and whether the Opposition will be involved. Now I want to let him know that when we set up the Pinelands Cultural Group, I involved my political opponents, and asked them to make financial contributions, too. We invite them to all our cultural activities, and that is the thinking of this Government. All of us think along that line.

We will extend, or see to it that invitations are extended to not only members of the Opposition who are now representatives of the areas in which these cultural activities will take place, but also those who are political aspirants from the other side, because we feel that cultural activities and development have no political bounds, and therefore we are prepared to involve all and sundry, irrespective of their political affiliation, in these groups. We feel that is the way that cultural activities or nation building should develop, not along the narrow partisan confines. We are going to extend the ambit. The way how we see things as a Government is to involve the community and the entire country at large.

I hope that the honourable Member will understand that we have confidence, and he also should have confidence, in the present Minister. I am sure the present Minister will see to it that the constitution of the Foundation will involve people from all walks of life, people who have got a contribution to make, and they will not be selected on a party basis. If that is not done that will spell disaster for our cultural development. I am sure that my colleagues and I will not wish to see this, and I am confident that the present Minister – and also his successors, if there be any – will see to it that we extend this sort of policy throughout to our deliberations.

I do hope that this point is well taken, and you must bear with us. We are starting from scratch. We have set up a very small body, but in time we will develop a larger body which will involve the director and other people who are very versed in cultural activities, so that the Ministry's involvement will become less and less as we develop the Foundation stronger and stronger.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, a distinguished author once wrote "I fear the Greeks even when they bring gifts." *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I remind the honourable Member that the debates in this Chamber must be conducted in the English language.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I translated that first. When translated it means "I fear the vulgar even when they bring gifts wrapped in finery." It is in this context that

I will say I am surprised when I see the very narrow concept of culture being put forward by those sitting on the other side.

I presume the purpose of the establishment of a cultural foundation is intended to provide some sort of formal institution which would give some order to those administrative inputs into the administration of expressions of culture. And I want to make a clear distinction between culture in its widest sense and expressions of culture in various forms, because it would seem to me, Sir, that what this Bill seeks to address itself to is the establishment of some body which hopefully, might perform the function better than how it is being done now by the Ministry itself.

Sir, I take a much wider view of culture because I believe it is the most sensitive and yet the most important software in the development process, software which cannot be purchased, software which, if handled well, if properly developed, if properly nourished, can contribute much to the development of this nation, and indeed to any nation.

Sir, I would have liked to see, and I very much believe in this area of human activity, provision made for such a foundation to be able to do research into the various aspects of the wider cultural basis of this community. Let me give a couple of examples. An environment in which a tourist development can take place depends very much on the impact of tourism on the host country in which it is taking place and the cultural response of the people to the impact of such tourism. You can have a situation where you can use your cultural base and harness it for the development of the particular sector, or you can allow a particular sector to destroy an important element in your culture.

I just give this as an example because it is much more easily understood since that particular area of activity functions on people to people basis, and people can see how expressions of culture would be important in this particular area. Whether it be food, the presentation of food, the projection of food as part of the cultural product, it may have widespread implications in terms of other things happening throughout the society in a positive manner. So when I think of culture, I recognise this as an important vehicle, if not the most important vehicle for the development process.

I would like to see a foundation of this kind, if it is really a serious foundation, not only concerning itself with looking at the administrative arrangements for the expressions of culture, but looking more deeply and having a more profound understanding of the meaning of culture within our community.

I will give you another example, which is not perhaps as easily understood, and is a little more touchy than the tourist area.
4.35 p.m.

We have a major problem in this country where there seems to be a cultural cleavage between the needs for human input into agriculture and the availability of human beings to participate in that, and right down that cleavage you can detect certain cultural barriers. We ask ourselves, what steps have been taken to overcome this? How can the current attitudes towards agriculture, rooted no doubt in cultural experience, be dealt with? How can we produce an agricultural superstructure which is rooted in cultural attitudes relevant to that particular sector?

There is no point lamenting that people will not do this and people will not do that. Those who are sensitive and understand that culture is an important motive force in the productive process, would set about to find out why people behave in a particular manner and how you can modify your development process in order to make important events take place within a society in a constructive and orderly manner.

We have, Sir, and many people are afraid to speak to this problem, the debilitating problem in this society for many years, where you can use obscure terms like "parallelism in culture", or "cultures stemming from different tributaries", as my distinguished colleague has said or, as the honourable Minister of Health has tried to put forward, cultures coming from different parts of the world.

The fact is that we have failed, and failed miserably, to find a happy blend of those two cultures in this country whilst we are introducing other cultures, and I think we may end up in total confusion unless we understand what is going on. We need to look at our inner selves and not wait until events overtake us, where ruptures occur from time to time and the blatant problem of parallelism in cultural pursuits in Barbados suddenly raises its ugly head and then we address ourselves to that problem. We need to look and see how we can find a proper medium in this society to make sure that the best of both could be welded into one constructive cultural force.

I speak, Sir, but simply about how we can deal with the debilitating defects of a culture that conceals serious racism in this society. Make no mistake about it, I am never fearful, because I do not depend on anybody for survival. I do not see myself as attached to any particular group in this society, so I can speak at all times on public affairs. Nor am I a member of any party who is financed by any particular group, so I can speak at all times to ills when I see them in a society.

There is no point setting up a foundation which will be starved of funds, inevitably, which addresses itself only to cultural expressions. That is very worthwhile, there is nothing wrong with that, but we need to address ourselves to serious and fundamental problems whereby we have allowed a serious disintegration of those cultural cohesive forces that have kept this society together over many a year.

Whilst the Member who just sat down was unable to make contact between crime and culture, I make bold to say here that there are inputs into the cultural stream of Barbados which today are leading to disintegration of the Barbadian personality and hence you see the outbreak not only in the increases of crime, but in the type of crime that you are seeing in Barbados.

We really need to examine ourselves. These things have close inter-linkages with the moral and cultural approach to leadership, and that is why I said at the beginning that I become very fearful when the vulgar address themselves to the problem of culture. They will contaminate it, as they have contaminated everything in this society, and, therefore, I would very much like to see a foundation that can be a mile away from the political impact of the present Administration, completely independent, and which can address itself to dealing not only with the aspects of cultural expression, but looking more fundamentally to see how and what we have inherited, what is ours, what we have not had to pay one cent for, and how this can be used to further the development not only of this generation, but of generations to come.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a strange suspicion that we have an opportunity now, through an understanding of the role of culture in the maintenance of stability and in the development of this society, to make a major contribution at this point in time. If it is missed, I am fearful that this society might go off in a direction of disintegration which may well be catastrophic not only for us as we approach the early middle age, speaking for myself, and those of later middle age, for many on the other side, but also for our children.

I also believe that, looking at the cultural patterns evolving in Barbados at the moment, it is going to be very difficult for children being brought up in this situation to have the same kind of emotional stability which we would have enjoyed as children. I get this feeling around me; there are so many varying inputs, so many disintegrating factors that seem to me to be present.

It is perfectly possible that children, who are exposed to this sort of thing, might be able to cope with it better than those of my age and those are older, and perhaps it may be a different type of Barbadian personality that might evolve, but I think we will have an

opportunity to look very carefully at the total dimension of culture.

So when you bring this sort of Bill, you have to clearly understand that you are dealing only with the expressions of certain aspects of culture in Barbados. But you also want to be able to build within legislation of this kind, a framework which gives you, as a Government, the opportunity to examine in total the input which culture can make to propel this society in a forward and not in a backward direction.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I have listened all day to the views expressed on both sides of the House in relation to this measure. I would only like to reply to a few points. One of the points is that there seems to be a lot of emphasis on the staffing of the Foundation, where there is an executive secretary, and people on the other side asked about the position of the Director of Culture. I think one view Sir was that the Director of Culture should be part and parcel of the actual foundation or things of that nature, Sir.

4.45 p.m.

I am under the impression that the Ministry of Culture would still have the overall guidance of the foundation, and that the Director of Culture, as I understand it, would be the person who would be overseeing, carrying out the policy guidelines on culture in the country. Also, that the staffing of the foundation is to more or less carry out the mechanisms, the administrative aspect of the foundation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I do agree with the Member for St. Michael West about Barbados having a national orchestra. I have no doubt in my mind that something of this nature would be very fitting for Barbados. But I must also draw to your attention the fact that I attended a function at the Stadium about two years ago when a Mr. Wilson put on a show there, which I think was referred to as the Barbados All Stars Extravaganza or something like that. I cannot recall exactly what title it was given, but it brought together some of our very fine artistes, and I must confess that I thought it was one of the most outstanding functions I have attended at that level. The attendance was equally as poor as the success of the musicians, the artistes themselves. I think, therefore, that the Ministry of Culture will have to examine a number of areas and start a real educational programme within the schools for the purpose of seeing such things highlighted.

Another point raised was that the foundation was going to receive casino money. That is the regular hearsay, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you get from the Oppo-

sition benches, that you pick up round the street corner. I do not know what casino money is going to the foundation. To the best of my knowledge there are no casinos in Barbados, but if casinos are to come, and whenever they come, I am one of the persons, you can rest assured, that is going to give that bit of legislation my whole hearted support, not because I am a person who goes into casinos and play in casinos when the occasion arises, but because I think it is an added feature to the Barbados tourist industry. That is my view on that.

The other point raised, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was about the auditorium. The praises of the Leader of the Opposition, the right honourable Member for St. John, were sung; that it was a dream of his come true, that it was a non-partisan auditorium, that there was no political polarisation involved and that it was open to John Public. I have been there on about four or five occasions and I am quite sure that the Member for St. Philip South would recall that he saw me at the auditorium on more than one occasion. I attended some of the shows there during the Crop Over Festival, but I was treated equally as bad. When I got there I was asked what I was doing there. I was told this is "we wun" and that kind of thing. That is the Dems' style and I accept that. Maybe if the Barbados Labour Party had built an auditorium people from our side might have asked the same question, but that is for what it is worth.

I salute whoever it is that his dream has become a reality in bringing an auditorium of that nature to Barbados, and I sincerely hope that the Government itself, as soon as the financial position is much stronger, will find it possible to put up a national auditorium. It is something which is really needed in this country to allow the young people to perform their art.

The charges about the stage and lighting used by the Prime Minister at Ilaro Court; I am informed that there are stages at Ilaro Court and that there is a lighting system and an electrical system for use at Ilaro Court, and, therefore, it would not have been necessary for the Prime Minister to give a directive that he must have all the equipment while the other groups did not have any. That, however, is nothing too much to worry about.

All in all Mr. Deputy Speaker, the whole argument all day, as I understand it from the Opposition, is that the foundation has no foundation. This was brought out by the Member for St. Michael West today, that the Foundation has no foundation. What I would say is this, at least we have started the Foundation, and knowing that this is a party with a good foundation, I have all faith in the Cultural Foundation of the country.

What I would hope is that, with all this Barbadian culture we are speaking about, we would have a little

respect for each other. That is a culture which I would like to see brought back into the society, where young people would have respect for their elders, where there is a degree of dignity extended to people who are senior to those who are disrespecting, and all in all, Sir, I think that would do the society a great deal of good.

There are not many other points I can reply to in relation to this measure, Sir, and I think all the views have been put and have been answered from this side, and whatever charges there have been have been answered by this side.

I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Clause 3 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether one of the Ministers, either the Minister piloting the measure or the Minister of Education, could tell us what is the relationship between this cultural foundation and the vast amount of cultural activity that takes place within the framework of the schools. The Minister herself referred to a committee which she has set up to look into the development of music, I believe. What would be the relationship between the Foundation and the cultural activity taking place within the schools generally. Secondly, could the Minister identify some of the theatre and cultural facilities that it is proposed would come under the control of the Foundation.

4.55 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I understand that these will include the old Steel Shed that they are renovating, on top of Queen's Park dance hall where they used to dance before. It used to be very hot one time; they used to

have the Green Theatre and the Blue Theatre in here, but that is now a decent theatre — Combermere School, and, hopefully, the auditorium — four theatres. That is why the staff is so small at this time until when we expand. As we expand the Foundation, we will increase the staff.

The Minister of Education is in a much better position to deal with the music part of it. I would know about Gabby, I do not know about violins. I must apologise. I am not a violin person. It is not my fault. I know about Gabby and tuck bands. You would know about violins, and my colleague here would know about the little fancy things, xylophones. She would know about the little sophisticated things, I would know about the tuck bands and steel bands.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I thought I had made this point when I spoke, and I suspect that the honourable Member is really asking us to repeat ourselves.

The Foundation is at its birth, and I have absolutely no doubt that there are areas where what we do in the Ministry of Education would have to dovetail with what the Cultural Foundation would do. We have asked the Ministry of Culture to name someone to sit on that committee, which meets in the Ministry of Education now, to advise us on the National School of Music, and they have done that.

Obviously, say, with an institution such as a National School of Music or a National School of the Arts, there is going to be serious inputs both from the Ministry of Information and Culture and the Ministry of Education. But all of this is now at the planning stage, so it is very difficult for me to tell you today exactly where the cut-off points would be or in what way we would plan to collaborate.

I would not like to prejudge what the committee is going to recommend to me, neither would I like to prejudge what initiatives the new Cultural Foundation may want to take in that direction, except to say that my mind is very open on it and I clearly recognise that there has got to be a lot of collaborative effort between those two Ministries, not only in the area of culture, but particularly in the area of culture.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Just one other question. I wonder if the Minister could give some information in relation to Clause 3(3):

"The Foundation may establish agencies to assist it in carrying out its functions under this Act." I wonder if the Minister could give some indication of the kinds of agencies that he may have in mind that may fall under this particular clause.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I think in my very brief introduction I indicated, for example that it may need to raise money, grants, scholarships and all of these kinds of things.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is not an agency. Raising money is not an agency. An agency is a body, as I understand it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am only telling you from my understanding that they may, I assume, have the power to appoint an agency for the purpose of raising money. As far as the School of Music is concerned, I have no doubt it is going to be a success, because the Prime Minister himself is now an accomplished player of the flute.

Asides

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I know about the flute, the Prime Minister can play the flute also. I do not know what cello you are telling me about unless he can play two instruments now. I have heard him playing the flute and I have seen him playing it, and he is now an accomplished flute player.

Sir, are you with me? He is now an accomplished player of the flute I am told flutist and flutist. You know, if I met a fellow coming down Baxters Road in the Baxters road crowd, he would tell me that he is playing the flute. He would not tell me that he is any flutist, so I would have to go along with that. However, Sir, I think I have answered.....

(Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: You have not)

Hon L. S. CRAIG: I have not?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: No. Perhaps I have not put my question very clearly. I am saying that an agency is a body, and this particular clause will be giving the National Cultural Foundation the power to set up some kind of subsidiary body, and there must have been some examples put forward when this was been drafted as to the kind of agencies that would be set up under this particular piece of legislation.
5.05 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the answer is that these agencies would be for the Museum, the national galleries and this type of thing.

Asides.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I know you will say I am rather discourteous to you if I refuse to answer any of your questions. I have tried my best, and I have been informed by the technocrats.

The question that Clause 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 4 to 7 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 8 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 8 stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in relation to Clause 8, Section (3), I am seeking some clarification here? Is it that the Auditor-General can only investigate or carry out an investigation into the account of the foundation if he is requested by the Minister? The Auditor-General could not go in on his own — only if invited by the Minister? Am I right?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: May I assist my colleague? The Auditor-General is entitled, on being required by the Minister, to carry out at any time an investigation into, or special audit of, the accounts of the foundation. I hope that answers his query.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: May I ask whether funds of the public purse are intended to go into this foundation? Would any money from the Consolidated Fund be intended to go into this foundation?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I would believe that if it is a foundation set up by Government, the Government at some time or other would have to give a grant, a subvention or whatever you may call it, for the purpose of starting it. This is my belief, and the practice would be therefore that the Auditor-General would have to audit them at any given time, and the Public Accounts Committee would be in a position to determine whether or not they need to have an audit at least at the request of the Minister.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: This raises a question in my mind, because that is exactly why I raised subsection (3). I was myself under the impression that at some point monies from the Consolidated Fund may be paid into the foundation's accounts, and my reading of Clause 8(3), which is a reading by a layman in this matter, seems to suggest that the Auditor-General can only go in and carry out an investigation of the accounts or audit the accounts of the body if invited by the Minister.

In other words, if the funds of the taxpayers are put out of the Consolidated Fund into this foundation, the Auditor-General, who is supposed to be the overseer on behalf of Parliament, cannot go in. Whereas he can carry out an order now of any particular body, Government department, or I think of statutory boards, he can

only go into this foundation if invited by the Minister. I would like some clarification on that, because if what I am saying is in fact correct, it may be.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, Clause 8(2) says

"The accounts of the Foundation shall be audited annually by an auditor appointed by the Foundation with the approval of the Minister."

Sub-clause 3 says;

"The Auditor-General is entitled, on being required by the Minister, to carry out at any time an investigation into, or special audit of, the accounts of the Foundation."

If, for example, the Opposition or any Member of Parliament felt that things were not going good, the Minister would give a directive that a special audit be done, but annually an audit must be carried out.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am really asking about the rights of the Auditor-General to move in, not on request, but if the Auditor-General feels that the public interest requires an audit out of his own initiative, and I am saying that, in most instances that I can recall, the Auditor-General does have that initiative where public funds are concerned.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: As I understand it, the only time the Minister himself would be involved is if a special audit is to be done, but the financial regulations are all embodied in here, because if you look at Clause 10 you will see where the Foundation shall as soon as possible after the expiration of each financial year, and in any case not later than the 30th June in each year, submit to the Minister a report containing a detailed account of its activities and a statement of its audited accounts. I hope that answers the honourable Member.

The question that Clause 8 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 9 was called and passed.

Clause 10 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think Clause 10 would more or less give my colleague, the honourable Member for St. Michael South, all the information he was asking for. The Foundation shall as soon as possible after the expiration of each financial year, which is not later than 30th June, submit to the Minister a report, which has to be laid in Parliament like all other reports. It is only therefore if the Minister is dissatisfied that there are some rumblings that he calls for a special audit, but only the Minister, himself, can call for that special audit.

I beg to move that Clause 10 stand part.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Perhaps the point I have been raising has not really been seen, but I will bypass that for the time being.

In Clause 10(1) though — I am speaking now as a parliamentarian — it says that the foundation will have to submit a report to the Minister by a specific date, not later than 30th June. Are we selling ourselves short in Parliament when we do not require some time limit by which the report should reach us in Parliament? If the Minister gets it by June, should not we, as a Parliament, at least say that by November, four or five months afterwards, we should have it? I am speaking as a dedicated parliamentarian.

5.15 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You do not want to get in the rut that you have seen in the past with the National Housing Corporation Reports and so on, but I would think that the Opposition would call for the report, and if it be so, that we happen to be on that side, our experience in Government will also call on you to lay the report.

I have seen a number of reports prepared and submitted to Ministers. When I went into the Ministry of Housing, I saw some old reports in there with all the cobweb that they were never laid. I know that you are trying to avoid this type of conduct, but I think that, with the vigilance of the Opposition, if it is presented to him by the 30th June, surely within "X" time and you do not see it here, you must find out what is the problem.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: You are making a political point. I am not making a political point. The point I am making is that the Minister has much authority in this particular Bill to require all kinds of information, and if anybody is not to be given a deadline, he need not have a deadline to receive the report, because he is in a better position to get information out of the Foundation than Parliament would be. I am saying that if in spite of the fact that in other places he can request information from the Foundation on any matter, can give it instructions general and specific, and he is provided with a deadline — on June 30, he must get a report — I am asking if, as Parliament, we should insist on a deadline.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, it is a point which I have listened to quite carefully but I cannot give him the assurance that I would really amend it this evening in Committee. From time to time people review as problems arise, people review legislation and amendments are made, and you can rest assured that at some future date, if we

see the need for the Minister to make sure that it is laid on the Bar of Parliament at a specific date, you can be assured that I will do all in my power to assist the entire House.

The question that Clause 10 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 11 to 13 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 14 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, as far as I am concerned, this is a very interesting clause. It concerns penalties and you know how it is with me and penalties. I have some very stiff penalties put on people, especially when they set about to disrupt people's organisations, for example, coming on church premises and misconducting themselves, coming over the walls of the National Stadium, when people pay their monies to go in and watch a show, to disrupt the proceedings and, furthermore, attempt to fight and beat the police. I am going along with this clause now at \$1 000, but I would have hoped that it should be set at \$10 000 and five years in prison. This is the sort of penalty which I feel must be handed down to the handful of people in a society that try to break up and bring discord among a quarter of a million people.

I do not want to introduce this sort of subject into the debate, but only a couple of days ago, I believe this entire country was thrown into a state of 'frenzy' over a report which came over on the radio stations VOB and then CBC, that two of Barbados' known criminals were again on the rampage.

We do not want to get into the Press today. I am going to deal with that in the Estimates, I am going to tackle the Press on that. They had people like my aunt telephoning me — this is a woman who is 70 years old — because Buddy Brathwaite and Pile got away and she was afraid, all because of a report which the Press did not check, but threw the whole country into a state of frenzy.

I beg to move that Clause 14 stand part.

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

Clause 15 was called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, earlier today I gave notice of a Resolution and I drew to my colleagues' attention that we would like to do this Resolution in all of its stages. I do not think that it is controversial, but you can never tell. It is primarily for the paying of the caterer for refreshments, for travel, and things of that nature.

I now wish to proceed with that item on the Order Paper, which would therefore be No. 8. I gave notice of it earlier today and I propose to do it today in all of its stages, if there are no objections.
5.25 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no objections, leave is therefore granted.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1982-83 No. 24

A Resolution for the sum of \$603 260 was called.

HEAD 12 – PARLIAMENT SUBHEAD (2), COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION AND EXCHANGE VISITS

Hon L. S. CRAIG: Sir, Head 12 is the Head under which we are seeking the provision of \$20 532 to carry on until the end of the financial year.

The purpose for this, Mr. Chairman, is to pay the caterer, to whom we are now in arrears, and to tidy up whatever areas we have to tidy up in relation to Parliament.

Item 6, Mr. Chairman, is for travelling payable to the Clerk of Parliament, and Item 10, which is for \$54 000, is also part of the meals, light refreshment, etc. for Parliament.

There was a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association exchange visit to Columbia, I think it was to Cartagena, Sir, in which the Member for St. Philip North was a member of the delegation. I am quite sure that his experience at that conference is something which he will

always remember. I can say that there was a very happy relationship which existed among all members of the delegation, and I must say on the floor of the House that I enjoyed travelling with my colleague.

I do not know if and when the occasion arises and I have to go to St. Philip North to speak against him, how brutal I could be on that occasion, because it is really one thing overseas and something else at home, Sir. I must say how much I enjoyed working with him. He has been a wonderful person to work with.

I therefore beg to move that Head 12 stand part.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister responsible for the Parliamentary Association, and to the members of the Parliamentary Association, the fact that the Association owes people, on a lot of outstanding matters and I hope provision is made for these debts in these Estimates. It is a very unsatisfactory situation.

I have constituents who have rung me repeatedly about the fact that there are outstanding bills at the Parliamentary Association and they have not been paid, and I am raising it on the floor of the House, because I have repeatedly tried to find out when they are going to be paid and I have been told nothing. They must be paid at some time or other.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am in no position to say who we are going to pay person by person, but what I do know is that I am a member of the CPA and all members in here would like to know that the CPA should be able to honour its bills. But my colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister himself, is a member of the CPA and he has acted as Minister of Finance on more than one occasion. All he had to do was to make some provision to pay the person or persons who have been complaining to him. I am in no position to say exactly who the person is, but I would hope that the Clerk, or whoever is responsible for making sure that these persons are paid, will pay the bills as soon as possible, Sir. I can go down as saying that Craig is not the only person who does not pay, even the big CPA would not pay.

I beg to move that Head 12 stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 16 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
SUBHEAD (4) – SUPREME COURT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Head 16 stand part. In so doing, Mr. Chairman, this is for the increased rates payable to the judges of the Supreme Court, and also the utilities for the current financial year. I think these supplementaries come down very close to the end of the financial year, and since the Estimates are going to be laid next week, and I hope to do them on the 21st or 22nd, I really cannot envisage anything coming out of this, because you are going to have the Estimates to discuss all of these problems.

I beg to move that Head 16 stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 21 – STATISTICAL SERVICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: This again, Sir, is travelling allowance for the Statistical Department, the sum of \$2 500. I beg to move that Head 21 stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I believe that quite a bit of travelling might have been done by the Statistical Department in relation to the census which was supposed to be carried out for the year 1980. To date, Mr. Chairman, I have seen no information relating to that census, which was supposed to be carried out in relation to the year 1980. Information collected in the census is very important for all activities in this country – demographic, economic, educational, social and a variety of other areas – but, to date, I have seen no kind of information at all in any public source, not even in a digest form, coming out of this census.

If someone asks me now what is the official population of Barbados as determined by the census 1980, it would be very difficult – I just do not know. I am wondering if one of the Government Ministers can give some information on this particular matter, whether we can expect in a very short time to get some type of information on the particular census, or whether some kind of digest of the statistics or whatever can be made public so that those who are interested can get the necessary information.

5.35 p.m.

I suspect there must be some problem. I do not know. But I think this House is deserving of some explanation and, as I said, I am certain there is some explanation which can be made, and I would be failing in my duty if I did not bring this to the attention of the

House as we are about to vote supplementary provisions for this particular department.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I must confess that, on this occasion, I was not paying careful attention to what the honourable Member was saying. Having heard him on culture earlier in the day, I did not think that he was particular switched on.

If the question is about the publication of the population census figure, I must confess that I am as concerned as the honourable Member, and I, today, upon noting that the Jamaica census figures have now made their way into CANA, which means they must be well-known, said to myself that I must make enquires as to why we have not had rather more from the census.

The area that is particularly worrying relates to housing. We are in the process of publishing a White Paper on housing, but the very first drafts of the working documents, which I saw, were having to use the 1970 census figures for housing which, clearly, are hopelessly out of date.

I, myself, also want to consider the impact of the fact that on Census Day 1980, unemployment was found to be something like 3 per cent less, although the voluntary idle were treated as unemployed. So it would mean that the base figure would perhaps be 5 per cent less than the figure being deduced from the sample survey. This corresponds, indeed, with a recent report of the World Bank, which says that we are consistently overestimating unemployment levels in Barbados.

(Aside: Since when?)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Many years. But the honourable Member has heard me say in here that I do not believe that, in real terms, unemployment was ever 22 per cent in Barbados. Those are figures we go by, just as we go by the figures today that it is 13 per cent. That is the system; those figures are presented not withstanding the letters of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, signed Keith Maynard, in the *Nation*, stating that the Government is not correct in its unemployment figures. But that is another area we would be very interested in dealing with and, of course, the ordinary population numbers.

All Caribbean censuses overestimate population. I am told that there will be astonishing results, some of which have already been rejected in the small islands, for population, that the population for some of the Eastern Caribbean islands, estimated previously by Governments, 110 000 in one case, 119 000 and 123 000 in another, are working out, in the first case, at less than 100 000 and, in the others, around 110 000.

The Jamaican population was overestimated by the Government by an amount of something like 7 per cent or 8 per cent. The census found barely 2 million people in Jamaica, and the Government has been estimating it at nearly 2.2.

Our preliminary figure shows less than 250 000, and since I am inclined, without having final figures yet, to think that 1981 and 1982 were years of immigration, 1982 in particular, I would not be surprised if the population showed any increase. We may even now have 250 000. So I would be glad to see the figures too, and I give the honourable Member the assurance that I will look into the matter, and perhaps on the next occasion that we have a debate in which I can introduce figures, I will make them available.

The question that Head 21 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 25 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 25 stand part.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 34 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this supplementary on Head 34, Ministry of Education, is to pay the increased salaries for teachers in the approved secondary schools.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 34 stand part.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Recently, Mr. Chairman, there were some reports in the print media, this is not the voice media now – the print media – to the effect that, shall I say, one of the schools which at some time in the past was an approved secondary school either no longer has that status or was being move from that particular status. I believe the school was the Washington High School.

I wonder if we can get some information on this particular matter – whether it is an approved school, whether the teachers who have the qualifications at that school are currently receiving the payment, or what exactly is the position in relation to that.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, my colleague, the Minister of Education, who is responsible for this item, has left

Parliament to rush off to the hospital – to pay a visit to the Hospital, not that she was rushed off. The Minister of Education, my colleague, has gone off to the hospital to pay a visit, she has not been hospitalised, because I may see something in the Press.

I am not in a position to give you the answer which I would really like to give you, but, as I said earlier, we are going to have the Estimates in a couple of weeks and I believe that such a question can be appropriately dealt with then.

I regret that I am not in a position to answer because of my colleague's absence. I am not apologising, do not mind the tone of my voice. You may feel that the tone of my voice may mean that I am not in a position to defend if the occasion arises.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 34 stand part.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am not really attacking, I was just seeking some information. 5.45 p.m.

I was under the impression that in these matters there is normally a paper prepared called a Cabinet Paper, or something like that, which would have in the background information and so on on these matters, and that they come in a file. Is there no file relating to this matter that if any exigencies arise the Minister can pick out that information? Anyhow I say no more. I leave it at that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The honourable Member cannot believe that the entire filing system of the Ministry of Education should be brought in to Parliament. It is beyond belief that we can anticipate that a question relating to the Washington High School is going to be asked on a supplementary dealing with travelling allowance for the Ministry of Education. The Washington High School.....

Pause.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I see the honourable Member's point. I suppose the honourable Member's criticism is well founded. The Ministries have all been instructed to give a brief to members of the Cabinet to enable them to deal with these matters. It should not only be the Minister of Education; the entire Cabinet should in fact have a brief dealing with this matter so that any member of the Cabinet will be aware of it and can speak on it.

Now that I have noted that the matter is a subsidy for travel, tomorrow I will tell the Permanent Secretary responsible for Education that the honourable Member for St. Michael South has been severely critical of the

fact that it was impossible for the Leader of the House to speak on the matter of subsidies to the approved schools because the information was not prescribed. I will convey that reproof to the Permanent Secretary.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, how could anything I have said be interpreted as being severely critical? I was making a rebuttal. Of course, it does not matter to me if you make that report. You know that is neither here nor there with me.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I just briefly want to intervene to enlighten the honourable Member for St. Michael South to some extent. With the upgrading of salaries within the Government Service in terms of what was recently given, those teachers who are being assisted by Government will certainly need to be upgraded as well, and this item in the Resolution seeks to make provision for the upgrading of those teachers in the independent secondary schools that are being paid by the Government.

With respect to the question which you asked today, about the Washington High School, it is my information that the standards that now exist within the Washington High School do not conform to what is expected by the Ministry of Education. At least they have fallen from the criteria set by the Ministry of Education. So the subsidy has been withdrawn and they are not recognised any longer. That is how I understand it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am sorry to rise so often, but I have now been told that the reason why the brief is not here is because the honourable Member for St. Michael South, having agreed to deal with this matter in all its stages today, anticipated the Permanent Secretary. There has not been time to send it down to the House.

The question that Head 34 – Ministry of Education – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Head 36 – Ministry of Health – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 36 – Ministry of Health – stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 41 – CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM DIVISION

Head 41 – Civil Aviation and Tourism Division – was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 41 – Civil Aviation and Tourism Division – stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

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

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: 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 separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 3 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Town and Country Planning Act, Cap. 240.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, since taking over the portfolio of Town Planning, I have been greatly impressed by the work being done by the Town and Country Planning Advisory Committee. It looks at a great number of issues relating to physical planning, some indeed relating to economic planning, which has an impact on physical planning throughout Barbados, and I think many sound ideas have come to the Cabinet from the reports of the Committee meetings.

I have therefore decided that the membership of the committee should be made a little wider so that a wider range of expertise can be made available, and since the numbers were fixed by the Act in the ordinary way in the First Schedule, I am proposing to amend the Act to increase the present number of five to nine.
5.55 p.m.

I cannot believe that this matter has any political or controversial implications, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It would not, I think, be proper for me to indicate who I will be adding to the committee, but I do give the House the assurance that a cross section of persons is being considered. I may ask a member of the Cabinet in a personal capacity to be a member of the committee. There has been so much development in Barbados in the last

three or four years and there is so much planning going on at present that I think that the country will be well served by improving the structure of an advisory committee such as this.

In dealing with the subject of Town Planning, I would not want to restrict honourable Members merely to the narrow purpose of this Bill. I have no doubt that honourable Members have in their minds particular Town Planning issues which they might like to see covered shortly in my introduction this afternoon. I will deal first with the outstanding complaints that unreasonable delays take place in the Town Planning Office.

I would want, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to say that since the Department has moved back into the Ministry of Planning, I have issued certain rules about speeding up planning procedures. Generally speaking, my aim is that within two months all planning matters should be settled. The overwhelming majority are in fact, settled within that time. A regular report is made setting out the history of all Town Planning matters.

The Town Planning staff has risen very nobly to the occasion. They are speeding up procedures and I am happy that the lists that I get now all show applications dating only from 1982 and some from 1983, because we have cleared off the backlog of all the matters prior to last year. Indeed, I called for all the files which had outstanding planning applications on them previous to 1982 and all have been disposed of. Most of the cases, I may note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, were outstanding because the applicants had not completed the application and had not supplied information which was required of them.

In some cases, however, there is bound to be something of a delay. I read that the Rector of St. Leonard's Church has been critical of the Government and the Town Planning Office and has said that the cost has doubled for the proposed St. Leonard's Church while he was waiting for a planning decision.

The gentleman in question has, I believe, been under some strain recently and we should therefore be charitable. It is obvious that the cost of building has not risen by double, if at all, during the last 12 months. The price of steel has fallen, the price of labour has not risen, the price of cement has not risen. Contracts and tenders are coming in to Government now at prices less than tenders a year ago.

But in a case such as St. Leonard's, which will involve the demolition of an ancient and historic building in Barbados and an erection of a new building of an architectural character not familiar to Anglicans, in Barbados at least, is not a matter that is dealt with in two months, especially when there has been controversy

at the Church Council, of which, inevitably, both the Planning Office and the Ministry are aware. The matter was therefore referred — I think more than once — to the Town and Country Planning Advisory Committee for its comments. The Cabinet considered it. We took into account the views of architects, the views of the people concerned, the clergy and laity and we came to a decision.

I do not think that the general public would have wanted us to come to a hasty decision about demolishing St. Leonard's Church, on the say-so of not a very large majority of church members over the opposition of a strong minority. I would point out to honourable Members that, for example, there was a much larger majority in Barbados in favour of retaining Daylight Saving Time than in favour of building St. Leonard's as a new Church. Yet, we gave way to the views of a minority on that occasion and took our time before so doing.

The other issue relating to Town and Country Planning, which is highly controversial at the present time, relates to what are called "mobile canteens". If these canteens were mobile, the issue would not be so controversial, because they would be moved on at night or whenever they cause an obstruction. The trouble with these mobile canteens is that they put down roots. If the roots they put down were all connected to the public water supply and to waste and sewerage disposal systems that met the standards of the Ministry of Health, again there might not be so much controversy. But sometimes they put down roots in the Carénage that continues the process of fouling those waters. At one place, they have actually put down roots in the middle of the roundabout that will be needed to handle the burgeoning traffic on Highway 7.

We on this side, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for one reason or another, have been bearing the brunt of the complaints. But it is by no means so tremendous a problem as it may seem. According to the figures, the recent service of Enforcement Notices embraced 63 premises. Out of these, no less than one-third were premises relating to the Industrial Development Corporation, which has been a little careless about the necessity to apply for Town Planning permission in this and other matters, a number were served on the National Housing Corporation, and a number I believe may have been served on other Ministries as well.

6.05 p.m.

The reasons for the service of Enforcement Notices vary from point to point. The common character of all the operations which have come under the purview of the office, is that they were set up without planning permission. That is the first point I will deal with.

In this country we have Town Planning laws. They have been in force for many years. People seem to have got a little careless of them recently. Government Departments have sinned against the Town Planning laws. In the old regime we had a whole school being built without town planning permission, and in our time, we have noticed that the Ministry of Education is careless of the Town Planning Act. We have seen industrial developments go quite a distance before the Town Planner is brought into the planning. We have seen the Ministry of Housing carry on very substantial expansions without providing for some of the very services the mobile canteens are providing, and for other services which the Town Planner would have pointed out to them that a private developer would have to provide. With this example, it is not surprising that some persons have decided to ignore the possibility that they may need planning permission and go ahead to set up these canteens without such permission.

The pattern of setting up the canteens also is instructive. In some cases, an individual is given permission by a Ministry — perhaps in one or two instances even town planning permission — to have a mobile food operation. When one person puts down roots, others are attracted. Sometimes they get permission from the Ministry, sometimes they do not. I am going to give you some examples. We had a case of a lady who had a food shop in Lakes Folly near Fontabelle at a point where the road was being developed. The Minister of Transport and Works agreed to help her relocate, with my concurrence I may say. I think she may have been relocated in more than one position, but eventually she found herself in a position where she did not have planning permission. She would have no difficulty getting the permission, because she had accommodated the Government when we needed her space, but her presence attracted others, and now there is probably a whole host of canteens around the point where she operates.

Fairchild Street bus stand is another example. One or two people moved in to Fairchild Street bus stand, not necessarily to sell food, and not in all cases with planning permission either, but all of a sudden Fairchild Street bus stand is overrun by small stalls, food shops, newspapers shops, all kinds of shops, to the point where I wonder if a stranger passed that bus stand he could possibly believe that it is a place where people go to catch buses.

The general air of indiscipline in Fairchild Street bus stand, which has recently resulted in a small school child, I understand eight years old, being trampled in a queue, breaking several ribs and having to be hospitalised, is contributed to by lack of discipline among the stall holders and the belief that the bus stand is there for the purpose of dropping down a small business or a small stall, irrespective of the reasonable needs of the

general public for the access to the buses, the needs for proper health considerations, and the needs even just to leave a space so that the buses can get in and out.

I will give yet another example, and this perhaps is a particularly bad one. I should not speak too much on this because I believe that applications and reviews, which may need my ruling, are in progress. But the facts as alleged — that is all I will say — are that a person selected a site for a mobile canteen, which he would never have obtained planning permission for, because the site was required for road improvement. He was seen by the Deputy Prime Minister who asked the Town Planner to deal with him, he was seen by an official of the Town Planning Office who stopped his car and asked him what was he doing, he made an application, it was not granted and it is alleged that he told an official that he was going ahead anyhow!

These are some of the problems that we have to deal with. I myself am told that the police have rented space not only in car parks to people to put up mobile canteens, but in Holetown Police Station yard. As far as I am concerned, the correct person to serve an Enforcement Notice on will have to be either the Commissioner of Police or the individual officer who ignored the town planning regulations. Whether or not rent is being paid to the police is actually irrelevant.

We have had great difficulty, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You will recall being in Cabinet when I had to telephone a civil servant to tell him that he was not to allow a dry goods store to be set up in the new Princess Alice bus stand, a store selling cloth, dresses and so on. I understand that he obeyed our instructions but then allowed the man to move right next to Cheapside market. So I understand. These are the difficulties with which the Town Planning Office has had to put up with in trying to maintain some semblance of order in Bridgetown.

We now have some pressure from the church which says that these people, in effect, should not be required to obey the law. I admire the humanitarian spirit of all concerned, but I will say that we also have a humanitarian spirit. I will therefore express to those persons who have canteens some indication of the Government's thinking, of the general principles which will inform the decisions on their applications for retention.

First of all, the Government must have some order in the Fairchild Street bus stand. The stand really needs redesigning. It is awaiting a traffic study which will let us see how many buses will be in the stand and so on, but, as it is now, the stand is not even capable of handling the queuing system properly, even with police assistance. It will be difficult to allow the bus stand to be overburdened with stalls.

The Government cannot conceive that at Oistins it will be possible for a mobile canteen to remain where a roundabout is intended to go. The Government again cannot think that the fore-court of a police station is a suitable place for a mobile canteen, no matter how much rent is paid to the police. Again, the Government cannot think that the airport or any roundabout is a suitable place for a food shop, wayside canteen or whatever. Roundabouts are not places to stop motor cars or encourage the congregation of persons.
6.15 p.m.

On the other hand, Sir, the Government is prepared to allow canteen operations at or near construction sites. We will give temporary permission to canteens once they have Health Certificates, proper systems of waste disposal, and if they have the necessary certificates allowing their staff to serve food.

In the general area of what we call the Harbour Road, the Princess Alice Bus Stand near the IDC, the industrial estates, again, without prejudging the issue, the Government is not objecting to a number of food canteens to meet the needs of the workers at these points. Industrial Estates require canteens. All we ask is for them to have planning permission so that we know that they are in the right spots.

Where mobile canteens are concerned, in general, a movable canteen does not need planning permission. We keep talking about "mobile" canteens. The mobile ones, the ones mounted on wheels, do not need permission from the Town and country Planner as far as he knows or I know. They may need to follow the Road Traffic Regulations or the directions of the Police and not obstruct the highway. If they park by the highway and cause an obstruction, the police can move them on and the former Minister of Health is reminding me that those who sell in them will still need a Health Certificate.

The canteens along Cheapside — the ones which are not, strictly speaking, on the Harbour Road — will need regulations, but again there is no general objection to that, Sir. These are canteens which serve a need that is not at all that well met in Bridgetown.

Barbadians are more and more becoming "eaters-out". When we did our survey for the Retail Price Index in 1979, the amount of money spent on eating food away from home was sufficiently significant for it to be included in the index for the first time. Indeed, that was before the proliferation of these canteens, because I think the indices used for those are the prices of chicken at Chefette and Kentucky, and I think one or two other establishments. The statistical officer takes the average of the prices of meals as a meal-away-from-home measure.

One of the arguments put forward in favour of the present outburst of canteens is that they provide cheap food. There is one of the canteens which, I am told, charges the same price as the establishments I have just mentioned and has a larger turn-over than some of their branches, so while we may think we are speaking of what is popularly known as the "small man" some of the small men in this business have begun to grow quite substantial, and we are very proud to see it.

We are very proud, indeed, to know that they have one person, who is regarded as a mobile canteen operator, with a turn-over of more than \$1 million a year. We are glad to know that. He cannot get into the Small Business Association. He is making too much money.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I hear the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central saying that he has Chefette in trouble. That is the nature of the business atmosphere that we are glad to bring to this country, competition which keeps down the prices, and which spreads the wealth that is made available from business over a wider spectrum of the community. It must not therefore be suggested that the Government is in any way against the small food operators who are filling a need that is growing more and more in Barbados everyday.

I think, Sir, that if one can look at the future, 3-5-8-10 years, many of these operators will become dissatisfied that with an operation that can only cater to standing customers — they will start to go into restaurants — and an enlightened Government has already begun to plan for premises and small arcades which can contain sit-down food businesses where customers can sit down and take away as well.

Already one of the operators has such a small restaurant. I have been to it on several occasions. The chairman of the Barbados Development Bank and I have sat down in there on occasion. I have taken visitors to the island to it. I am very glad to see that an enterprise that did not exist in 1976 has since reached the stage of being a full-scale restaurant and food business with a number of outlets, although maintaining the original mobile canteen and its concrete roofs at its most visible point of operation.

We are hoping to be able to produce an environment in which, for example, in the new Barbados Development Bank building on the Marshall Hall site in Hincks Street, there will be small restaurants in operation and also in all of the developments we are planning.

Fontabelle, Cheapside, the Princess Alice Highway — that will be greatly developed when the new fishing harbour and Careenage expansion gets underway — we will have better accommodation for the canteens than that which they enjoy at present.

I am sure, Sir, that many a person with such a small canteen will be glad for a chance of somewhere to cook food and serve food in rainy weather without having a driving rain washing its customers away. But to get to that stage, we must have a little discipline and order in the business. We must have respect for Town Planning regulations. We must have some kind of planned growth in the City and not haphazard development without regard for the people's health, for people's convenience or, indeed, for the revenue, although that is not a major consideration of Government at the present time in this particular matter.

I will end, Sir, on this point, with some word of cheer for the operators who have been served with Enforcement Notices, and who are now going through the process of applying for a retention.

In some cases, they may be asked to deal with the design of their structures. In some cases, they may be asked to move their structures a little way away from where they are at present, because they may be interrupting free passage of pedestrians or bus passengers or whatever. In many cases, they will be asked to deal with their waste disposals. The report which comes to me that one of them is disposing its waste into the Careenage is a most painful one to read, Sir.

The problem only affects the current operations, because the Town Planner has made arrangements to ensure that no utilities will be connected to a new operation without a Town Planning Certificate. You will not be able to get light, water or gas, although I think some of them are even managing to evade even that, but all of that is being looked into.

6.25 p.m.

Sir, these operations will be dealt with humanely, and I say to all concerned that they should calm themselves, go to a lawyer if they need the assistance, as I understand many have been doing. I am perfectly sure that they will get good advice and they will get assistance with a humane approach from the Chief Town Planner and from the Ministry. It is regularisation rather than destruction which the Government is after.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have digressed somewhat on the issue of what is called the mobile canteen, but it is indeed relevant even to this Act before us, because I think it was the Town and Country Planning Advisory Committee that first alerted the Planning Office to the proliferation of canteens that was affecting orderly development in Bridgetown.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second that, and I would like to say a few words. I have been one of those who has been vociferous in condemning the amount of indiscipline which is in existence with respect to the erection of canteens and other stalls in Barbados. As a matter of fact, if one goes back to the history of this matter coming before Parliament, it has come here on many occasions, but on the last occasion that it came we were discussing a Resolution in relation to the sale of Government land, and it was the honourable Leader of the Opposition who first talked about the question of the erection of structures on Government lands without permission.

Now I want to say quite clearly that the only criticism that I accept, which is valid in relation to Government in this respect, is that the Government should have seen early that the Town Planning Office and the other agencies of Government were not doing their job in this respect.

On many occasions when this matter was raised in various areas of Government, many of us personally expressed our dissatisfaction with the Town Planning Department for failing to carry out its functions. We pointed to the sheer hypocrisy that surrounded the whole thing, particularly when they talked about mobile canteens, when everybody knew that they were not mobile canteens — they were structures erected on concrete blocks and were permanent structures, and therefore came within the purview of town planning law.

I will go further and say that some of us drew to the attention of the Town Planner himself structures in the course of erection, appealed for something to be done — and nothing was done. Surely there ought to be some institutional machinery that would cause an investigation to take place and those responsible hauled to the book for their failure to carry out their duties. It has led to a lot of unnecessary dissatisfaction among a number of people.

I well recall too, Sir, that a number of bread manufacturers in Barbados have been carrying on now for two to three years a war on the distribution of bread, and they have been erecting, or lending money to erect, kiosks or bread carts, or a modern equivalent of bread carts, all over the place. I have on many occasions complained to the Town Planning Department and to others about it. But you still see them erected.

It is no wonder that the people feel that there is no law or any interest in the administration of law in this respect, and there can be no excuse for that. It is the function of the Town Planning Department to

see that the planning laws are carried out, so they cannot escape on the ground that they should have applied. It is their function and, when attention is drawn to them, it is their duty to carry out the law. There is no excuse for it. It cannot be plastered over. There is no will to carry out the law and they must know the reason why there is no will.

Sir, I remember this man erected a marine dye store around St. Lawrence Gap and, on more than one occasion I drew that to the attention of the Town Planning Department, on more than one occasion. I picked up my telephone and telephoned him and said I saw this thing going on, asked whether permission had been granted, and asked him to do something about it. Nothing was done. Well, they have got to move too. You cannot have one law for one group of people and another law for another group of people. They have to move too, and this is the problem that politicians find themselves in, and then you get church people, frustrated people, talking about Government is harassing small people. How can they talk foolishness about this when this Government built markets and has just completed the Oistins scheme.

For a long period of time we have been trying to encourage small business development by giving them loans, by trying to improve the physical and financial environment, but, of course, a few of them — one a banker or chairman of a bank and the other the chairman of a Church — in an effort to court popularity, in an effort to curry favour with a section of the community, who for some reason or another they are really basically afraid of, they walk about and talk about Government not encouraging anybody to make these people move.

Well, Sir, let us say this. Barbados has passed the stage where we can allow the health of the community to be affected with people selling food in unhygienic conditions. Those days are over. We have had health services laws in Barbados for many years; there have been a lot of health service laws in Barbados. We have had laws relating to markets for many, many, years.

One of our problems has been that, over the course of the fifteen years that the Democratic Labour Party has been in power, notwithstanding the fact that they chased the people off Broad Street, they never saw fit to build an extension to the markets. Well, we are trying to increase the market space. If we are going to debate in an objective manner, let us debate that a situation has arisen from a failure of a department, which is in charge of the administration of the town planning law, to function.

Now, I also have a constituent up by the airport. I feel very strongly about that case because she assures me that somebody in Town Planning Office helped her lay out the place. I told her that she is very wrong to do

that, she ought to have known the law. But thank God her situation is such that she can comply with reasonable town planning regulations, because she is on a large enough spot, and it is clear that she has to get plans and things of that kind.

I also hope that the new building inspectors that will be appointed will be so vigilant in their work that when the first brick is put on the ground and no planning permission is granted, they will be in a position to stop it. I hope that the bread companies and the others will be told firmly and clearly that action will be taken against them when they encourage people, by lending them money or otherwise, to erect huts contrary to the provisions of the Town Planning Department.

I firmly believe that there is scope in this community for mobile shops. I have seen them operate in many countries in the world, and they are not offensive in any way, but I am not going to participate in any farce where people are going to put up structures which are very permanent and then call them mobile canteens or mobile shops. They are two completely different situations.

I am very pleased to see that the Town Planning Department and the Ministry responsible for Town Planning have formulated a policy which is consistent with the recognition of the need within the community for this type of low cost capital expenditure of capitalistic operations, because that is all it is. They are the same shopkeepers as anybody else, but just that the capital cost is lower because of the nature of the structure. I have no problem with that.

As far as the Industrial Development Corporation is concerned, I understand that they have areas in their industrial parks where canteens can be erected, that their problem is that, in an attempt to control the canteens, they formulated a policy whereby the people could only put up canteens in a certain designated area, but they have had tremendous problems with — having licensed a number — other people then coming in and put up canteens without licences, and then arguments and disputes arise with respect to that. Of course, they too must regularise their position.

6.35 p.m.

So I hope now that all of the factors surrounding the history of these matters are being brought out in the open, people will see and understand that it is the intention of the Government to permit small business development, but within a framework of law, order, and regulation, and particularly with a view to ensuring that the public interest as a whole is protected.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have risen to put the record straight in some respect as

far as the Ministry of Housing and Lands is concerned. I have checked and I am unable to discover that any permission is given, officially or otherwise, within the Ministry of Housing and Lands with respect to people placing unauthorised canteens on Government property.

For myself, I am a law and order person, and I deplore the manner in which standards have fallen in our society. I do not accept that people have put up these canteens, mobile and otherwise – because they are only mobile to get on the spot but they become permanent after they are sited on the spot – without any knowledge of the fact that law exists in order to ensure that proper standards are maintained.

Any person who opens a shop in any part of the country is cognizant of the fact that they must have some form of permission and that they must conform to certain standards as laid down by Government over the years. I think that by now, more than twenty years after Town Planning came into operation, about twenty-three years or thereabouts, somebody would have heard, most people in the country, about town planning regulations. The people would also know that it is necessary to have health regulations and proper health standards when you are going to be dealing with food. You cannot go into the actual serving of food unless you conform to certain standards, and you must have your medical certificates annually. In addition to that, the public health inspectors must come and see that you have proper facilities, proper running water and the facilities for disposal of waste.

Therefore, it is my firm belief and conviction that most people who have put structures in the public areas of this country, bus stands and otherwise, are aware of the fact that, in the first place, they are doing what is wrong by unlawfully putting a structure on lands that are not theirs, and in the second place, that they are not conforming with the standards and the regulations as laid down.

I feel that the time has come when the regulations should be enforced to the point where there should be a proper and orderly system. If you have standards in the society, they must be proper standards and, standards that should be obeyed – and the laws should be the laws for all people. One should not believe that the laws should be broken with impunity; if you set about to commit an illegal act, one must expect that the force of law will apply.

While I do not feel that action should be taken to totally remove all of the illegal structures that exist, I feel that efforts should be made to have them conform to properly regulated standards. As far as the Ministry of Housing and Lands is concerned, we will only give

permission when we consider that the canteen will be serving a useful or vital purpose in terms of servicing areas where building is taking place, as so clearly set out by the right honourable Prime Minister, or where the National Housing Corporation itself might see the need for such services to be constructed. On the other hand, if buildings are being put on the Ministry's land by Government agencies and the need arises whereby canteens are to be constructed, so long as they conform to the standards which are required under the Health Regulations and other regulations, the Ministry will not be adverse to having those structures sited there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say that it is not in the best interest of this country when men of the cloth use the pulpit to attack Government's policy, and set out to be emotional in sermons from the pulpit and otherwise, giving the impression that this Government is not sympathetic to small people in the society.

No small people in this country has made more money during the history of this country than under the rule of the Barbados Labour Party. And, therefore, it is dishonest, and extremely disgusting, for any priest or politician, or anybody for that matter, to say other than that small people have been given an opportunity, by way of having loans through the Development Bank, factory space at the IDC and the commercial houses, because of the positive and enlightened direction of this Government to provide loans for small businesses in this community.

The schemes created by this Government to assist and encourage small business people are described as "unbelievable" in other West Indian territories, and therefore we, the people in this country, will not be deceived by any person of the cloth, no matter how enlightened he may believe he is, who thinks that he can use the pulpit to glorify himself and to catch cheap popularity. I believe that their policies are better known in the community than they are even known to themselves. I say that most of them are just wolves in sheep's clothing, and I say that as a member of the Anglican Church and a worshiper in that faith.

6.45 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, small people have to conform to the law, big people have to conform to the law, and all people must conform to the law. In Singapore, where you have a form of benevolent dictatorship executed by the Prime Minister, until recently he had a democratic one-party state, where he went to the polls but won every seat, and only some time last year, or the year before, he lost a seat in the by-election, but until then he was winning all the seats. In Singapore the system is truly and well regulated. The health standards are tops, the regulations are firm, and the country is comparatively disciplined.

What we need to have in this society is discipline. Standards have fallen down. People believe today that to be disrespectful is to be a man and to be powerful. Unruly in the sight of the law is to be a powerful person, but to me that is not so, and we who are law makers, and who are called upon by the votes of the people to enact legislation to guide the destinies of the country, must be prepared and determined to stand up and say how we feel on these matters. We should not seek to court cheap popularity by encouraging people to do wrong when, within our heart of hearts, we know that by encouraging them to do wrong we are destroying the moral fabric of the society.

I want to appeal to every person in this community to let the laws of the land work, and if Town Planning Regulations are to be used, and to be used effectively, all persons in the community must conform to those regulations. As Minister of Housing and Lands, I will not flinch from my responsibility, nor my oath under the Constitution, by way of ensuring that proper conditions exist within the Ministry of Housing and Lands. It is pointless any appeal being made to me to view a matter sympathetically, even though I may be prepared to do that, when any person seeks to violate the law in the face of clearly defined laws and regulations. If we continue to do that by pretending that we are playing to the mob, we will soon find one day that the mob will so engulf us that we will have to run for our own lives.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amendment to this Act is one to give greater scope in terms of personnel whereby the purpose and function of the Act will be better serviced. I feel that all people of goodwill should be willing at all times to adhere to the Town and Country Planning Regulations.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me begin by saying that I welcome the assurance given by the Prime Minister, who is the Minister responsible for Planning, that the Government will take steps to assist those persons operating canteens — what is referred to sometimes as wayside canteens and in other terms mobile canteens — who are in a position to show that their establishments fit in with environmental and planning conditions.

I think this is very important for several reasons. The Government undertook in the 1981 Manifesto to provide better physical conditions and improve amenities for hawkers and other small retailers who ply their trade along the roadside and the alleys of Bridgetown, Oistins and Speightstown. That is contained in the party's 1981 Manifesto, I believe, under the title of "Small Businesses". In addition, the party, and therefore the Government, undertook to provide assistance in marketing techniques to such persons.

I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is vitally important for the social cohesion of this community that small businesses be encouraged and be assisted to expand as rapidly as possible, so that part of the wealth of this country can be transferred to the small businessman and the small person in our community.

No matter how much we may be angry at the fact that the Town and Country Planning legislation may have been flouted by certain persons operating these mobile canteens, we must admit that the presence of the canteens shows that there is a need for them. They are obviously answering a need in the community, and, secondly, it offers opportunities for people to be self-employed and in turn to employ other persons.

I think that these aims and objects are in keeping with Government's philosophy, and whilst we cannot encourage people to flout the law, I believe that in administering the law and correcting a *de facto* situation, one must take these matters into due consideration.

I am sure that when some of these canteens began to ply for their living, they were genuinely mobile canteens. But they are faced with some problems, and I am sure the Government is probably aware of the problems, but I would still like to articulate some of the problems here.

First, although they are mobile canteens, many of them need proper health facilities. They need access to water, access to electricity and access to kitchen facilities in order to offer a proper service to the public. Now, in the absence of these facilities being readily provided on Government sites, such persons have taken to attaching their canteens to the land, and they have tried to obtain these facilities from adjoining neighbours or sometimes from Government premises. This is a fact. If you go in Bridgetown, you will see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this has occurred, and in many instances these persons have also contacted the health authorities and got advice from the health authorities about maintaining proper health standards.

I believe that many of them never intended at all to flout the Town and Country Planning Act or Regulations. Many of them assumed that there was no need for such permission, and many of them consulted with other Government departments. It is a fact — and I have been speaking to some of them — that some of them have permission from the Ministry of Transport and Works. Others pay rent to the National Housing Corporation, some of them pay to the Police Department, and therefore they must assume that if one side of Government is acting as though everything is all right, they have not offended any particular related law.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in some cases they have, because if they have become permanent attachments, then they should have got Town and Country Planning permission. But I think that in those cases where persons can show that they were setting out not only to earn their own living but to comply with other Government regulations, the Government must show some understanding of this position, particularly in view of the fact that a lot of people in this business are now self-employed.

6.55 p.m.

I would like to suggest to the Government how to proceed in this matter, Sir. It is true that Town and Country Planning notices have gone out, because the Town Planning laws must not be seen to be flouted, but I think Government has an obligation to itself to do a public relations exercise on this.

Some people have mistakenly taken the Town Planning notice as evidence of Government not being interested in carrying out its pledge in its manifesto. I say "mistakenly", Sir, and I think it is a genuine mistake. I think, however, that Government's public relations must now work to assist those persons, who have a strong case, to improve their conditions, and in cases where you have to remove people, provide them with alternative accommodation if at all possible.

Let me take a case, Sir. In the housing areas, there is a strong case for such wayside, if you like, canteens. I believe that when our housing areas are being constructed, we should assist such persons with the proper structures that will fit in with the aesthetic qualities of the housing area and we must provide them with basic amenities. It has happened in one or two of the housing areas, not in all.

(Asides)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said that Wotton has them. I am glad to hear that his constituency has this. I would hope to see the same in Bonnets and all other housing areas where there is an obvious need for these facilities to be provided.

I believe that these people along the roadsides have a strong case for assistance. Not those persons who wantonly set out not only to defy the law but also to defile their surroundings. I am not condoning those persons who would leave coconut husks all over the road, do what they like and would not clean up their surroundings. I believe such persons need discipline. But in relation to the other persons who are genuinely plying their trade along the roadside, who need financial and other assistance, I think that there is a case for Government to help them in this respect. Perhaps a committee

should be set up not only with the Town Planning people, but also with the Ministry of Industry and the small business sector involved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the first entrepreneurs in Barbados were obviously hawkers, the people who bought the produce in the country and came to town to sell it. We still see this practice around the island. Nothing has been done to help them.

It is strange that, no matter how much people criticise David Seale, he was able to articulate a case for these persons. I believe that is a strong case, and I hope that the Government would therefore live up to its manifesto pledge and see these people not in terms of defiance of the law, but people genuinely interested in showing the true entrepreneurial spirit of the Barbadian and making an honest living for themselves, and people in need of assistance. If we look at it in this way, I think that those flagrant abuses can be rectified and we can have a happy solution to this situation, Sir.

I do not want to mention particular cases, except to say they are some of these in my constituency. Obviously, I have a particular interest in that, and I know that they are meeting a need in my area, but I also speak for a lot of these other small people selling along the wayside.

I think that this party, as a democratic socialist party, is in duty bound to stand up for these small people as much as it possibly can, and that is why I welcome the assurance of the Minister, and the assurance of the Minister of Housing as well, that the Government intends to give some assistance. I hope that the pledge will be honoured as soon as possible.

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

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment, and Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 8.00 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. Deputy Speaker suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 4.

THE EXEMPTION INSURANCE ACT, 1983.

Order No. 4 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to enable companies to carry on exempt insurance business from within Barbados.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the last occasion we had reached the stage where further consideration of this matter was moved. The Second Reading had taken place, and I beg to move that this matter be now resumed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I understand it, matters were asked to be dealt with in all their stages, but they had not been gazetted in accordance with the Standing Orders. You had gone through what was a Second Reading, and after it was pointed out to you that there was not a first reading, you had asked that your speech be adopted. It was then read a first time and your speech was adopted at that time. You are now entitled to continue any further speech you may want to make at this stage.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I have concluded my speech on this matter, Sir.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am going to speak, Sir. I beg to second the matter.

I am wondering how extensive a debate honourable Members want on this issue. Sir, I will be short although this is a matter which can have very important repercussions for Barbados.

As honourable Members will know, Government has pursued the establishment of offshore business in Barbados. We have not had many offshore banks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we have had a great number of offshore

business companies providing services of all sorts, including services that are no more perhaps than the collection of offshore profits and their distribution, but also including services that have given employment to Barbadians in the areas of computers, computerisation of raw material collected in developed countries and sent to Barbados for computerisation.

We continue to attract regional head offices of businesses which operate throughout the Caribbean and Central America. The honourable Deputy Prime Minister has probably indicated the extent and the expansion in offshore business that comes under the aegis of his Ministry, but I am sure that the figures are available in case any honourable Member wishes to ask for them.

The two remaining areas of offshore business where the Government intends to expand are shipping and insurance. We have already passed a Shipping Bill and are receiving enquiries relative to the registration of merchant vessels in Barbados. With the Exemption Insurance Bill, the matter now before the House, we will have completed the network of legislation that is needed to attract those forms of offshore business that are most interesting in this tremendous volume of economic activity which exists in the world today.

Despite the international recession, there is a demand for banking services, there is a demand for insurance services and there is a demand for management services, and in all of these areas, people are still searching for suitable havens in which to satisfy the needs for small overseas offshore centres. The great offshore centre for banking is, of course, the Bahamas, with the Cayman Islands coming up in this hemisphere, and there is some development in the United States itself and in Panama. The great centre for offshore insurance is Bermuda. It used to be the Bahamas, but due to particular things that perhaps companies did not like, the overwhelming majority of the business transferred to Bermuda, with small centres still in the Bahamas and another small centre in the Cayman Islands. But Bermuda has become very crowded, and to indicate the scope of this Bill, I will have to tell you something about what is called captive insurance.

In Barbados, we are virtually slaves to captive insurance, although we do not know it. A captive insurance company is a company which is owned by the organisation whose risks it insures. In some cases, a captive insurance company does no other business but insure the risks of those who own it. In other cases, such as is the case in Barbados, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, the United Insurance Company and so on, the insurance companies take in other business, but the essence is that the biggest insurer is also the owner of the company.

The Government of Barbados insures nearly all of its properties and its risks through the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, so in a sense we have a captive insurance company. Similarly, in the United States, the couple of thousand biggest businesses probably have insurance companies which they own or control which insure the business of their owners and in some cases take in outside business.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The honourable Members opposite, in mentioning Sears/Roebuck, think that they have scored a coup. I think honourable Members are mistaken. They must start with General Motors and go through Mobil, go through Exxon, long long before they get to the mere retail store businesses in the United States. It is a common place of really major business in the United States, where an organisation such as Lloyds does not exist, that the business cannot afford to let a complete outsider enjoy the benefits of what are enormous insurance premiums, and it therefore organises, for itself, a company to handle insurance risks and to re-insure where necessary, where the risks are too large.

Now, over a thousand of these captive insurance companies are located in Bermuda. There are a number of major management companies in insurance business, most of them located in New York, which exists to pace the risks and deal with these matters for captive insurance companies, and many of them are represented in Bermuda. So when a couple of years ago one or two people, including a particular individual who I have known for many years, a Bermudan, at the University and at Gray's Inn, approached me on this matter of captive insurance companies, I was aware that there was a lot of business to be got. His company in Bermuda is, indeed, the leading company in the world in the handling of captive insurance business, and it was indicated to me that Barbados has a sound economic atmosphere and could be a suitable place for some of the overflow of the captive insurance business. Because in a place like Bermuda, there is really no more room, and I mean that literally. There is not the office space, there are not the chairs to sit down in, there is not the space on the walls to put up any more signs for more offshore business.
8.15 p.m.

When it was indicated that the overflow could come to Barbados, we were interested, and in the intervening years, there has been a great deal of expertise applied to this Exempt Insurance Bill before the House and to the concept of handling the exempt insurance in Barbados.

It is perhaps exempt insurance — at least as much — maybe more than tourism which has made the per capita

income of Bermuda higher than that in the United States. It is a major business, many, many billions of dollars, indeed hundreds of billion of dollars, are handled by these companies, and even a small overflow is worth having.

Of course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this kind of business does not come to countries that are politically tormented and socially disordered and grossly mismanaged. If Barbados had been grossly mismanaged three years ago, I somehow doubt that management companies in New York, representatives of captive insurance companies, representatives of important legal firms in Bermuda, would have thought of us as a point of attraction for this kind of business, or the International Monetary Fund.

Honourable Members opposite seem to think that the International Monetary Fund is necessarily a dirty thing. I would only ask honourable Members to recall that the last time they tried to tangle with our side, the honourable Member for St. Michael West was tangling with the Leader of the House, and the Leader of the House pointed out that the United States itself had to go to the IMF.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I expect a certain standard of knowledge from honourable Members opposite. If any Honourable Member opposite would like to assert positively that the United States has never been a recipient, as a beneficiary of IMF funds — I do not want a hand in my pocket, Sir. My father's face is duplicated a few times in my pocket at the moment. I would take it out and put it on the Table and let any honourable Member bet his Mercedes motor car against my possessions and let us see the result.

(Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No thank you)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Thank you. An honourable Member opposite says that he would not take that chance.

Now, Sir, the diversion apart, the exempt insurance and captive insurance Business is valuable business to have, but it depends on a certain statutory regulation. I was very agreeably surprised — and I hope that honourable Members would join with me in recognising that the source of my surprise is a tribute to all of us, not to the Government — when the management brokers from New York indicated that their clients would need a regime controlled by a supervisor of insurance and an insurance department which they could trust, and that they believed that they could trust the Insurance Department of the Ministry of Finance of Barbados and the Supervisor of Insurance, that they could trust the integrity and the strength of our institutions which con-

trols the insurance business, from the point of view of their clients. They said that their clients would be looking for some kind of political and economic stability, that they would be looking for strength in the Government institutions, and that they would be looking for management in the institutions — and I do not think they were talking about the politicians; certainly they could not have been talking about the Opposition — when they were seeking to place their business in Barbados.

So this committee met. There was an input from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and an input from the Ministry of Finance. The Central Bank managed the process that led up to this Exempt Insurance Bill, and I would like to place on record my thanks to the General Manager of the Central Bank, who has worked unceasingly now for two years in connection with this Bill, and we have produced an Exempt Insurance Bill which will make it possible for Barbados to begin to attract insurance companies from abroad to operate an offshore business.

The business, of course, is general. They will receive premiums for the insurance of risks outside Barbados, and they will dispose of those premiums on an offshore basis. That is to say that they will not be subject to the exchange control and the ordinary paraphernalia that would be the case if it was a business in local operation.

We are making one or two amendments to the Bill. The Ministry of Trade and Industry has pointed out that, normally, we regard the Caribbean community as a single entity for insurance purposes. This is even more so following the insurance treaty with Trinidad, which the late Dr. Williams and I negotiated a few years ago. We, therefore, will be seeking to allow an exempt insurance company to insure risks outside of Barbados, but no company controlled by residents of CARICOM can be an exempt insurance company. In other words, we really are not contemplating that Trinidad or Jamaican companies can come here and be exempt companies and enjoy advantages with their Barbadian competitors, for the main part of their business, in the negotiation of overseas business.

The Bill itself is a relatively straightforward Bill of its type. It has received the finest consideration that the Central Bank has been able to obtain in this matter. We have examined similar Bills in the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. We have consulted with management companies. I have received more than one delegation from the American management companies relating to this matter.

The matters ancillary to the Bill are that there may be some element of necessity for the issuing of work permits, both to the management companies and to individuals. In general, a captive insurance company is able to do its business without the necessity of a great number of work permits, because it places its business in the

hands of a management company, the management company being fully aware of its clients requirements. In this case, however, since it is anticipated that a certain amount of business will come from Bermuda, I may, Mr. Deputy Speaker, ask the Minister responsible for Immigration to allow perhaps some representatives, or one representative certainly of the Bermudan legal firm that controls most of the captive insurance business in the world, to be established in Barbados. There also may be some necessity for management personnel skilled in this business to come to work here.

8.25 p.m.

I should say, however, on this point, that I was very gratified when the Chairman of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados and the General Manager came to see me recently and that one of the matters which they raised was this question of exempt insurance, and they asked if I, as Minister, would have any objection to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados setting up a management company to deal with the captive insurance business, and also, an exempt insurance company of its own, and I indicated there would be no objection.

Sir, of course this is in the future, but I think that all honourable Members would agree with me that it is not a partisan matter, but that if our Insurance Corporation, which is already doing extremely well in terms of expansion of business and of profit, is able to move into the field of international insurance, insuring exempt risks and managing exempt companies, that this would be a real thrust for Barbados, and a real indication that we can acquire the skills that we need not just to survive in the modern world, but to do well and move forward with developed countries.

Sir, I have circulated a list of amendments which I will be seeking to make in Committee, but before we reach that stage, I would just ask honourable Members to note that paragraph 1 of the list I have circulated has a misprint. It says "In clause 3" and it should be "In clause 2". That is the first line on the list. Over the page the amendment in paragraph 5 to Clause 27 refers to a digit which has already been deleted in the printed copy, and therefore the first line "(a) '(1)' appearing opposite the clause; and (b)", they should be deleted. I will just be asking to delete the words relating to the definition of 'Caribbean Community' which has already been defined as a result of the first amendment I intend to move.

In all the circumstances, Sir, I have no doubt that honourable Members opposite will support the principle and the details of this Bill, and that we can all look forward to some success under this Bill in expanding the services which Barbados offers to the outside world, and which it can put forward as a means of developing the skills and incomes of its citizens.

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

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I join in welcoming the introduction of this Bill which seeks to put Barbados into the business of captive insurance.

I think we ought to recognise, as the Prime Minister himself has said, that, with the passage of this Bill, we have now completed the network of regimes necessary to exploit our assets of political stability and good communications, not only by telephone and telex, but also the ease with which one can move between many points, particularly in the North Atlantic and Barbados. There is also the fact that we have developed a reputation for having a good bureaucracy, one that is free from corruption, and even though we in Barbados quarrel about the speed of decision making, in relative terms it is regarded as pretty fast in dealing with applications of all sorts.

I think, however, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that a word of caution should be sounded. You will recall that there were very large expectations when we set up our offshore banking regime, and even though the passage of the Shipping Act, which allows us in effect to be a centre for the operation of flag ships of convenience, was not accompanied by any such expectations in relation to the creation of jobs as were noised about at the time of the passage of the offshore banking legislation, I think the point has got to be made, nevertheless, that we are entering the business of offshore services late in the day.

Indeed, in relation to captive insurance, there are said to be about 1500 captive insurance companies in the world, with 900 to 1000 perhaps located in Bermuda. The bulk of the business, some 85 per cent of the business, comes out of the United States of America, but about ten years ago, and in the first twenty years of the development of the captive insurance business, the conventional insurers were resistant to the idea of captive insurance. Indeed, they met the idea of captive insurance with a great deal of hostility. They have now come to recognise that this development is virtually inevitable, and as a result, the conventional insurance business is now trying to adapt the techniques of the captive insurance business with a view to preventing the further growth and development of the captive insurance business. They, for example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are fronting for captive insurance companies, they have separated the technical services from their insurance services, they have agreed, for example, that a lot of companies that buy insurance with them should forego paying all their premiums until after particular claims are settled. They have decided that intermediaries, brokers, ought to be paid, not a percentage of the premium but only for work done, and they have adopted

several other techniques which have been employed by captive insurance companies in an attempt to arrest the rapid development of the captive insurance market which we have seen in the last twenty-five years.

Given the response of the conventional insurance business therefore, it means that we have got to pursue the captive insurance business vigorously. One point which I have made before, and which I would like to repeat, is that we have got to settle in our minds where exactly in the bureaucracy we are going to locate the promotion of these services. We cannot assume that good wine needs no bush, that Barbados needs no promotion because of its many assets in terms of political stability, the sophistication of its communications system, its proximity to the United States, which means that you can do business in Barbados just at the time people are doing business in the United States, and because of the fact, too, that we are gradually developing expertise in the field of insurance management and also financial management. We cannot assume that because we have these natural assets, the business will come to us. There is great competition from Guernsey, the Isle of Man, from Cyprus, from Panama, from Singapore, and interestingly enough, within the last ten years in the States, at least four States — Vermont, Nebraska, Tennessee and Colorado — passed legislation allowing a limited amount of captive insurance business, only the pure-type captive insurance business.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is very important, if we are to take full advantage of this Bill which we are about to put on the Statute Book, and of the network of service regimes which we have established, that we determine a new agency, as it were, to be responsible for the promotion of these services in Barbados. We can add this special responsibility to an existing agency or we can create a new agency, but I think the point must be made that these services have got to be promoted.

8.35 p.m.

We have already given good reasons in this House why the Central Bank perhaps ought not even be allowed to continue to manage the offshore Bank, but I am not now getting into that. The point that I am making is that different agencies may do the management of the services locally, that is for example the port can manage the shipping business, the bank may be able to continue managing the offshore banking business and some other agency may be able to manage the exempt insurance business locally, but there needs to be one agency to promote these three services overseas, and in particular you are talking about promotion in the United States of America, and to a limited extent, in Western Europe.

One development in the last five years or so is that all of these countries that are in the forefront in trying to attract the exempt insurance business, have decided that

it is necessary to have some sort of regulation, and particular key issues have been addressed almost in all of the jurisdictions that have passed legislation.

They have for example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, insisted on a certain minimum capitalisation, and they have also established a linkage between the capitalisation, of the company and the amount of business which it does. In almost all jurisdictions, they have decided that it is necessary to have the ratio of solvency, as it is referred to, tested from time to time by independent professionals, accountants and actuaries. They have decided, in almost all jurisdictions that has introduced legislation, that it is necessary to have accounts audited by professionals on a regular basis. Many jurisdictions have insisted that the insurance plan should be presented at the outset of the formation of the company, and approved by the authorities, before the company is actually established – and for the most part, all of these issues have been addressed in the Bill before us.

One of the biggest attractions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the establishment of exempt insurance business outside the United States of America is the tax position of the location. For the most part, this is a very complicated matter, but when they are about to set up in a country, most captive insurance companies are concerned about whether the premium paid to them by the parent company is tax deductible, even though this is only a temporary situation, because in the end, whenever the profits are sent back to the head office, the parent company, it does attract tax.

But the advantage, however, of this tax incentive, as it were, is that it allows the captive insurance company to establish a financial base rapidly, which allows it to take more and more of the risks of the parent company, expand at such a rate as to be able to diversify its portfolio, take in other business and to become a centre of profits in the company. Because we must remember that a captive insurance is no more than a subsidiary of a parent company concerned with the management of the risk of that company, and the parent company is concerned that the subsidiary should make a profit.

I find the provisions here for tax in Barbados particularly attractive, and I have no doubt that many of the companies in the United States and, to a lesser extent Western Europe, which will be looking to Barbados as an offshore location, will be attracted to the generous tax provisions contained here.

It must be emphasised – and I am glad that the Supervisor of Insurance is here – that these companies look for speed in the processing of their applications. We cannot afford to have an application made in March or April of any one year and no reply given before October or November. While you are trying to work out clearly

and precisely what you should do and what is the meaning of particular sections of the Act, the companies will go somewhere else, so it is very important that there be speed in processing of these applications.

I, myself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, am satisfied that there are a large number of young men and women in Barbados who have made it their business in recent years to do the insurance examinations up to a very high level, the equivalent of degree level, and I have no doubt that even though many countries may find it necessary to bring in expertise to manage the captive companies that will be established here, they will get a lot of support from locals both in the banking and the insurance community.

Now that I have mentioned the banking community, it should be pointed out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the banks are getting themselves more and more involved in this area of risk management for client companies, and they, too, are competing with offshore locations, because banks in the United States of America and Western Europe are, more and more, getting interested in this whole business of risk management for client companies and particularly providing them with special funding in the event of catastrophies. So that that is another area of competition.

I would just like to end as I began, and that is by welcoming this Bill before the House. I think it now effectively completes the trinity of service regimes which we in this Administration sought to establish, and my only appeal is that we need to move with despatch in determining which agency is going to be responsible for the vigorous promotion of these services overseas.
8.45 p.m.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the passing of this Exempt Insurance Bill is just the continuation of work that was done in the previous Administration towards the development of international financial institutions. I say it is a continuation because the previous Administration had passed the International Business Act, and this Administration has continued by passing the Offshore Banking Act, the Shipping Act and now we have the Captive Insurance Bill.

But the historical background to captive insurance is that Barbados could only venture into captive insurance because it fulfils the requirements that captive insurance would be looking for. Some of these requirements are location, which is highly responsible for the success of Bermuda in conjunction with the fact that Bermuda legislation is very similar to that of America, which is very highly responsible for the success of the Caymans and the Bahamas as well, plus the fact of the stability of the Government over the years, the availability of communication, and, more important, the availability of

supporting services in the area of accountancy, law, trust services, claims management etc., services which are available here because of an enlightened educational policy pursued by all previous regimes, which resulted in the establishment of the University of the West Indies, and I would want to say some more on this point later.

With the passing of this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, like the speaker who just spoke, I want to sound a word of warning, but in a different direction. We are now entering into the regime of international financing, which brings corporate crimes with it, and when you are in this regime of international financing where you have some of the best legal and accounting brains in the world, in order to make sure that the image of the country is not tarnished — as we have seen in a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, which made reference to places like Antigua, and St. Vincent, on the aspect that they are havens for international crooks — you have to be very sure that the safeguards built into your Act would take ample care of this type of administration, and that the personnel for the policing of the Act is just as good.

In this regard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are a few sections of the Bill, in supporting the contention about the safeguards, that I am a little concerned about, and I invite the Minister to turn his attention to these particular sections for further consideration.

The first section that I am looking at is the inspection clause. In the present Bill that we have, the inspection is only done at the application stage where the Minister of Finance, and whoever he delegates the authority to, has the right to do a thorough investigation into the company, its personnel and all its policies, etcetera, before they grant a licence.

But on a perusal of other legislation, in the Bermuda legislation, in the Bahamas legislation, and in the Caymans legislation, you will find that the appropriate authorities in all those countries have the right to inspect at any time that they may think fit, and I am wondering if the people who drafted this Bill did not consider it appropriate to include a clause of inspection to allow the appropriate authority to inspect at any time as they see fit. These sections can be found, as I said, in the Bermuda legislation, in the Bahamas legislation, and in the Caymans legislation in their Section 5 (2) (b). That is the first section that I want to draw attention to as far as the policing of this particular Bill is concerned.

The second section I want to draw some attention to, is the section dealing with the assets of the company, and if you look at that section, you will realise that it is anticipated.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the honourable Member, but in the Second Reading

of the Bill, the honourable Member is supposed to deal with the principle of the legislation, but you are looking at the individual sections and making comparison. You have to leave that until the Committee stage.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In looking at the principle, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I have said, I want to be sure that the provisions for safeguarding and policing this Act are there, and at the appropriate time I would like to make some suggestions that could strengthen all the sections in the particular Bill.

The third thing I want to draw attention to is the position of the assets of the company, where those assets are held and what control Barbados would have over these assets. Particularly since it is offshore business, if you have a situation where the risk is being placed from a separate country, then the place where the offshore company is incorporated and also the place where the assets are outside the \$250 000 needed for the capitalisation are held, although there is recourse by the courts for any action to be taken in the case of any shortfall, it would not be a nice thing for the image of Barbados to have this situation, and once there are other countries that have this type of legislation that insist that a percentage of the assets be held in the country as well, which would allow the type of situation that applies to our domestic situation to be applicable to the offshore area as well.

I note that there is a provision in our Insurance Act that applies to the domestic situation, which I thought could well be incorporated here, and it is in Section 129 of our Insurance Act. This gives the courts in Barbados jurisdiction over any policy issued from Barbados, and I think this is very important in order to make sure that there is a certain amount of control over the situation of any exempt company, so that the image of Barbados would not be tarnished.

Very generous consideration has been given in the special tax section for any experts that we might have to bring into Barbados, and the Minister of Finance has already said that he is going to find it necessary, in the first instance, to grant some work permits. I am in agreement that there might be the necessity for the granting of some work permits, but I would want to caution that, conditional upon the granting of these work permits, there should be a requirement for the training of the highly skilled Barbadians in most of the areas to take over the management of these companies.

I think it is absolutely important. We have, as the honourable Member for Christ Church East has said, some very talented brains in Barbados, who have gone in to all the areas in Barbados — insurance, trust, accountancy, claims handling, etcetera — and it is only right that, while

we need to attract business at this particular time, we do not continue with a work permit policy that would continue to allow them to bring in experts from overseas without any commitment to the training of Barbadians to replace these experts.

The conditions under this special clause are very generous and it can be very attractive to people who want to come to Barbados continually, and unless it is properly policed, we can be sure that we will be having a long line of people coming to Barbados all the time, on the pretense that the expertise is not available in Barbados.

The point made about the speed at which the application should be processed is well taken, and I am a little surprised that, unlike the Offshore Banking Act, there is no time limit in this legislation for the issuing of a licence. I feel that should be looked at as well.

One other administrative thing you should also look at is that we must not make it very difficult for the people so that they incur any unnecessary expense. There is a provision whereby anyone applying for a licence must present a certified copy of the Memorandum of Association before they apply for the licence. Now this could well involve the expenditure of up to \$40 000 in some cases, and there is a likelihood that the licence can be refused, and people can be deterred by this kind of thing. 8.55 p.m.

I am suggesting that one way you can get around this is just to have a Memorandum of Association, not certified, presented, and make it conditional, on the granting of the licence, that they will be incorporated in Barbados. Therefore, if the Minister of Finance has to refuse the issuing of any licence, we will not have any offshore people, having spent \$40 000 to \$50 000 in having their articles of Memorandum of Association certified, being refused a licence.

In order to safeguard the integrity of Barbados, I feel that there should be a time limit in which the company granted a licence should start their operation in Barbados. This would ensure that you do not have an open-end situation where you allow them to just hold a licence and nothing is done with it.

I am certain there is an oversight in the section about the holding of assets in Barbados. The section referred to the fact that assets can be held by a letter of credit. I am certain that the word "irrevocable" must have been left out, because, as is so well known, a letter of credit can be changed over four months and I am going to seek in the Committee stage to make sure that an irrevocable letter of credit is what is meant, and not just a letter of credit.

In summary, Mr. Deputy Speaker, unlike the Member for Christ Church East Central, I am not worried that the normal insurance people will put them out of business too regularly. The big advantage of captive insurance is that it allows new access to re-insurance treaties, which is really the wholesale situation of insurance, and it allows the captives not only access, but to tailor-make any of the policies for the company, it allows the cash flow situation to retain the premiums in the company, and it allows particular risks that cannot be taken any place else to be taken.

So captives will continue to develop, but, as was correctly said, Barbados has come into it very late, and you have to compete with places that have highly specialised areas. The American States, in an effort to stop a lot of the money from leaving America by way of premiums for captives are turning a very favourable eye to the establishment of some type of local captives, and this will continue in the future. So it is only fair to assume that we will have to do a very vigorous marketing programme if this area is to be successful in Barbados.

I, too, can also say that we on this side are fully in agreement with this type of legislation, since I think it is a natural progression, and I can only hope that the necessary infrastructural arrangements will be set up in order to have it properly promoted and policed to make sure that the good image of Barbados is not tarnished in this area.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not propose to make a long contribution on this particular matter, because I believe that, over the past few years, we have had at least five debates, I think, in the area of offshore regimes – the Offshore Banking Act, two amendments, an amendment to the International Business Companies Act, and also the one dealing with shipping.

I just want to say this. It has always been my contention that we should regard these services aspect of the economy as the gravy, and not as a fundamental area in our development effort – as the gravy – and we must make sure that the gravy does not spoil the real meat, in terms of the economy of this country.

I have certainly during those debates expressed my grave reservations in relation to flags of convenience and the constraints in relation to the pros and cons of offshore banking. I have pointed that the areas to be stressed, with active promotion, with a careful balance of the opportunity costs, were all, in fact, in the area of international business companies' activity and in the area of captive insurance business. I warned initially that it was wrong to hold out hopes that significant employment would be generated by the establishment of an offshore banking sector, and I specifically brought to the attention of the House at that time that if you took

the total banking effort of Bahamas, only the employment of 0.3 per cent of all people employed there could be attributed to offshore banking activity.

Now, Sir, the captive insurance business, the exempt insurance business, differs significantly from offshore banking. And perhaps the point should be, if I may take the chance of quoting the honourable Minister of Finance, where he has pointed out that the assets of offshore banks in Barbados exceed the total assets of the rest of the banking system — and yet during that period there has almost certainly been a net decline in the number of people employed in the banking system in Barbados — that will give you some idea of what a gross misassessment it was of the employment generating capacity of offshore banking within the situation. But captive insurance is different in the sense that it has the capacity for the localising of more benefits, a spread of greater benefits to a wider area in the community, because of the very major of the activity of captive insurance itself.

I will also like to point out, Sir, that there are one or two other aspects that we have to look at. One is the question of timing. It is important to recognise that this entire offshore regime, the four prongs of the offshore regime, actually took place at a time of a rapid explosion in the Euro-dollar — in fact with the creation and the gradual build up of massive amounts of Euro-dollars — and this is particularly relevant to those countries that went into the business in the late '60s. The situation in relation to Euro-dollars, with the changing oil situation, will certainly not suggest that there will be that rapid boom of money which people would have to circulate within this whole environment of offshore banking, and that itself will be a constraint on the growth of activity in this area.

If the Government had accepted my advice when they were concentrating on offshore banking, and had moved into this area, they would have been able two or three years ago, to have taken advantage of a significant amount of captive insurance business, which has either gone back to the United States or moved elsewhere because of the particular saturation point which Bermuda had reached. So we are moving on the matter a little late in two respects. First, the international situation, but that particular matter was not within our control. But it certainly was within our control, once we had taken the decision to go into an offshore regime, to set the time. I think the time should have been about two or three years ago, and ample opportunity was given, and this matter was canvassed sufficiently in this House, both on this side and on that side, where one would have expected earlier movement.

There is another very important point, and I want to emphasize this. When you speak of opportunity costs,

there are certain domestic opportunity costs that we do not need to deal with, because they are largely more attendant on offshore banking than on captive insurance business. But the major opportunity cost in this area lies in the area of promotion. Unless this is done, you are wasting your time.

I would like to repeat once again that I do not think that the Central Bank of Barbados is the agency to be used for the promotion of an offshore regime, which, in essence, however you look at it, involves some element of diminution in the management of the sovereignty of your financial affairs. The very structure of all these Bills, the necessity for secrecy, the minimization of your inspectorate policies, etc., these are all natural pre-conditions of an offshore regime.

I do not think it is appropriate, and I have always made this point, that the Central Bank should be the agency. In any event, they have enough work cut out for them at the moment, and my own view would be that these four areas of offshore business should be handled by a separate Government agency, which would be able to concentrate on the various prongs, because in some ways they are interlocking. That particular Government department would develop the expertise in the handling of this particular area, and many of the problems, of delays and processing, and the relief of some of the bureaucratic problems that you might encounter could be circumvented in that way.

9.05 p.m.

I would like to reiterate the position that we must take every possible step to ensure that with the odd company that might come along — although this does not happen, or has not happened too frequently in the past, with captive insurance companies — nothing happens which would damage the image of Barbados in relation to the total offshore sector. All you need is one incident blown up and then you can have all sorts of problems.

Many of you will recall that only some time last year because of problems in two neighbouring islands, cheques drawn in Barbados, or bank drafts and so on, were being rejected by banks in the western United States, which seem to look at the whole area as just one area where there was inadequate inspection of certain types of offshore activity. I know of at least two instances. Fortunately, they did not involve the east coast. This followed that exposure in the Wall Street Journal of what was going on in a neighbouring territory. Barbados, fortunately, was not involved. As you know, three other Caribbean territories were involved in lax supervision in that particular area.

I would strongly suggest to the Government that they pursue particularly the area of international business companies' activity, pursue the area of captive

insurance business, and I believe that on the two of those you would get maximum benefits coming to Barbados in this particular services area.

Finally, my caution again, the Barbados economy will never be able to be as dependent on this kind of services structure as small countries like the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, and it is for obvious reasons that this cannot happen. Let us not fool ourselves. We are not dealing here with major economic development, we are dealing with something that can generate a few jobs, contribute a little money to the Treasury of Barbados, contribute to skills development in particular specialised areas of the society, but let us see it once and for all in its true context in relation to the Barbados economy.

I believe that if we had looked at this total regime a little more critically three or four years ago, we would have been way ahead now. The amount of time that was wasted travelling around the world promoting offshore banking, much of it could have been spent in getting this legislation through Parliament three or four years ago.

That is just the very brief contribution I will make, because I do not think there is any point in repeating the many contributions that I have made on this area of offshore activity.

Thank you.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, careful note has been taken of the speeches made by honourable Members, particularly the honourable Member for St. Philip North. I do, however, think that the captive insurance business is not quite a shaky business as some other forms of offshore activity. Letters of credit can be cancelled during the day, but very generally, captive insurance companies represent very substantial parent companies, and no matter how transitory an instant asset may seem to be, General Motors Insurance Company is backed by General Motors when you really get down to it, and you would be questioning the credit of the world's major businesses when you question the credit of captive insurance generally.

The points made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, we just have to agree to disagree on them. On a very narrow issue, I hope I did not say that the offshore banks alone would bring in employment that would change the face of Barbados. The whole essence is that offshore business is the big generator of employment.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Offshore business, which includes the very Bill now coming before the House.

I will have to take issue with the honourable Member on his statement about services being the gravy and I must not let the gravy spoil the meat.

I suppose that, since the honourable Member is a doctor who does not know how to do an abortion, I should not blame him for any hole in his grasp of economic organisation. He may very well have the capacity to master a brief dealing with the IMF. I have never doubted that the honourable Member can read and understand, but you have to have a wider breadth of knowledge, or at least a wider spread of experience, before you can deal with an economic concept like services. Tourism services, the retail trade data services.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. I hope that the honourable Member would not go down that line. When I was talking about services, I was talking about this particular kind of banking services, and my comments are to be regarded as limited to that, not the other services in the economy like tourism.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The honourable Member's point of elucidation is nonsense. He quite clearly expanded in his speech from banking to services and started to talk about services. Services and the supply of services are what make a country rich.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The honourable Member was not talking about banking services, the honourable Member must be honest in argument. The honourable Member's mind is quick enough to see that he has made a mistake and he is trying to recover from it, but the *Official Gazette* will reveal the honourable Member's statement.

I am not labouring on it, I do not blame the honourable Member. Perhaps he does not understand, he does not have the day to day running of any economy, and therefore he has not got a complete grasp of the use of language that he might have if he was dealing day to day with the economy. He is bound to make mistakes that the right honourable Members for St. John and St. Thomas will not make.

9.15 p.m.

The fact is that this Government does intend, in pursuit of development and wealth for its people, to place a great deal of emphasis on services. Not just the simple services, such as retail service, still the biggest employer in Barbados, and the services supplied by tourism, still the biggest generators of foreign exchange, but the services supplied by the off-shore sector and local sector, services to banking, to insurance companies and so on.

Even if the honourable Member meant, as he says he means, only banking and insurance services, he is still hopelessly, catastrophically wrong, because we will never develop our economy to achieve a North American standard of living, which is this Government's aim, without the development of this narrower part of the service sector. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say that if you bring a million tourists to Barbados, you will not have a North America standard of living, unless you provide, in addition to the tourists sector, a part of the service sector which generates employment, generates foreign exchange, with the kind of value-added that the service sector to which we are now referring can provide.

There are many people who say that, notwithstanding two million tourists in the Bahamas, the Bahamas standard of living rest in the provision of off-shore banking and other company services. That is a matter of debate, which the honourable Member will find from time to time in the journals, the discussions and the papers. If the honourable Member, instead of soliciting the IMF's Memorandum on Barbados from Governments hostile to the Government of Barbados, who would destroy us and set up a regime inimical to democracy, would solicit studies on the development of people's wealth by the creation of a service sector, he would not make statements like "services are the gravy, do not let them spoil the meat."

I make no apology for saying that in Barbados we have to place emphasis on the creation of a service sector where it does not exist, and the expansion of those existing parts of the service sector, in order to make our people wealthy.

Honourable Members on the other side tend to decry the existence of — I do not know how to describe it; I cannot say off-shore services, because it is not all off-shore services — the existing banking-cum-head office — cum-business company service sector in improving our standard of living. I would like the honourable Member to tell me why Trinidad, with no foreign exchange constraints whatsoever, with Government revenue that is so abundant that foreign reserves can be generated to an extent where the interest on the reserves exceeds collections of Income Tax, has a per capita income perhaps only 40 per cent higher than that of Barbados — 30 per cent higher than that of Barbados — if it were not for something in the Barbados economy — because we have no mineral resources to provide huge surpluses to be divided among the population — over and above what exists in the economies of many small countries in the world, to produce GDP levels comparable to ours.

What is it in Singapore that produces a GDP per capita level higher than most European countries if it is not for the service sector. What is it in Hong Kong,

which, despite the manufacturing and despite the tourism, has a population of five million, crowded for the main part into an area no bigger than St. Philip, — because the new territories are not substantially populated — how is it that Hong Kong, without a Central Bank, has levels of wealth that far exceed those of the majority of people in the world, if it is not for its service sector.

If services are mere gravy — and I am confining it if the honourable Member wants — to the sort of services that he thinks that he is talking about — if that is merely gravy, that is gravy that most Barbadians would like to eat and forget the meat. I think that we will be ill-served if one political party appears to be committed to a regime that does not emphasise the service sector as a generator of employment and wealth in Barbados.

Nonetheless, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that many words are spoken in Opposition for the sake of opposition, and that that is how I think we should regard the speech of the honourable Member. Barbados is devastated, the people are falling down in the road, we are starving, nobody has any money, the unemployed are stoning Government Headquarters — all because of the IMF — the mentality of a person who believes that Barbados is, to use his own words, "devastated", has to be such that we should not be surprised if he makes a statement like that about the service sector. In the midst of our devastation, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. J. G. ODLE, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. I propose to deal with this Bill in parts unless I am advised otherwise. The amendments have been circulated.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In moving that Clause 2 stand part, I beg to move that after the definition of "auditor" the following definition be included,

"Caribbean Community" means the Caribbean Community as defined by the treaty establishing the Caribbean Community signed at Trinidad and Tobago on 4th July, 1973."

9.25 p.m.

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

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

Clause 3 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 3 in the Bill as circulated be deleted and the following Clause 3 be substituted:

"3. Exempt insurance business is the business of a body corporate

- (a) whose risks and premiums originate outside Barbados; and
- (b) on whose liquidation monies payable to shareholders are payable to or for the benefit of persons resident outside the Caribbean Community;"

I beg to move that Clause 3, as amended, stand part.

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

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

Clause 4 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in Clause 4(2), I beg to move that paragraphs (d) and (e) be renumbered as (e) and (f) and that the following be a new paragraph (d)

"(d) its shareholders are not persons resident within the Caribbean Community;"

And in Clause 4(3) I beg to move that the word "need" be deleted and "shall" be substituted.

I beg to move that Clause 4, as amended, stand part.

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

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

Clause 5 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part.

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the Minister's attention a provision under Clause 5. Clause 5 reads:

"Notwithstanding the Companies Act, no company may be incorporated under that Act for the purpose of engaging in exempt insurance business from within Barbados unless its incorporation has been consented to by the Minister."

If I can take Clause 6(2) to make the point, what is happening here is that a person has to present a certified copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association which could involve the company in up to about \$40 000, depending on the amount of money, before he applies for a licence, and then it is possible that having gone into this expenditure the Minister has the right to refuse the licence.

I am suggesting that the word "certified" be taken out and so allow a person to present a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and get the licence, but with a provision that the company be incorporated in Barbados. It would mean that the company would not have to go into this expenditure of having a certified copy before the licence is examined and granted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your submission really affects Clause 6.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: It comes in Clause 5 as well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is definitely part of Clause 6, and when we come to Clause 6 you can make any amendment that you want.

The question that Clause 5 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 6 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 6 stand part.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that. I take it that it is the same point the honourable Member is raising. There is no difficulty there. At the present moment, if you apply for fiscal incentives, before you can get the fiscal incentives signed by the Minister you have to bring in a certified copy of your Memorandum and Articles of Association, or a certificate from the Registrar that the company is incorporated. What happens is that when you are filing the document, you take an extra copy and leave it with the Registrar, and he certifies it there and then. There is no difficulty here.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Just one point, won't the fees have to be paid at this time? This is what I am trying to find out. The point I am trying to make here is that we are dealing with international business companies, and you do not want to give the impression that you are trying to rip them off. We do not want a situation to arise where a company pays all the money for the necessary registration, stamp duty, etcetera, and then the Minister says that he is not granting a licence after they have gone through this expense.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, his fear is likely to be misplaced in the sense that, in real terms, in actual experience, there is, before the company is actually formed and the fees paid out to the Registrar, ongoing consultation between the attorney working for the company and the Supervisor of Insurance, so by the time he actually takes the step of registering the company, he is pretty sure that all the requirements have been met and that the acceptance by the Minister is only a formality.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The other thing is this; you have to read Clause 6 in conjunction with Clause 5. Before you come to Clause 6 you have to comply with the conditions of Clause 5. Clause 5 says that the Registrar cannot incorporate the company unless its incorporation has been sanctioned by the Minister. So you will have satisfied, I am positive, all of the pre-conditions necessary in order to get that sanction. Having got that sanction, the rest that comes subsequent to that is a formality.

The crux of the matter is that Clause 5 has in the prior condition, namely the sanction of the Minister, and it says:

"Notwithstanding the Companies Act, no company may be incorporated under that Act for the purpose of engaging in exempt insurance business from within Barbados unless its incorporation has been consented to by the Minister."

I think that is the real fear of it, because if he tells you "No", there is no point going further. As a matter of fact, the Registrar cannot even incorporate it. I think that is the answer to it.

The question that Clause 6 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 7 was called and passed.

Clause 8 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that Clause 8 stand part.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: I wonder if the Minister would not consider, as he has done in the Offshore Banking Act, putting in a time limit during which he has to give an answer on his decision about the licence. The clause says when the Minister is satisfied that it is proper to do so, he may issue or refuse a licence under this Act. The Offshore Banking Act gives him three months within which to do it, and this may make sure that his technocrats keep on a very tight rein, particularly when you are competing.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I will give the matter consideration, Sir, but I would not want to amend it at this stage. I think the application to register a captive insurance act may be a more drawn out process than is sometimes the case with an offshore business act. We have pressure with the various offshore business laws to allow what is called the "shelf company business" to come to Barbados. An attorney can have twenty companies, and somebody rings him up from London or the Bahamas or wherever and he says, "All right I have a company for you and you can start business tomorrow." That is the kind of pressure you are under with ordinary offshore business. People have a lot of money that they want handled in a matter of days. I don't think with insurance companies it is so difficult.

But what I would say is this, that regulations have to be made under this Act, and I will ask the Supervisor of Insurance to take note that this is one of the matters which he should consider for inclusion in the regulations. It is a sound point, but on the whole you know a tardy Minister is doing his country damage, not an applicant.

The question that Clause 8 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
9.35 p.m.

Clause 9 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that subclauses 3, 6, and 7 be deleted. There will be a sequential renumbering.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to invite the Minister's comment on Clause 9 (4):

"It shall not be a condition of a licence issued under this Act that the licensee commences business within a specific period of time".

This is fairly open-ended at the moment. I have noted in one other legislation that there is a time limit of one year. I wonder why there is not some time limit, 1, 2, or 3 years, and why it is left open-ended?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This was a matter of specific negotiation. It was suggested to us, and we gave it some thought, that we should have an open-end arrangement precisely because some other jurisdictions have closed arrangements. The suggestion is that you may want an insurance company just to be in existence, but not to write any business. Remember, most of these countries have only one client. So opening a business for them is not like opening a business for an ordinary company that has to solicit clients in order to get somewhere. They need the element of shelf captivism.

Sometimes a company has written a lot of business and it is no longer convenient for that company to write anymore business for the client, but a new risk has suddenly arise and you want another company somewhere else to cover this risk. This really is the corollary of the time limit matter. This provides for the occasions when a company that owns a captive insurance company wants a sudden transaction, wants an overnight transaction, and it wants to have other captive companies which can write business very quickly.

Now the honourable Member can imagine; there may be cases where a sudden risk arises, an unusual risk arises, or whatever. Suppose General Motors has a policy dealing with personal liability of visitors to its plant and one day Mr. Begin is going to the plant and it is considered desirable to cover accidents to Mr. Begin for a million dollars, and you need a sudden cover, that is the kind of risk we are told that can suddenly arise in the captive business, a sudden expansion of ordinary business risks, for which they need a company to which they can have instant access; so I am told.

We gave it some consideration and we agreed that captive insurance companies can stay on the shelf until they are needed. There is no real loss to Barbados, because they pay their incorporation fees and they probably pay annual fees. I do not think the fees are set out in this, but they will be prescribed. They are no doubt paying a retainer to some lawyer in Barbados just to keep the matter alive. It is in the nature of a captive business that you may need this back-up for insurance or for re-insurance or whatever.

The question that Clause 9 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 10 to 16 were called and passed.

Clause 17 was called.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Clause 17(2) reads: "Subject to the approval of the Minister, paid-up capital or contributed reserves may be in the form of letters of credit drawn on a bank licensed under the Banking Act."

I am certain that this should be an irrevocable letter of credit.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, that point has already been answered, because even though the expression "letter of credit" may imply that the assets is transitory, to the extent that you are for the most part talking about a subsidiary doing the business of its parent company, one has not got to worry about that, because as long as the parent company remains viable and in existence there is no danger of the customer being abused. I would say that there would be a danger if the captive goes on to take business from other clients outside of the parent. But as long as that situation does not exist, I do not think you need worry.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, there is nothing to prevent our captives from taking business from other companies. We have to worry, because they can take business from other companies. I feel this should be "an irrevocable letter of credit" instead of "a letter of credit".

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I see the honourable Member's point. All I can say is that you have to have trust in the regulatory authority to investigate the *bona fides* of a company first.

Today, honourable Members may have noticed that the Governor of the Central Bank visited the premises of Parliament. He was reporting to the Deputy Prime Minister and myself, and I mentioned to him that he should adopt in his regulatory stance, the stance of the American Federal Reserve Bank which insists on the Treasury Bill requirement of all American banks being reported on a daily basis. This means that in the United States there is a tremendous business on overnight Treasury Bills. You borrow the Treasury Bills overnight, you pay $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per cent, $\frac{3}{8}$ of 1 per cent, or whatever depending on your credit, and next day you return the bills. So the business of a letter of credit in the morning disappearing by the afternoon is no way unusual. All that happens is that a market arises in instant letters of credit. It is a fundamental credit of the business that controls its use of these instant arrangements.

9.45 p.m.

I was visited by our new Director of the World Bank, this is the Canadian who represents us and other countries, and he mentioned to me that one of the World Bank's principal sources of income, one of its most profitable sources of business — I will not tell you the amount but he gave me the amount, and it would frighten you to know how much — comes from the use of the \$10 billion which it holds on American Government paper at all times, lending it out overnight, lending out Treasury Bills, lending out Government bonds, no

doubt issuing letters of credit to people who need them to meet bank inspections.

It is nothing unusual to meet a bank inspection with an instant letter of credit, an instant Treasury Bill, an instant United States Government bond. It is not unusual, nor is it particularly discreditable, and some of the most creditable institutions in the world make a substantial income from accommodating that kind of need.

I do see the honourable Member's point, but I think we must protect ourselves, just as I am sure the World Bank does, by making sure that those who need that kind of facility are themselves reputable. I cannot imagine the World Bank, for example, lending the Alleyne Mercantile Bank \$200 million Treasury Bills on the promise that they will be returned the next day. I cannot imagine that. I imagine that they would give City Bank that kind of accommodation, but they would not give a shaky bank, and I think that our aim should be to be careful in who you give the licences to.

The question that Clause 17 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 18 was called.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 18 stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, one of my hobby horses. Clause 18(1) reads:

"Not later than 3 months after the close of the financial year of a licensee or such longer period as the Minister allows, a licensee shall submit to the Supervisor copies of its revenue account, profit and loss account and balance sheet certified by an auditor."

That particular drafting of clauses has crept into a lot of legislation, including the legislation relating to the Barbados National Bank. This is now 15 months after the close of a financial year and there is still no audited financial statement of that bank, and I believe, in the interest of tidiness, precision, that that particular section should be taken out, "or such longer period as the Minister allows".

From my understanding of the way in which captive insurance companies operate, and the kind of management expertise that is brought to bear on those companies, I do not really feel that a situation is likely to arise, if you pay attention to the type of licensee that you allow to operate in this particular business, to make

that discretion is necessary. I believe that putting that discretion inside there in a sense weakens those aspects of the Bill which would tend to bring some kind of precision to bear on this kind of activity.

It just does not happen with reputable organisations that three months after the end of a financial year, you will not have an audited financial statement. It happens here in Barbados, but it does not happen with international organisations, and I would suggest that this should be taken out, because in a sense it weakens the general thrust and firmness, which I detect has been the general trend of the legislation.

I believe that this just crept in here because this has been the pattern on which a lot of legislation has been based over the past few years, and the answer usually given is that this is a new type of drafting technique or something like this. It certainly was the answer given on about two other occasions when this matter was raised.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, hard cases make bad law. "For such longer period as the Minister allows" is merely meant to be a parachute — and the honourable Member and I have made many flights in aeroplane and never had to use a parachute yet. But, unfortunately, we have become accustomed to this in Barbados, because under a previous President, and indeed the present Financial Controller, the Barbados National Bank has never yet been able to produce its accounts in time. It does not have to be that way, Sir, and on the whole, I would ask to leave in this power.

I do not really believe that if a licensee regularly fails to meet the close of a financial year with a three month deadline, that he would continue to have the licence. It is not like the Barbados National Bank — I do not believe honourable Members really wanted me to wind up the bank, there were other solutions. You could wind up some of the personnel, I do not think honourable Members wanted me to wind up the bank, but in this case this probably would wind the bank up. I would really ask to leave that power in, Sir.

The question that Clause 18 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 19 to 26 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 27 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that the words "as defined by the treaty establishing the Caribbean Community" be deleted from paragraph (c) of Clause 27 and a semi-colon placed at the word "Community", Sir.

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

The question that clause 27 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 28 and 29 were called and passed.
9.55 p.m.

Clause 30 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In Clause 30, I beg to move that the words "licensee or" appearing in the second and third lines be deleted.

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

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

Clause 31 was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In Clause 31(2), I beg to move that the words "is not a resident of Barbados and who" be deleted.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 32 to 35 inclusive were called and passed.

Part VII was called and passed.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to the DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of one Bill with amendments in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, March 8, 1983 at 12 o'clock noon.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

The question that the House stand adjourned until Tuesday March 8, 1983, at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
10.05 p.m.

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