
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 31, 1983

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock on Tuesday, May 31, 1983.

PRESENT

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry)
Mr. L. E. Sandiford, M.A. (Econ.)
Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, (Minister of Education)
Mr. J. G. Odle, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. L. L. Sisnett (Acting Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport)
Mr. R. E. Brathwaite
Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman, B.A., M.A., PhD., (Minister of Health and Community Services)
Mr. W. O. Franklin, A.I.A.S., J.P.
Mr. A. Truss.

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, May 24, 1983.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that those Minutes be taken as read.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Just two observations, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On page 2, paragraph 3, there is a sentence which reads: "Would the Minister state what are the levels of security, classification....." The comma in that section is a typographical error, and I am drawing it to your attention that it should be corrected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: But more substantially, Sir, on page 5 of the Minutes, the section headed "Adjournment" reads:

"Hon. L. S. Craig spoke in tribute to the Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow on the achievement of twenty five years continuous parliamentary service and moved seconded by Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow....."

It is my recollection, Sir, that it was the right honourable J. M. G. M. Adams, the right honourable Member for St. Thomas, who seconded the motion, so I am suggesting that the words "E. W. Barrow" be deleted and "J. M. G. M. Adams" be substituted. I think, according to my recollection, that was a correct record of what actually occurred.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no other observations, I will direct that these Minutes be corrected accordingly and stand over till the next sitting of the Chamber.

Hon. L. R. TULL entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. L. SISNETT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following: The National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following:

The Post Office (Inland Letter Post) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Mail Notices Service) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Private Letter Box) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Miscellaneous Service) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Overseas Letter Post) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Overseas) (Parcel Post) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to cancel Resolution No. 64 of 1982 and to approve the guarantee by the Government of the repayment of a sum not exceeding the equivalent of U.S. \$7 500 000.00 and the principal and the interest and other obligations in respect thereof, to be made by the Off-Shore Banking Unit of Barclays Bank International to the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

A Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Government of the sum of U.S. \$10.5 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the purpose of assisting in financing the Industrial Credit Fund (ICF) to be managed by the Central Bank of Barbados.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that Government Business be now taken, and Order No. 3 be the instant Order of the day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the day. Order No. 3.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ERDISTON TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a Resolution to approve the Board of Management for the Erdiston Teachers Training College.

The Erdiston Teachers Training College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic were not included in the new education legislation which, in recent weeks and months, has been in the process of implementation. The Barbados Community College operates under its own separate legislation, and part of the rationale for appointing a Board of Management to the Erdiston Teachers Training College, and in due course to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, is that we should have a regularisation of the tertiary institutions under the new legislation.

I had difficulty with those two institutions remaining outside of the general influence of the new legislation, and this is simply an Order to establish a Board of Management for that college. I hope that it will bring a certain uniformity to the style of management of all tertiary institutions, and that it will contribute to the more efficient administration of that college. It will give to the new Board greater autonomy than formerly existed; so the Erdiston College will manage itself in much the same way as the Barbados Community College now does.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM entered the Chamber and took his seat.
12.30 p.m.

The Board, acting within the general policy guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Education, will, upon agreement to this Resolution, be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the college so that, we hope, the Principal of the College will be free to concentrate more on the professional and pedagogical development of Erdiston College. Under the present system, the Principal is very much burdened with administrative day-to-day matters which, I think, takes away from the more important functions that the principal should be carrying on.

The Board of Management will comprise a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, a representative of the Heads of Secondary Schools, a representative of the Heads of Primary Schools, a representative of the School of Education at Cave Hill, UWI; the Chief Education Officer or his nominee, and three other persons who will be appointed by me.

I think it is important to note at this stage that the principal and all of the other teaching staff at Erdiston will remain public officers. This matter has already been discussed with the principal and senior staff at the College, and they have raised no objection.

The administrative staff, however, and other ancillary staff are expected eventually to become employees of the Board of Management, as is the case with the Barbados Community College. It is proposed to discover whether those people who are currently in ancillary and

such posts at Erdiston College are willing to accept appointments of the Board of Management and, where necessary, to request the Chief Personnel Officer to absorb those not willing to transfer their services elsewhere in the Public Service.

There are 14 established, and 13 unestablished posts involved. But in order that the transition from one style of management to another should be smooth, we are proposing that these posts should be retained on the present basis for a period of at least six months.

The creation of the Board of Management will, of course, require amendments to some Regulations, in particular 58 and 59, of the new Education Regulations, 1982; since at the time when that legislation was drafted, Erdiston operated with an Advisory Board. We are now moving to a Board of Management. The Ministry of the Attorney General has prepared the necessary amendment and this is where we are.

Perhaps it might interest honourable Members to have some idea of the persons who are expected to sit on the Board of Management of the Erdiston Teachers Training College. It is proposed that the Rev. Bernard Griffith shall be the Chairman of the Board. He is an old pupil of Erdiston, a member of the Cloth, a person much interested and involved in education. Miss Constance Inniss, retired Headmistress of the St. Michael's School, has been invited to sit as Deputy Chairman of that Board.

The representatives of the Heads of Secondary Schools, Heads of Primary Schools and the School of Education have submitted a short-list from which persons will be chosen. I am not in a position to say today who those representatives will be.

Also appointed to this new Board of Management will be Mrs. Anne Hewitt, formerly a teacher at Queen's College and later on at the Barbados Community College. Mrs. Hewitt now works in the private sector with one of the largest private firms in Barbados in Personnel. This lady, who has a wealth of experience at the secondary level and at the Community College level, understands very well the interfacing between the school place and the workplace, and I think will bring her experience to bear. Mr. Ulric Rice, Sunday Editor of the *Advocate News*, and Mr. Sherman Moore, Parliamentary Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers, are also appointed.

I think, too, that I must add that with the appointment of this new Board of Management, Erdiston College is about to undergo significant changes. I do not think that Erdiston can continue as it began, that is, as a college for the training, almost exclusively, of primary school teachers.

Erdiston has had an illustrious record of training primary school teachers, not only for Barbados, but for many of the nations of the Caribbean. In recent years, the nation states in the Caribbean have set up their own teacher training colleges, so, in fact, the student teachers who attend Erdiston Teachers College today are mostly from Barbados.

But Erdiston has got to take on a larger and wider role. It has got to widen its horizons. Erdiston has now got to face the fact that it is the only teacher training college in Barbados, and that its functions cannot now be limited exclusively to the training of primary school teachers.

Erdiston has got to look into the training and retraining not only of primary school teachers, but also secondary school teachers. Erdiston has got to look at new specialist areas, particularly areas to do with the new technology which is being demanded in the primary and secondary school system, and which eventually, has to be serviced. We have got to train teachers to teach the new subjects before they can be teachers in these areas.

A few months ago I met with the senior staff at Erdiston and I am pleased at the enthusiasm and keenness I have seen there. I know the new Board will be well served and that, *vice versa*, the college will be well served by this Board. I believe that new, progressive and modern thinking will come to the Erdiston Teacher Training College in the months immediately ahead of us.

We have no time to lose, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If we do not keep up in these vital matters, particularly in the area of teacher training in this country, we are indeed going to be left behind.

12.40 p.m.

There is a lot of talk in the public domain about what we ought and ought not to be teaching in the school system in this country, and in a lot of the new areas that we would want to offer to the children of our schools, we must teach our teachers first so that they are equipped and prepared to deliver this new technology to the young people of Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think that there is much more that I need to add in this introduction, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this particular measure which we are looking at is one, of course, which follows from the passage of the Education Act 1975 and 1981, and it is within the framework of the decisions for the develop-

ment of the educational system in this country and the modernisation of that system. I do not think any of these matters are really in doubt, so that aspect of it is non-controversial.

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are certain matters which we on this side would like to raise, and these relate substantially to the content of the Order, and there are also some other matters relating to Erdiston Teacher Training College which we would like to raise at this moment.

Let me start with the matters relating to Erdiston generally and the management of that institution, because I believe somewhere along the road this particular Board of Management will be responsible for the management of the grounds and the premises and so on. I do not think it is actually spelt out in this particular Order, but that is what I expect.

Erdiston used to cater to a number of teachers who lived in dormitories provided at the institution. I believe that, some time ago, the institution ceased, as a result of policy directives, to accept students as boarders in that institution. I am wondering if the Minister could confirm whether this in fact is the position, that there are no boarders at the institution, and if she could go on to tell us what use is put to those facilities which were formerly used by the students.

I would hate to think, Sir, that these facilities, the dormitories, are unoccupied and unused, especially in circumstances where we have a major housing shortage in this country, and I would not like to think that housing accommodation in this country, which is so short, would be closed up and that deterioration and all kinds of problems would set in in respect of those facilities. I do not know. I am raising the question and I hope the Minister could throw some light on this particular situation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like the honourable Member to explain to us how a housing situation is relevant to dormitories at Erdiston Training College.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh yes, Sir. The Board of Management has responsibility and it will be taking over responsibility from previous bodies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no Board of Management at the moment. We are now discussing the creation of a Board of Management.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I take your indication, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We cannot mix housing generally into dormitories at this institution. I do not believe it is relevant.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you ever so much for your perception on the matter.

Sir, I wish to pass on to another matter. We know that quite a number of improvements have taken place at Erdiston since 1974. There was a plan of operations for the improvement of Science teaching, and I believe the Attorney General (Hon. L. R. Tull) did play a part in getting certain facilities at the institution as well. But, in specifics, we are very concerned about the training and study leave which may be available for teachers going to that particular institution.

First of all, we want to know in part what will be the status of this Board of Management. Is this just a committee without any authority and power? Will it be a corporate body, or is it merely a committee like the committees of the primary schools which, in fact, do not have the same status, the same legal basis, as the Board of Management of the Barbados Community College? Will this body be a corporate body, or is it merely a committee appointed by the Minister to carry out certain functions, but without the kind of status that other statutory boards in this country may have, such as the National Housing Corporation, which has a lot of status, Sir, and the Board of Management of the Barbados Community College and so on?

It has been said recently, Sir, that teachers will no longer be able to embark upon the preliminary in-service Training Programme. These are all in the air, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think it would be appropriate on this occasion if the Minister could throw some light on this particular matter in respect of teachers seeking training for this very important profession in this country. There are all types of suggestions that these teachers will no longer be employed by the Ministry if they are in training; they will have to go in *ab initio* into the Training College and that there will be no salaries available to them in training.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would wonder if the honourable Member would wait for a substantive Resolution or motion on education to deal with these matters. The honourable Member seems to be raising matters far outside of the Resolution which is now before the Chamber.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I wanted to find out what is the status of the Board.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: And I am saying that the honourable Member should await an appropriate time to deal with the matters he is dealing with.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I bow to your ruling. You are drawing it very closely today, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to draw it very wide if the honourable Member would keep in that vein.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Very well, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have raised the question of the status of the Board. I would like to refer also to the question of whether this Board of Management will be responsible for the curricula at the College for teaching practice, for in-service programmes and other training activities at the College. Will this be the responsibility of the Board or will these matters be kept within the domain of the officials of the Ministry of Education?

12.50 p.m.

I believe the Minister did indicate that she wishes to see the tertiary level institutions governed more or less in the same way, and I think it is appropriate that this question be addressed and some answers come to it. Because when we look at the Order itself, and we compare it with the Act establishing the Barbados Community College Board of Management, for example, Sir, we find that the substance of the responsibilities which reside in the Board of Management of the Barbados Community College do not seem to get expression in this particular Order and the attendant Resolution that we may be considering.

These matters, the courses, the curriculum, the teaching practice, the specific programmes to be carried out at the college are nowhere set out in this set of Regulations, and I wondered if the Minister could throw some light on this particular matter for us. Indeed, on the whole matter of the certification of the students at that college, I see no reference to it in this particular measure that we are dealing with, and maybe the Minister can tell us where these matters have been set out. I would not like to think that when we are looking at these matters in a definitive way, there may be some areas which may be omitted, inadvertently, or may be included in some other part of legislation.

I believe there were some Education Regulations made in 1982. But when I put them side by side, Sir, and tried to do some comparison, I did not find these matters specifically set out. It may be that they escaped me and they are somewhere else. But I am certain the Minister would clarify the matters.

As you know, Sir, I know very little about education, and our Shadow Minister of Education is not present at the moment to take on these matters, and I really do not wish to enter or embark upon any substantial discussion on educational matters. I do not really wish to go on. I am just raising some questions. I was really hoping that he would be in his place by this time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member is now filibustering.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am sorry, Sir. I will get back to the point.

One area that I am concerned about, Sir, relates to the relationship that should exist between the principal and the Board of Management. Again, I see no reference to the relationship which should exist between the principal and the Board of Management in this Order that is before us, and I do not recall where that particular relationship is set out. Again, like the other matters that I have raised, it may be set out somewhere else, but I do not find it in here.

Indeed, I believe that under the 1982 Regulations, if my memory serves me right, the Principal is responsible for submitting information to the Ministry relating to the annual estimates of income and expenditure of the college.

I have a copy of the Education Regulations, 1982 in my hand, and when I look at Part XIV dealing with Teachers Colleges, at Clause 59 (i), dealing with the duties imposed upon the principal of a teachers college, it does state that: the principal "must submit to the Minister annual estimates of the income and expenditure of the college." But I believe, Sir, that, in this order, a similar responsibility is also placed upon the Board of Management.

I am really wondering if these two things are to be reconciled. I can find nowhere where the relationship between the principal and the Board of Management are detailed. I think that this could lead to some kind of confusion, and I am wondering if the Minister could throw some light on this matter.

I will pause at this point and allow the debate to continue, or the Minister to throw some light and some clarification on the issues that I have raised.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no other contributions, the honourable Minister may now reply.

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Before the honourable Minister replies, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are one or two points that I would like to raise in direct response to the contribution of the honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford), and indeed to use the benefit of my experience in Education over a period of time to make some pertinent points on aspects of the training and administration of teachers at Erdiston College.

I have always held the view, Sir, that teachers, as professionals, must be trained and equipped for teaching

before they undertake the work that they are supposed to do. This was not a point of view that was well supported by my advisers at the time I was in the Ministry of Education. But I have had discussions with the current Minister of Education, the honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown (Hon. Miss B. A. Miller), and I now understand — and I support it wholeheartedly — that teachers would be trained before they are assigned to the classroom.

Nobody would believe that we are serious if we put someone to do engineering work before he is trained as an engineer, and nobody would believe that we would put a doctor in the hospital to look after patients before he qualifies as a doctor, nor indeed would you expect a man to appear in court and plead cases before he is qualified as a lawyer. And I have often thought it a bit of an incongruity that we should continue — not start, because it started in days when the exigencies of the time required that we had that type of arrangement — I have always been surprised that we have continued for so long to take children out of high school one term and put them into the classroom the next term without any training at all, other than what is called the Induction Course, a preliminary course, some two weeks of training.

In the nature of things, you cannot begin to make an impact on anyone in two weeks as to what to expect in a classroom, much more try to expound to children in the environment which we find in our schools today. So I am glad to hear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is the intention of the Ministry of Education to require that teachers be trained at the Erdiston Training College or any other recognised school of teacher training before they go into the classroom to teach.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South raised the point about whether they would be getting paid. I am not getting into that, Sir. I am sure that the Ministry of Education will be able to analyse it and see whether these prospective teachers, while they are in the Training College, should be given such allowances which would make it easier for them to survive, and indeed to attract the right kind of person into the teaching profession. I would not get into that, Sir, but I do look forward to the time when no one is allowed to appear in a classroom to teach children, and I am dealing with both the primary and secondary levels, before that person has been exposed to a fairly intensive and extensive course of teacher training.

1.00 p.m.

I would also like, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to pay a little attention to the situation as obtains in the sister institution, the adopted child, the Erdiston Model School as it was. It is now the Erdiston Primary School.

Sir, I am talking about teacher training. I see Your Honour raising your eye-brows, but we are talking about the training of teachers. I would like to see the Model School in relation to the college revert to a situation that it enjoyed in the past. What is happening nowadays is that teachers being trained at Erdiston are spread out all over the island to practice teaching in the classrooms. It is a little bit of an inconvenience and a waste of time in some cases for this situation to produce maximum results.

There are a limited amount of tutors and therefore a limited number of supervisors of these teachers, and if you are to maintain the two year course, while you are teaching at the college, you also have to be supervising second-year people who are teaching in the 110 or 111 primary schools throughout Barbados. And I would like to think that the primary school, which is in the same compound as the college, can perhaps revert to its former status and be used as a laboratory, a set of classrooms, where children are learning day after day, where the teachers in training can be taught in an environment that is immediately in relation to the training college. It saves time and effort, because the tutors will only be a few yards away and will be able to provide the type of supervision so necessary in this kind of relationship.

There is a further point raised, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the diversification of the curricula at Erdiston College. The honourable Member is quite right that, during my incumbency in the Ministry of Education, we started a course for the training of teachers in technical subjects. If my recollection is right, Sir, because I have been away from these things for a while, those teachers were certificated jointly by the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies' School of Education. These two institutions, the Community College and the School of Education, work in collaboration with the Erdiston Teachers Training College to certify these teachers of technical subjects.

I do not believe that two years ago this arrangement had been extended to all teachers, teachers of general subjects, and I do not know what has happened since then, Sir. But I would like to see this expanded so that the prestige and recognition of major educational institutions like the University of the West Indies can add an aura to the achievement of the teachers' college in Barbados.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to training these teachers before they go into the classrooms — there has always been a backlog of untrained teachers in the school systems, the primary school system and indeed the secondary school system. I understand it to be the policy of the Ministry of Education that they will continue the

policy of training all the untrained teachers who are already in the system, and that the policy of training before going into the classroom will apply to new entrants into the Service.

I do not think there should be any particular difficulty there, Sir, because again my recollection is that this matter was discussed in great detail with the teachers unions, and an agreement was reached between them and the Ministry of Education. Therefore, there should be no difficulty in regard to implementing this particular system.

But as to the training of teachers *ab initio*, I think it is important, if we are not to have a lot of further friction between the administration, the parents and the teachers' unions, that there should be the most intense and wide consultation with teachers unions, in respect of the implementation of this new system. Whatever the teachers' union may say as trade unions, they also have another side to them, and that is the side of the professional, and they have a lot of regard for the professional integrity of the Teaching Service. And when you sit down and talk to them, and talk of the labour unions side of them, and get that wrapped up, and then move on to the side of professionalism, I find that they are entirely reasonable people.

The question will no doubt be raised as to costs while these people are in training. But when one considers that an inordinately high proportion of the money spent on Education is already spent on salaries, over 80 per cent and it is climbing all the time — I believe that over \$82 million of the \$108 million spent on Education is spent just paying salaries — but at the same time the teachers are making demands for a number of services, privileges, and so on that cost money, if one were to place before them the alternative cost between paying the teachers' salaries of 200 people in training school against meeting some of the demands that the existing teachers will like to have, I do not believe that the argument will continue for very long.

There is also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, an additional point — the wider training at different levels other than that at Erdiston College. Again during my time in the Ministry, we started a course, a Bachelor of Education Degree in Administration and Management, and what has bothered me a lot for a long time, Sir, is the disparate nature of training of teachers in Barbados where you have some people trained at Erdiston, some trained at the School of Education, some trained somewhere else — and there is not the co-ordination and cohesion in the training of teachers in Barbados that would make for a better rationalisation for the money that is spent in teacher training. We did this course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Bachelor of Education (Administration and Management) and that course was designed primarily to meet the ever

increasing demand on a headteacher's resources in the light of the increasing number of children that were going into secondary schools.

We reached the point where there were over 1500 children in one secondary school in Barbados with the staff of 85 or 90, and in those circumstances the job of a headteacher cannot be what it used to be 15, 20 or 30 years ago. Apart from the educational aspect, he must be a man who is skilled in management and organisation of a massive staff and a massive school body. So we started this course.

We also started a course, a B.A. or a B.Sc. in Education. But these are all courses that were unconnected with each other, and I believe we were perhaps spending money in areas where we need not, because we did not do a proper co-ordination and a proper rationalisation of our total educational teacher training.

1.10 p.m.

I want to make another plea, Sir, in respect of children who do not go to Government schools at secondary level. We have a situation where a great deal of insensitivity is shown towards the children who do not get into Government secondary schools and who go to the approved secondary schools. I say it shamelessly, Sir, that when I was in the Ministry of Education, my advisers were totally insensitive to the needs of these children. They felt that their job was almost entirely related to children who were in Government schools, and every time you sought to do a little bit more for the children in the approved secondary schools, you met a certain mute resistance. I hope that my colleague, the present Minister of Education, who perhaps is a more determined and single-minded person than I am, would not brook the type of resistance that I put up with for a long period of time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am talking about teacher education because this relates to the number of teachers who teach in the approved private schools, who are allowed places in the teaching institution at Erdiston. I find that very few were ever given places in teacher training at Erdiston College, and all kinds of reasons used to be given why these places were not given to them. My observation was that there was an underlying prejudice against the non-Government schools, but the reason that used to be given was that the approved secondary schools, as private schools, could not afford to pay the salary of a teacher who was in training school at Erdiston. These schools did not have the resources to hire a man to teach at their schools — Washington High School, the Convent, Metropolitan — they could not afford to pay the salary of a teacher who is spending two years at Erdiston in training.

It is about time that all of us begin to understand that children who go to these schools are children of taxpayers of Barbados, and that some money, even if it is piece of the change that comes out of the new examination fees, which those parents pay too, should be allocated to meeting that particular need.

We talk about these things a lot, Sir. The honourable Members on the other side talked about it when they were in the Government, we talked about it, and sometimes I believe we spend too much time in Barbados talking and not enough time doing.

The vast majority of the children who go to these under-privileged approved secondary schools are children of the low income groups, and a large number of them come from rural districts in Barbados, and they come from parents who make a super human effort to keep the economy of this country going. It is not fair that all the people who work in the agricultural community, cutting canes and working in the fields like beasts of burden, should not have as fair a piece of what is going, a piece of the action, as children who live in the privileged areas, the parks — I have not heard of any mews yet, Sir — the heights, the cottages and these places. I live in a cottage and a height, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am serious about this. The Government will have to come up with some kind of programme in which they give further assistance to approved secondary schools to make it possible for their teachers, who are teaching our children — they do not teach the children of Suriname or Biafra, they teach the children of taxpayers of Barbados — to be given the opportunity to have full training so that they can deliver the type of education that we need for our children.

We have in the Education Act — and I keep hearing about the new Education Act, but I remember the Act was passed in this House over two years ago, so I do not know how long “new” lasts — but the Education Act has given beefed-up powers of supervision, management and control of the private secondary schools in Barbados to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has far more power under this Act in dealing with these schools than it had in the past, and I believe that if they have that responsibility, there are a number of duties that are inherent in that responsibility.

I will continue, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to work in harmony with the Minister of Education, who knows so much more about these things than I do, since I tend to forget after I move on. But some things linger, and I would like to be able to pass on some of my thinking. The Minister need not accept all, she can disagree with some, but I would like to pass on, on a continuing basis some of my thinking on these matters.

The Ministry of Education, Sir, is made up of teachers, because all the professional staff of the Ministry of Education, all the Education Officers, are teachers; they came out of the teaching system. One of the frightening things about education and teaching, not only in Barbados but in many parts of the world, is the inherent inertia of the administrators to change, to meet the new demands of society.

The whole purpose of education is to teach people, children and adults, to adapt to change. Yet you find so often that the very people who are supposed to inculcate the training to help these children adjust to change are themselves most adverse to change, most resistant to change. It sounds almost as if I am biting the hand that fed me, because they were very useful to me. Whatever success I achieved in the Ministry of Education was due in very large measure to the advisers I had in there, but that does not mean that I must not speak out in areas where I am not in agreement with the advice that comes from the professionals. I did it when I was there and I will continue to do it.

I want also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to address the question raised by the honourable Member for St. Michael South about the hybrid nature of the responsibility of the Board of Management of the Erdiston Teacher Training College.

I remember when we were discussing the Act that I had a series of meetings. I spent long, long hours over a period of several months meeting with the widest possible section of the people involved in education. I spoke with them and went through the Act paragraph by paragraph, clause by clause, concept by concept with the teachers' unions — the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union and the Barbados Union of Teachers. I also met with the headteachers of Government schools, secondary schools and primary schools. I met with the Association of Headteachers of the private schools and I also held meetings with the National Parent Teacher Association. I met with all of them, Sir, and we went through, assiduously and conscientiously, every single clause of that new Act, something that the honourable Member for St. Michael South did not deign to do when he had a chance to do it, and that was one of the reasons why the 1975 Education Act was stillborn.

My recollection is that the only part of that Act which was proclaimed was the part dealing with scholarships, and of course we would expect the Democratic Labour Party to give higher priority to that than to the other parts of the Act, because scholarships deal with the middle-class boys and girls who go to Harrison College and Queen's College. That was the only part of the 1975 Act that the Democratic Labour Party as a Government proclaimed, but important areas in the Act that deal with truancy

(Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: You do not even believe yourself).
1.20 p.m.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South out of sheer embarrassment has said I do not even believe myself. I am challenging the honourable Member to get up on the Floor of this House — I will sit down, Sir, — and tell me if any other part of that Act, other than the part dealing with scholarships and exhibitions, was proclaimed. If he wants me to give way, Sir, I will give way so that he can tell me what other parts.

Well, he does not want to say anything, Sir. Why does he want to make that aside? I am not blaming him. Education is too important for us to get in here and play games. I had an excellent opportunity, from a very good vantage point, to see the importance and impact that education was able to bring to bear on the development of this country.

We have a lot of problems in the society at large that are to a very large extent due to the flaws of an unsatisfactory system. I am not blaming anybody for that. It is all part of the evolution of this country. But the fact that there has not been a new Education Act in Barbados for three-quarters of a century shows to what extent educational planning, the evolving of an educational philosophy, has been a shortcoming in this country.

And the honourable Member, who knows a lot of these things, should be ashamed of himself to get over there and try to heckle me on matters on which he and I are in total agreement. The honourable Member for St. Michael South and I are united and agreed on educational goals in this country, what directions they should take and how to achieve them. So I do not know why, in the interest of petty politics, he should get on the other side and try to give me a hassle, because all he is doing is making me go back to things that I do not wish to draw into the debate.

It is important for us, in the delivery of education in this country, to set the highest priority on the training of teachers, the training in the right curricula areas, and have the widest possible consultation with the teachers who are the people in day to day contact with them.

When I went into the Ministry, there were a lot of outstanding disputes between the teachers' unions and the Ministry of Education, for example, uncertificated teachers, people teaching children with one "O" level; and when I went around visiting primary schools from time to time, I have seen teachers writing seven times nought equal seven. I have seen that in my time — and they were people recruited by the honourable Member!

Asides.

Hon. L. R. TULL: They can do better? I am going to keep giving you air cover! Do not worry!

There was a period when there was an acute shortage of good high school graduates available for teaching, because business, industry and commerce and a lot of areas were opening up and providing employment for people who had 5, 6 and 7 "O" levels, so I am not blaming the honourable Member. I am commiserating with him.

What I am saying is that when I went into the Ministry, all of those problems were on the boil; the whole question of whether teachers should serve School Meal lunches, and endless others, Sir and I was able, through grafting and constantly working away at the teachers and the unions and according them.....

Aside.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I am talking about Teacher Training. Why is the honourable Member fretting?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand there are other Resolutions dealing with Education. I will talk for another hour or so on the other Resolutions, so at this point, Sir, I will just give my fullest support to the direction in which the Minister of Education is taking the Ministry.

I must say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, she is a very fearless woman, because she has brought up one or two measures that caused a little controversy in the community and she has stood her ground and fought them off, Sir.

I do not go about being a hypocrite. I blinked my eyes about at least one of them, but she has my full support in her efforts, and I will continue to talk at a later stage in the day on other areas of education that need to be addressed. We do not debate Education in here very often.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: And that is the very reason why I am not going to allow these Resolutions today to carry us into areas which should have been discussed on other occasions.

Hon. L. R. TULL: That is why I kept sticking to teachers and teacher training, because I like to stick within the four walls of the rules laid down here. That is my contribution, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not going to get into the same

depth as the two former Ministers of Education but I would just like to invite the honourable Minister of Education, when she is considering the situation that is desirable, that is having teachers trained before they go into the schools, to have a look and seriously consider the payment situation of these young people.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have just said that I do not intend to allow a full-fledged debate on Education when we are dealing with specific areas. If both sides of the House have constantly refrained from using the opportunities to discuss Education, they cannot hope to do it in these Resolutions today.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I said, I hope that the Board in its consideration of the recruitment of people for the colleges, would, wherever possible, make it as easy as possible from a financial point of view for people to be properly trained, otherwise, we will find that it will remove this opportunity from a lot of people who would want to offer their services in this.

I am in agreement with the honourable Member for St. George South, (Hon. L. R. Tull) on the point about the reluctance of supporting certain private schools and non-governmental schools at that level. And it is the net reflection on the thinking of our policy makers that they see the process as starting at the bottom with a big, broad line of the masses; and as early as the Eleven-Plus they select the few by that examination who are to go right to the top by further streamlining into A streams and B streams, and they are only interested in those who have the potential for Barbados scholarships. In this way, a lot of people who could otherwise contribute meaningfully to the education and the development of Barbados at the artisan level fall by the wayside.

I sincerely hope that the new Board of Management of the Erdiston College will look at the whole concept of teacher training in a broader manner than it is presently looked at. Thank you.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am grateful for the observations made by honourable Members, and I will attempt to reply to as many of the queries raised as I can.
1.30 p.m.

I think that I will start off by saying that it is intended that the Board of Management of the Erdiston Teachers Training College will operate very much like the Board of Management of the Barbados Community College. It is that kind of autonomy we want to bring. So when the question is asked, "What is the status of the Board?" That is the kind of status to which it will aspire. And like the Community College, it will appoint its advisory sub-committees and, I hope, co-opt competent

people from within our community to advise on the various subject areas and so on and so forth.

The boarding institution has been closed for some time. There are no boarders there. I think I have made this point to this Honourable House before, but I will answer the question again. The rooms which were liberated upon the closure of the boarding establishment at Erdiston make it possible for us to have additional class rooms. As I said in my introductory remarks, Erdiston is going to open up in a new way; new subject areas and a lot of new specialist areas are going to have to come to Erdiston; it is going to have to embrace more of the secondary training and retraining than it did in the past.

Also, I am putting some of those rooms to another use. Some of the CXC papers are corrected in Barbados; some of the exams that are taken in Trinidad or in St. Kitts or wherever come to Barbados; Barbados' papers go to other islands and so on. We have spent quite a bit of money in the past, both by way of our contribution to the CXC Council and to the general cost of examinations, in putting up overseas examiners who come here, and it is our intention to use some of that space which we have not already allocated to other uses to put up some of the examiners when they come here.

There are regular seminars and workshops, not only to do with teachers but in other areas of education where we always find that we are running tight for space and that you want to have access to the kind of library such as the one which exists at Erdiston College. So the liberated space is being put to a multiplicity of uses, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the honourable member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford) can rest assured that it is all being put to proper use.

I think I should say a few words in respect of queries raised by all honourable Members who have commented on the proposals for pre-service training. In the past we have had this system — I am sure everyone is aware of it — where young people left school and went straight into the primary schools and begun to teach, and at some point during their sojourn in the primary schools, they came out and went into Erdiston and had what I suppose was a kind of in-service type of training.

We are now proposing pre-service training, so that like in any of the other professions and disciplines, a person is trained before going on the job. Those who are already in the system will continue in the in-service type training until the numbers are exhausted, but new people coming into the system will have to go into pre-service training. They will have to go to Erdiston first and do a full three year course before they can be properly described as teachers.

We have recently upgraded the qualifications for entry into Erdiston. Now you are going to have at least one A level to get into Erdiston. We have had for many years now a situation where the people who went into Erdiston were, to a very large part, people from the approved independent schools and the secondary schools, who came to teaching simply because they could not get into anything else, and a lot that was undesirable about that kind of selection system is now showing up in the primary schools.

We are not going to be able, in my view, to change attitudes, to change curricula in the primary system, and even in the secondary system, without a change in the whole attitude of the training of teachers in this country. And if we look for those who are the least qualified to filter into the school system, we are going to end up a very sorry lot indeed. I cannot think of any good reason why one should need "A" levels for entry into university and a whole host of other disciplines and not into the Teaching Service, and unless we upgrade those qualifications, and not only Erdiston — there are a lot of other institutions as well where we need to be looking at the entry qualifications — at the entry level, it is just not going to get any better.

Even some of those teachers which the honourable Member for St. George South spoke about, the ones who he came and found who had little or no qualifications, people who were teaching in the primary system with one "O" level and who were given a chance to upgrade themselves — some of them have still not been able to make the grade. All of this is reflected in the system. So the proposal, which I hope will start a little later this year, is that our teachers should go into pre-service training.

I note, too, that honourable Members seem a little preoccupied with the question of payment for those people, because under the old system when you went into the school and then were later drafted into Erdiston, you continued to receive your teacher's pay. With pre-service training now, you are going to have to train before you * to the school system.

I am proposing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Student Revolving Loan Fund, which is currently under review at this very moment — in fact, it is under discussion between myself and officials in the Ministry of Education and the Inter-American Development Bank Mission which is here now — be extended so that some of those young people who want to enter Erdiston College and train for three years to become teachers should have access to that Loan Fund. And not only the Erdiston Teachers Training College. I am hoping to broaden the Student Revolving Loan Fund so that young people who want to attend the Polytechnic ought to be able to have access to it; people who want to attend the School of Nursing ought to have access to the Student Revolving

Loan Fund; so this is the kind of proposal and the kind of thinking which is being entertained in the Ministry of Education even at this moment.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, much that the last speaker, the honourable Attorney General, the honourable member for St. George South has said in respect of his relationship with the two teachers' unions is very true. I am grateful to him as a predecessor that he managed, with tremendous effort and great patience, to cultivate a good working relationship with the two teachers' unions so that my job has been made that much easier. I met with both unions, the Barbados Union of Teachers and the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union as recently as Friday just gone, a long meeting, and we discussed a whole host of things, current trends and current plans and these very matters before this Honourable House today were further discussed with these Unions.

I am interested in the comments that were made in respect of Erdiston Model School. I am afraid that I am not entirely in agreement with all the opinions that have been expressed on it. The Erdiston Model School started out as the model school for Erdiston Teachers Training College; and a good and a great reputation grew for the Erdiston Model School to the extent that most parents in Barbados would want their child to attend the Erdiston Model School. Of course, every child cannot attend. All 31 000-odd primary school children cannot attend Erdiston Model School, but it is looked upon as one of the premier primary schools.

Since those early days, as the honourable Attorney General has pointed out, most schools in the primary school system are model schools today — or if you want to look at it from the other side of the coin, there is not a model school as such. The student teachers are now going into most of the primary schools, and I think that that is how it should be.

I take the point made about supervision, tutors and so on, and in current discussions that we are having with Erdiston, it turns out that what we need to do is to engender a better attitude and closer co-operation between the headteachers of the primary schools and the student teachers. They have not always, in some of the schools, enjoyed the best relationship.

Some of the old headteachers feel that here are these young people newly trained in modern teaching methods who want to revolutionise the old primary school teaching, who want to show them a thing or two. But a lot of that misunderstanding and a lot of that abrasive feeling between students and headteachers in the primary schools has arisen simply because there has not been a sufficient consultation between Erdiston College and the headteachers in the system — in fact, teachers in the system on a whole — and that is part of

the problem with Erdiston in these years, that it has been too much an institution on its own.
1.40 p.m.

There are real linkages with the School of Education, University of the West Indies; and we need even closer linkages with the teachers, particularly the headteachers and the deputy headteachers, in the primary school system. You see, out of that Erdiston Model School situation has grown a very unhappy practice. As I have said, parents from all over Barbados want their children to go to the Erdiston Model School, where not every child can go.

The primary school system in this country has always been zoned. Most primary school children walk to school, or live within walking distance of school even if they do not walk to school, and we want to re-emphasize this principle of zoning. There are good schools in every zone; there are good teachers in every zone.

We cannot continue to have more children from Christ Church and St. James at the Erdiston Model School than children who live in the catchment area immediately around Erdiston. It is not fair that the children who live in the catchment area for the Erdiston School should have to be shunted off to school at a great distance from where they live.

So all of the primary schools are being reminded that they have a first duty to the children who live in the catchment area around their schools. When the quota for entry has been satisfied and they still have room in their school, then the headteachers can use their discretion and go beyond the catchment area.

We had a situation where Erdiston, in the last few years, and certainly in 1981 when I came into the Ministry of Education, was overcrowded to the extent of some 300 to 400 children. I came and found in excess of 800 children in a school that really was only probably designed for about 500. We have managed to cut those figures down, so that even with this year's intake, we are at a ceiling of about something like 635, 637 – and still Erdiston is overcrowded.

We have the new Pine Wildey School being built and almost completed now just there on the Wildey Road, a new primary school which is going to service that general area. I do not know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if people recognise that that is really the most densely populated area in all of Barbados, that Pine-Wildey-Brittons's Hill catchment area. We will be able to siphon off some of those children into the new primary school which will open its doors to children for the first time in September, and that will ease some of the pressure at Erdiston.

What will happen, too, is that we will move to a situation where all of the primary schools in Barbados will be known as so and so primary. We do not need to go for any more names like "Mixed", because we are now working within an educational policy where co-education is the norm and is the policy; so nomenclatures like "Mixed" and "Model" will disappear. Erdiston is Erdiston Primary School, like every other primary school in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the University of the West Indies, which has already been approached about accreditation, credits to be given to our tertiary institutions, will soon decide. Both the Barbados Community College and Erdiston need at this stage of their development to be able to have their certification accredited by the University of the West Indies. A young man or a young woman who goes to Erdiston and gets the Barbados Erdiston Certificate should be in a position to say, "I have so many credits to a university degree programme," if that is eventually where that young man or young woman would go. The same should be true of the Barbados Community College.

This matter is currently before the University of the West Indies Councils. I am fully aware of that, since I sit on the Council myself as the Barbados representative, and I hope that affirmative consideration will soon be given to those proposals.

There is one other point which I think I should address. It was raised by the honourable Attorney-General. He made reference to an attitude which exists in the Ministry of Education, and has existed for many years, to what are known as the approved independent schools, and he is perfectly right, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The approved independent schools represent an area of great inequity which still exists in the educational system in Barbados. They are much helped by Government even now, but I agree that we should give them as much more help as we can afford to do. Right now, the approved independent schools, all get Government subventions, which normally takes the form of the payment of teachers' salary. For a particular number of pupils, we pay the salary of a teacher, and therefore, the larger the school, the more the teachers who have their salaries paid – and at Government salary rates at that.

In addition to everything else, we have a system of bursaries where the majority of bursaries go to the children in these approved independent schools. It is no accident that the size of the bursary tends to approximate to what is known as the school fee. In those schools, the Ministry tends to follow the escalating school

fees. When school fees in the approved independent schools, or the majority of them, were in the region of \$75 a term, the bursary was \$75 a term; when they moved up to \$100, the bursary moved to \$100; and that is how it goes.

In this very school year in which we now are, some 597 bursaries have been given, and most of those bursaries are going to children in the approved independent schools which need the most help. So, in effect, the Government is in fact paying the school fees for a lot of the children in the less well-off approved independent schools.

In addition to that, the children from the approved independent schools who have to pay all of their examination fees, are allowed reimbursement of those fees if they pass two or more subjects in any one sitting.

So, over a period of time, the Government has been giving more and more, not only by way of financial aid, but aid in kind to the independent secondary schools.

But there is another area where I think great inequity exists also. It is not only the independent secondary schools, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but the independent primary schools as well. For instance, I have put to the National Advisory Commission on Education that they need to look very carefully at the fact that in Barbados we have no core curriculum in the primary school system. You have a kind of core curriculum in the Government school system, but what is being taught out there in the private primary schools is a matter for them and is not influenced at all by the Ministry of Education except that they are all preparing children to do the same Common Entrance Examination.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

We have a situation where in the Government primary schools children are taught Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English and they are taught the rudiments of Science, and this goes beyond Nature Study. You need to go to a school, say, like the Lawrence T. Gay Memorial and see the kind of Elementary Science Programme that is taught in the Government primary schools of Barbados. They are taught some History, they are taught some Geography, they do a lot of visiting of sites, they go to factories, they go to places of interest in Barbados, and on the whole, it is a very rounded student who comes out of the Government primary school system.
1.50 p.m.

Now I do not think that the students in the private primary schools have as wide a curriculum as the children in the Government schools. Of course, they all cram for the Eleven-Plus, and that is something which is engaging

our attention as well. But I think that, in this sense too, we need to look at the matter of a core curriculum in the primary and in the secondary system that would be a national core curriculum. After all, the children in those schools are working and writing the same examination as the children in the Government schools.

So, generally speaking, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to say that Erdiston is going to take a very deep breadth, Erdiston is going to take on a different and wider function, and that new and progressive attitudes will encourage a situation where it will, very soon, I hope, become the premier teacher training college in this region.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983

Order No. 4 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Board of Management Order, 1983.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a similar exercise which is being carried out with respect to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, where, for the first time, it, too, is going to have its own Board of Management and will fall into the same style of management as the Community College and Erdiston.

This is very important to the Polytechnic. We have a lovely new building. The Polytechnic has a little difficulty and we have to be honest about it. There is a very sizeable body of opinion in this country, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which feels that the Polytechnic is not truly a tertiary institution; and, in truth and in fact, as the word is understood outside of Barbados, it is not properly speaking yet a polytechnic. In fact, when people come from polytechnics from abroad and we show them our own, they are a little taken back; and we always have to properly explain to them exactly that the Samuel Jackman Prescod institution is more of a high-class trade school than it is a tertiary institution or a polytechnic in the proper, universally understood sense of the word.

There are two bodies of opinions on this. One body feels that if it is in fact a trade school, we should call it a trade school. There is another body of opinion, to which I subscribe, which feels that if it is not yet a polytechnic, then we need to develop it quickly into a polytechnic.

Again, like I did with senior staff at Erdiston, I called in the senior staff at the Polytechnic and I was very pleased at the kind of keenness and enthusiasm that they displayed. They are keen that the Polytechnic should very quickly now, especially since we got this new plant, become a fully-fledged polytechnic.

The Polytechnic has its work cut out for it. The new technology that is upon us, the new demands from the areas of Industry and Trade, and Agriculture — all of the productive sectors in Barbados are making serious demands on the Polytechnic, and we have got to be able to answer these demands.

I hope that when this new Board — the first time ever that it is going to have a Board — meets with the senior staff at the Polytechnic that they, too, will infuse new ideas, new thinking and widen the horizon of the Polytechnic so that it does become the kind of institution that we can say is equivalent to a polytechnic anywhere else in the world. It has tremendous potential, and in the selection of the Board for the Polytechnic, I sought to cover most of the areas offered at the Polytechnic and I sought to reach out into the world of work and into the world of industry, and not to be too inward looking into the world of pedagogical education.

The chairman appointed to the Board of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic will be Mr. Claude Franklyn, who is with the Barbados Light and Power Company, and who, I hope, will bring the interest of that area of technology, his experience and expertise to bear at the Polytechnic. The Deputy Chairman of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic would be Mr. David Hutchinson who is a businessman in Bridgetown, and this is, as I said, an attempt to bring the world of commerce and industry to bear on the Board so that there will be a greater interaction between those sectors and the institution itself. Other members of the Board will be Mr. C. R. Walcott, Mr. Frank Butcher of ACME, Mr. Winston Adams and Dr. Colin Hudson.

I am particularly pleased that Dr. Colin Hudson has been able to find time to serve on this Board, because the agricultural sector of the Polytechnic has been too much overlooked in the past, and there is a lot of new technology in this field as well. Dr. Hudson has brought fame not only to himself, but to Barbados. He was recently awarded a very important international scientific prize for his invention of cane reaping machinery in Barbados.

Mr. Lawrence Green, Director of the National Training Board, has also been appointed as a member of the Polytechnic Board, so that we can dovetail in the Training Board and the Apprenticeship Scheme, which depends to some extent on training which will

be given to its apprentices at the Polytechnic. It will be very important, I think, to have the Training Board dovetailing into the Polytechnic.

So I hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the staff and new Board together will bring a new unity to the Polytechnic. The same arrangements which have been proposed in respect of teaching staff and auxiliary staff at Erdiston are proposed for the Polytechnic. It has been discussed and there has been no objection raised. The teaching staff will all remain public officers, while members of the administrative and auxiliary staff will eventually become employees of the Board of the Polytechnic, and there will be what I call a "running-in period" of at least six months, just as we offered in the case of Erdiston.

So, generally speaking, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is the rationale behind the introduction of a Board of Management at the Polytechnic. I have difficulty understanding why we should have a lesser type of management at the Polytechnic and at Erdiston than we did at each of the secondary schools and at the Barbados Community College, and I do believe that this is a progressive step for the better.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES (St. Michael North West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a very brief comment on this Resolution in view of the fact that a problem has been brought to my notice, which I think could very well be a very good reason why the Board has to have some kind of say in these matters.

Sir, it is very difficult for a young person who wants to continue his education, since we all have pride in our various educational institutions, to be unable to continue as he would like, simply because, through no fault of his own, he may be deprived of that kind of opportunity.
2.00 p.m.

Neither will I say it is the fault of the institution itself, but I believe it may be that we need to look at problems as they arise and try to find some solution for them. This particular problem could very well be repeated more than once, and I feel the Board would be in a better position to make decisions if some of the problems that they are likely to face were known beforehand.

Very often admittance to the institution is by the form of a letter sent to the particular individual who may not be aware that that letter is posted to him, and as in this particular instance, the letter was posted on a particular day which was about two or three days before an interview was to be taken. As a result of that, Sir,

he missed the opportunity of being able to enter the Polytechnic to continue his education.

This must be a very frustrating exercise to that particular individual, and I believe that absenteeism must not be viewed as purely negligence. When the problem is brought to light, I believe there ought to be some consideration which must be given to that individual who has missed the examination because a letter arrived late.

I believe that the Board should pay more attention to this. I also believe that there are people who are more qualified for that institution, as in this particular case where the individual has about six 'O' levels. And I wonder sometimes if we are really doing our young people any good when, after having reached that kind of high academic achievement, then they have to sit a qualifying examination, particularly in this particular institution.

I therefore hope that when the Board is appointed that it is not too late to find some entry qualification for this young person who would want to continue, since a year's absence of study is likely to frustrate him and probably deviate him into other areas.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time is now 2.05 p.m. This sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

On Resumption:—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) is seeking the indulgence of the House to reopen Orders of the Day, Item (h). As I understand it, there are no objections by the Leader of the House to this being done. The honourable Member intends to table certain Resolutions which are still now being prepared after having been vetted.

If there are no objections, at an appropriate time we will then revert to Orders of the Day so that the honourable Member may ask various questions.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. There are no Questions for today, so we move to Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON GOVERNMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO RE- STORE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN CARICOM, ETC.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, under Private Members' Business there is one Resolution standing in my name.

On January 3, 1958, Sir, the West Indies Federation was inaugurated. This year would have marked 25 years in respect of the inauguration of that ill-fated Federation. The date passed unnoticed. May 31, 1962 — today, Sir — marked the formal dissolution of that West Indies Federation. Again, Sir, the date is passing unnoticed and un lamented. Indeed, were it not for this particular debate which, fortuitously, is taking place today, that date would also have passed unnoticed.

People who do not recognise and respect their history never build anything, and they are doomed to be like the flotsam and jetsam floating on the receding waters of history. Indeed, Sir, one geographer in a book which was published about ten years ago, I believe, indicated that those persons who occupy the archipelago that is the Caribbean islands, are doomed to an existence with little future, and that over time, all of these islands will be abandoned because they lack the natural resources and they are exposed to the harshness of Mother Nature in terms of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, drought and other pestilences.

I do not share that kind of pessimism. I believe that the Caribbean is endowed with significant resources. There is oil, there is bauxite, there is timber, there is arable land, there is the sand, the sun and the sea, to name a few. But above all, Sir, we have in the Caribbean a people that is relatively highly educated and also highly educable; albeit at this time they are floundering without a meaningful ideology, looking around for some kind of rudder which would guide them into a meaningful life; some kind of ideology that can make life meaningful for them, give meaning and purpose to their existence.

I am optimistic, Sir, and I believe in Barbados and in Barbadians. I believe in the Caribbean, and I believe that as Caribbean people we have a future. That I have brought this Resolution here today is an indication of that kind of commitment, and I am happy to move, and I beg to move, that this Resolution do now pass in the terms that I will give:

WHEREAS the state of relations within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is causing concern within Barbados;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that there should be a progressive enhancement of the levels of co-operation and integration within the Caribbean Community;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House call upon the Government of Barbados to take all appropriate steps, both separately and in co-operation with its CARICOM partners, to

- (i) restore faith and confidence in CARICOM as a vital movement for the economic, political, social and cultural development of the region,
- (ii) strengthen the mechanisms for integration within the movement, and
- (iii) secure further democratic control over the institutions of CARICOM by the people of the region.

The collapse of the West Indies Federation, Sir, was a very traumatic experience. Fortunately, there were two important results — I would not wish to call them remnants — flowing from that collapse. First of all, the Heads of Governments agreed to meet from time to time in order to keep regional developments under review, and secondly, the common services, such as shipping, meteorology and the University of the West Indies, continued together with other common services as items which it was considered were important for the region to keep as common services within the region.

In 1964, new institutions for the integration movement were established. CARIFTA was born, made up of Antigua, Barbados and Guyana, and its objective was to promote economic integration through the removal of trade barriers among the member countries who would join that institution. That regional effort, CARIFTA, was extended to other countries in the Caribbean which had been members of the ill-fated West Indies Federation, which joined the movement — I believe it must have been 1968, as far as I can recall.
3.00 p.m.

In 1972, the Heads of Government at a conference in Trinidad, at Chaguaramas, agreed to convert CARIFTA into CARICOM, and in addition to the removal of trade barriers among the members of the movement, agreed to set up a common external tariff in the hope that it would lead to economic integration. The treaty was signed on July 4, 1973, and it came into effect on August 1, 1973 when the four so-called MDCs signed that treaty. In 1974 the other countries signed the agreement.

Now the institutions of CARICOM, Sir, are the Heads of Government Conference, the Common Market

Council, the Conference of Ministers responsible for Different Subjects of Common Concern, the Caribbean Community Secretariat, and the Associated Institutions of CARICOM, such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Examinations Council, the University of the West Indies, and quite a number of other institutions associated with CARICOM.

There is no doubt, Sir, that CARICOM can look to a number of achievements since it was established. There is also no doubt, Sir, that there have been many failures, and it is in that direction that I wish to dwell for a moment.

Some countries in the region have placed quantitative trade restrictions on goods from CARICOM countries. The CARICOM had had only limited impact on the LDCs in the region. The Common External Tariff, as the Minister for Caribbean Affairs has said in a *sub voce* remark, is not fully in place. I believe the target date was August 1, 1981. I do not know what is the new target date for bringing the Common External Tariff into being, but that is not fully in place.

There is only limited co-operation in monetary and financial matters, and I believe there will be more conflict than co-operation in those particular areas; but that may be a subject which, during the course of the debate, will be examined in a little more detail.

Indeed, there is little co-operation and consultation on economic policies, on development planning among the territories of the region, or for that matter in external trade. And it is these kinds of problems which have landed CARICOM into the plight that it is experiencing at the moment.

Air transport remains unrationalized in spite of some efforts to bring greater rationalization to the movement of people and goods by air.

The foreign policies of the region remain unco-ordinated, even though, as far as I can recall, it was boldly written in the Treaty that the co-ordination of foreign policies would be one of the aims.

(Hon. L. R. TULL: Not true.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sorry. Foreign policy is co-ordinated, but not harmonized. What I said was it remains unco-ordinated.

There is no popular basis for the support of CARICOM throughout the region, no popular basis in support for CARICOM in the member states; and the Heads of Government of the region, who should be giving the leadership and the direction to the movement through frequent meetings, for one reason or another, or

two or more reasons, have, from time to time, permitted lengthy lapses to occur in between their meetings. Indeed, Sir, it has been said that it has been more convenient and simpler for the Heads of Government to meet outside of CARICOM countries than to get them to sit down around the table inside of CARICOM!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not here merely to dwell on the failures of CARICOM. I believe that we have to examine what are the problems before we can try to understand or to put forward some kind of proposals which may take us out of those problems.

As I said, Sir, I am committed to the regional development of the territories of the Caribbean. I believe most of us in here are committed to the Caribbean and would like to see a vibrant regional movement, based within the hearts and minds of the people of this region and being responsive and responsible to the popular elements within CARICOM. That is not the situation at the moment.

I therefore wish to suggest, Sir, that as one of the major contributions towards the revitalization of CARICOM, one of the vital steps that can be taken in terms of restoring faith and confidence in CARICOM and making it a vital movement is that those persons and that institution which has been established within the treaty as the top policy-making body, must meet more frequently and must give both tangible as well as symbolic meaning to CARICOM; must take new initiatives for the development of the regional movement. I refer to the Heads of Governments.
3.10 p.m.

There was a period between March 1976 and some time in 1982, I believe, that they did not meet. And I believe, Sir, that this is a very important matter, because if you do not get that kind of symbolic leadership, and if it is not only symbolic, but if you do not get the tangible encouragement from right at the top, the whole movement can flounder; and just as we are looking at 25 years in terms of the collapse of the West Indies Federation, we might very well be considering the collapse of the regional movement as well.

One positive proposal I would make is not only that they should meet, but that the Community Treaty itself should be amended in order to make bi-annual meetings a requirement on the part of Heads of Government. I do not think that we can slip into a situation in which the region can go on floundering without the kind of initiative and leadership that should come from at the top, and I believe that this should be inscribed in the Community Treaty, which should be amended to that effect.

I believe, secondly, Sir, that each Member State must make a determined effort to improve their own

internal economies, not only for the benefit and advantage of their citizens, but also that they would be in a position to make a stronger and more positive contribution towards the regional integration movement.

It is said that a chain is as strong as its weakest link, and I believe that if we get the economies of each of the member states strengthened, there may be a better chance that the regional movement would also be strengthened. This is not a matter which can be prescribed in terms of amendments to the treaty. This can only be in the region of encouragement, and I merely throw it out for the countries of the region to take this matter very seriously.

I also believe, Sir, that some of the efforts that are already in train should be strengthened, and I refer to the search that is made for better terms of trade in the markets of the developed countries. This again is a very tough and a very knotty problem, but it is one that we have to keep working at in order that it be recognised that we are talking about one world; that it is not just the developed world and the undeveloped world or the developing countries, it is not just a matter of north and south. We are all in this world, and if there are problems in one part of the world, you are bound to have problems in the other.

What we have got to recognise, Sir, is that just as within countries it is recognised that you cannot have two countries or two nations, the kind of nations that a conservative Prime Minister of Britain in the mid 19th century spoke about – I think it was Benjamin Disraeli in the political novel "Sybil" who wrote about two nations, the rich and the poor, which he felt could be brought into harmony through conservative principles – I think we have got to recognise that within the Caribbean we have got to work for the development of all of the territories that constitute the Caribbean, and beyond, that we have got to work for the health and the development of the economies of the entire world.

These kinds of developments will require the co-ordination of the production efforts, they will require the co-ordination of the marketing strategies and they will call for greater co-ordination of external trade policies and external economic policies.

I believe, Sir, that, above all, CARICOM must be transformed from an institution which has been only for a few bureaucrats who come from the Governments of the region and who are employed by the Community Secretariat itself, into one that has meaning for the peoples of the region. This is a most important matter. CARICOM must be subject to popular control; it must be an institution that touches the reality of the daily lives of people; one that is responsive to the influences of democratic representation.

Of course, I am not talking about situations which arise out of some crisis, such as happened within the last few weeks when the entire region, and particularly the workers in industry in Barbados — not only the garment industry, but in other industries as well — were very much concerned that their employment, their wages and their hopes and aspirations were being dashed because of some kind of major problem within the workings of the Caribbean Community. That kind of situation brought a reality to persons for the first time, in a way that they had never realised before, that CARICOM is an important institution for the peoples of the region.

But we do not want this reality to come merely out of crisis; it must come out of a feeling that the peoples of the Caribbean constitute a unique people, people who share a common history, a common destiny, common objectives, and who can play a meaningful role in terms of the evolution of civilisation in this region and beyond.

How are we going to get this kind of reality? How can we make an institution that is highly executive in nature, that responds only to the dictates and to the views and indeed to the idiosyncracies of the leaders of the region; how can we transform that into a meaningful institution that is responsive to the feelings of the people in this region?

I am calling from the Floor of this House for the establishment of an Assembly of Caribbean States composed of parliamentarians chosen from the national Parliaments on a proportionate basis to party strengths in those Parliaments. I believe we need such an institution so that we can look forward to the future, and that the peoples of the region, through their elected representatives, can bring influence to bear on the CARICOM budget, on the CARICOM Secretariat, on the decisions which may be made by the Common Market and the different Ministers, and can pass their opinion and judgments.

3.20 p.m.

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: But no licensing power.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is a matter that can be worked out.

I think we need to put such an institution into place. Indeed, I would look forward to the day — I know we would have to work towards it — when we could have direct elections to such an assembly. But I believe, as a start, that we could have indirect representation through the establishment of an Assembly of Caribbean states to bring the feelings of the people to bear on the decisions of the.....

(Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I really like it! Federation in my time!)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I believe that parliamentarians should be able to discuss the issues of the region as an integral part of CARICOM.

I would go a step further, Sir. We have the Caribbean Community Treaty, but, to the best of my knowledge, there is really no mechanism whereby breaches of that Treaty can be examined and authoritative opinions passed on it by a body that is independent, and a body that has high judicial status. I believe that right now if there are breaches or apparent breaches of the treaty, those have to be referred to an institution within CARICOM, I believe, like the Common Market Council of Ministers or some such body.

I believe that in this region we should have the creativity to bring our Chief Justices, or some similar body, together so that any breaches or apparent breaches of the treaty could be examined in the light of cool or cold, depending on how we want to look at it, dispassionate legal interpretation, and at least an opinion brought to bear on the particular issue that may be at stake.

I believe, therefore, that these matters should be considered.

Sir, I believe that this is a time for statesmanship. I believe that this is a time for diplomacy. I believe that this is not a time for harsh words. I believe that this is a time when the leaders of the region should use every ounce of conciliation, every ounce of diplomacy, every ounce of tact, in order to ensure that this very important regional institution does not go on to the rocks.

I read in the newspapers recently that the right honourable Prime Minister of this country had said somewhere or another — was it at a public meeting, the one that had five hundred people, four hundred and fifty people? No, no, that was somewhere else — that he would have some very harsh words to say. I hope better judgment will prevail and I hope that those influential members of his own party — I refer to the distinguished lady Member for the City (Hon. Miss B. A. Miller), who carries great weight within the Cabinet, and the Attorney-General (Hon. L. R. Tull)....

(Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Number two.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: (He is now number two in the Cabinet? You mean today! No, no, Bree is)...and the Deputy Prime Minister will bring their influence to bear on the Prime Minister.

I am speaking particularly to the Deputy Prime Minister, because these are matters within your own portfolio; I hope that he will prevail upon the Prime Minister of this country to use his undoubted skills and

talents, not to come with a sledge hammer at any regional conclave, but to use tact and diplomacy — not harsh words but the healing touch. I believe that is what the region needs at this moment.

I am fortified in the knowledge, Sir — I believe the Minister of Health (Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman) will bear me out on this — that there was a time in the history of the fledgling United States, after they had declared their independence from Britain and they established their Confederation, where they were faced with massive problems. Recession, or depression, was prevalent. There was a high level of particularism and separatism; each state was establishing trade barriers against each other state; there were problems of transport; and the people, let us say of Virginia, did not consider themselves as citizens of the United States but considered themselves as Virginians, as opposed to those who came from Maryland or from New York, as the case may be.

And, ironically speaking, the solution which they brought to bear on their problem was not to go for greater decentralisation and greater separatism, but to make the union which brought those original thirteen states together stronger. And so it was that the statesmanship that prevailed in the Constitutional Convention was able to create the Federal Constitution, which brought those thirteen states into a much closer union.

As I conclude, I can find no greater encouragement to give to the leaders of the Caribbean than that they can draw some kind of inspiration from how the United States at that time solved the problem of particularism and differences among the territories of the United States Confederation. They formed a stronger union. I think that that is what we need at this time in the Caribbean: steps and efforts, not to go farther apart, not to further separate our regional institutions, and not to look for mechanisms that will slow down the pace of integration; but we need to find those mechanisms which will bring us closer together.

Can this region find the leadership? Can it find the men and women who will stand up and say that at this time in our history CARICOM means a great deal to the region, and that we must try and build upon what we have rather than try to destroy what we have?

I believe now that, certainly in this country and in other countries, it is realised that CARICOM means jobs now, people can lose jobs. I therefore, Sir, would like to commend this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber, and I would like to indicate that the words which I have spoken here are for consumption not only within this Parliament, and for consumption within Barbados; but I am also speaking to the people of the region. I am calling upon the people of the region to recognise the importance of what has happened to the

Caribbean in its history and in its social and historical development, and not to allow these efforts that are being made to flounder again on the rocks of separatism.

This Resolution, Sir, in conclusion, is one which I believe both sides of the House can agree on. It states quite realistically that "CARICOM is causing concern in Barbados;" it states the hope of the region "that there should be a progressive enhancement of the levels of co-operation and integration within" the region. All right-minded persons can agree to those kinds of objectives. And it is calling upon the Government, in terms of what the Barbados Government can do, as a separate Government and also in co-operation, sitting down around the table and talking with the CARICOM partners, not shouting at them; talking to them not shouting at them.

3.30 p.m.

I hope that they can sit down around the table and use the words of diplomacy: try to restore faith and confidence in this vital movement; realise that it is essential for the economic, political, social, and cultural development of the region; that we take those measures necessary to strengthen the mechanisms for integration within the movement and, above all, that we bring the forces of the people of the region to bear on the institutions of CARICOM, so that we can say that we have a regional movement that is responsive to the feelings of the peoples of the Caribbean, and not merely to the elites of the region.

I commend this Resolution to the House and again I beg to move that it do now pass.

I thank you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to second and to speak in support of this very timely and most appropriate Resolution before Parliament at the moment. Its appropriateness, Sir, stems from the very fundamental, social and economic imperatives that Barbados should as far as possible be part of a wider economic grouping, and also, Sir, because at this particular point in time, we have so geared and structured certain sectors of the development of Barbados that we have become increasingly dependent on CARICOM.

In its preamble, it speaks of concern within Barbados about the state of relations within the Caribbean Community, also for the need of a progressive enhancement of the levels of co-operation and integration within that community, and it also calls, in its operative part, for a restoration of faith and confidence in various aspects of the development of the region, and particularly to strengthen the mechanism by which the goals of CARICOM can be brought about.

Sir, it is very important for us to understand that CARICOM is not simply a matter of agreement between a few small states in the region. Throughout the world, it has been necessary for developing countries in regional groupings to get together and form areas of economic co-operation for their mutual advantage. In the Caribbean area, those persons who formed CARIFTA recognized that it was essential for the development particularly of their industrial base to have access to a wider market; and its successor, CARICOM, was a further development of that basic concept.

Rooted, Sir, in this, has been the possibility for Barbados to set about a particular pattern of economic development which one can call an export-led development, a type of development which is distinctly different from, say, the development strategies of a country like Jamaica, which has been based largely on import substitution.

Now if we propose to continue on the path of export-led development, it is quite clear that we must have markets for our exports which lie outside of our boundaries. The capacity of Barbados to absorb what is put out by our manufacturers is far too small, and therefore, we must have an external market to which our manufacturers can have ready access.

It is important to recognise that when you make a statement like that, many persons may ask you, why bother about CARICOM? Why not look for the wider markets of the world? The fact is that in terms of Barbados, it is very difficult because of the scale of production, because of the cost of marketing and because of other factors which impinge on competitiveness, for Barbados to be able to exploit non-CARICOM markets on a continuing basis enough to sustain the non-enclave industrial sector in Barbados.

In fact, Sir, if you were to look at the non-enclave manufacturing sector over the past ten to fifteen years, you will find that, in examining the main thrust of involvement of locals in manufacturing, many of their products have been geared to CARICOM, and many of our exports to CARICOM are, in fact, non-essential imports to the importing countries in CARICOM.

In other words, what I am saying is that CARICOM is perhaps more essential to Barbados than some other Caribbean territories, and it is important to bear in mind that there are many other Caribbean territories, because of size and because of scale, and because of diversity of resources, even if they are in temporary difficulties, which have the capacity to internalise their economies to a much greater extent than Barbados has. Therefore, our total pattern of development depends very much on our capacity to trade within CARICOM, and anything that

compromises the trade between Barbados and its CARICOM partners must be to the disadvantage of each and every Barbadian.

We have seen recently, Sir, where, due to a series of events, which in my view have not been clearly analysed, there has been a severe impact on the manufacturing sector in Barbados. Sir, it is important when you are trading to realize with whom you are trading. It is a fact that Jamaica's economy is in serious trouble and that constitutes a very large market, in CARICOM terms, in big trouble, and which, therefore, is going to have difficulty now and in the foreseeable future in responding to the need to absorb larger amounts of imports from its other Caribbean neighbours — and pay for them.

The same, Sir, applies to Guyana. The situation in Trinidad, Sir, has changed very drastically within the last 12 to 18 months, and it is about time that we all recognize that a slowdown in imports from CARICOM and from other countries is an integral part of Trinidad's adjustment process to slow the rate of the run-down of its foreign reserves.
3.40 p.m.

When you take, Sir, the very crucial importance of CARICOM trade to the survival of Barbados and to the further development of Barbados, and when you look at the economic constraints within three of the major markets for Barbadian exports, then this brings into focus, even more realistically, the seriousness of the problem and the need to address ourselves to this problem with a degree of sensibility and sensitivity, as suggested in the excellent speech made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford).

Barbados is in no position to be talking about harsh words; Barbados is in no position at the moment to be threatening any Caribbean leader; and the immediate problems of communication within CARICOM exist at several levels. It exists at prime-ministerial level, and if the problems between the Prime Minister of Barbados and the Prime Minister of Trinidad are not sorted out soon, it can only be to the disadvantage of Barbados; and the Prime Minister of Barbados must understand that he cannot continue to make the kind of remarks in public that he is making in Barbados without serious repercussions in Trinidad.

The fact that he finds himself with \$130 million owing to him under the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility is his responsibility and the responsibility of the Deputy Prime Minister, who is responsible for Caribbean trade. And it is my considered judgment, when you look at the serious problems which this country has faced and which the people of this country have had to put up with consequential on the indifference of the Prime

Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, that the best thing they can do for the country is for both of them to go as soon as possible.

They should relinquish office, because if they find themselves on a sticky wicket, and now they are talking about using harsh words in relation to their CARICOM counterparts, that may salvage their own egos, and that may go some way towards giving them some kind of comfort that this is a meaningful response to the personal positions in which they find themselves today, certainly it would do nothing whatsoever for the people of Barbados, for the people who work in the factories, for the manufacturers who have not only invested, but geared their total line of production towards the CARICOM market. Any step taken at this stage to save their faces by creating more problems within the CARICOM area can only be to the disadvantage of Barbados.

In fact, Sir, we have found ourselves, in my view, in a very weak negotiating position. We have found ourselves in a situation where Jamaica, through an alteration in the value of its currency, an effective devaluation you might as well say in respect of trade with Barbados, has been able to cut back considerably on the amount of goods entering Jamaica. Our own response to that further exacerbated the situation.

The Trinidad Government, in my view, took the opportunity to implement a policy position, which it would have implemented to some extent, by the imposition of licences against all exporters within CARICOM to Trinidad.

I want to make it clear. Do not believe that there has been any significant solution to problems arising out of the conference here in Barbados. It is not a question of mere words, it is a question of the kind of administrative machinery which exists in Trinidad, and the administrative machinery which the honourable Member for St. Michael South spoke about, in order to make sure that these decisions are followed up at a regional level, or at an inter-CARICOM level, and also at the national level.

I sincerely hope that we would not see the delays in the issuing of licences in Trinidad to the disadvantage of our exporters in Barbados as a part of a policy position.

Now you have to negotiate. The problems of CARICOM cannot be solved with the kind of language that I have heard from the leader of this country, who clearly does not understand what is going on. The honourable Deputy Prime Minister made a far more humble speech, a far more sensible speech, when he spoke to the manufacturers some time ago, because he himself

must know that when you look at the type of manufacturing plant which we have in Barbados, and the CARICOM markets are closed to us, that we are in a whole heap of trouble.

What is the point of telling a garment manufacturer to look to European markets? What is the point of telling him to look to United States markets, when you know that over the years there have been very few exporters of furniture and garments who have been able to make any significant impact on non-CARICOM markets, for the very reasons which I stated earlier?

One can count on the fingers of one hand the number of firms which have made substantial progress in European and United States markets. These are firms which are largely involved in high quality material, so in that kind of way they can overcome some of the kinds of difficulties which the other manufacturers face, and they also have been able to meet a very specialised market, as far as I can recall, in Western Europe and in the United States.

CARICOM is vital to us, not only culturally, not only socially, not only diplomatically, but it lies at the roots of our economic development. If the markets of CARICOM become closed to us for one reason or another, there will have to be a complete redirection of the pattern of industrial development in Barbados. Therefore, why are we talking about harsh words?

This is the problem, Sir. We have a Minister of Trade, who is responsible for certain aspects of CARICOM affairs; we have a Prime Minister; and one of the problems in these small developing countries is that there is never a clear role carved out for a Prime Minister in relation to Foreign Affairs, so that the Prime Minister often enters into the area making statements on Foreign Affairs without the kind of knowledge that he should have. Then you have a Foreign Affairs Minister, who somehow or other floats around between the Minister of Trade and the Minister of Finance, and who is in a junior position within the Cabinet of Barbados.

That kind of situation cannot work, and it would seem to me that, certainly in relation to our CARICOM diplomatic arrangements, we have to find some other means of dealing with the problems that face us in relation to CARICOM. I believe that if the Prime Minister of Barbados got out of the act and stopped making the kind of aggressive statements which are interpreted in Trinidad as offensive statements, we would go a long way.

3.50 p.m.

There is a very strong feeling in Trinidad today, and there is no doubt that the future of CARICOM

depends very much on the attitude of the Trinidad Government. Let us face that fact. There is a feeling in Trinidad that Trinidad has made major sacrifices in relation to the region and that they, themselves, have not got the kind of rewards in relation to their generosity.

They recall, Sir, and recall very vividly, the proposals which they had made, which would have prevented many of the problems facing several Caribbean countries today, where our natural resources could have been more effectively used, internalized, within the region.

There is no reason, Sir, why the bauxite of Jamaica and of Guyana could not have been used to a larger extent within CARICOM. Let me give you an idea: when you think of the amount of wrought iron that is used in the Caribbean, that we are importing first, second or third-rate steel.

Do you know, Sir, that the bauxite in the region could be used to supply and fulfil the same purposes; that 90 per cent of the steel that we use in the Caribbean could be replaced by aluminum, once it is specially graded for the particular purpose for which it is being used, and that the tensile strength and the durability of such a metal, properly prepared, is much greater than iron or steel? That is one particular area.

This is a matter that I discussed in great detail with people at Reynolds and other places over the past two months in Jamaica, and this is the kind of major errors that have been made over the years, going back to the days of the late Dr. Eric Williams.

Now take the whole question of the Caribbean Food Basin. When you look very carefully and you see what happens, and you look at your foreign exchange expenditures, you would recognize the tremendous capacity for each and every one of these countries to develop their agriculture, and also to get very heavily into the area of agro-industrial development. These are just two of the areas that I would cite.

The exploration of the seabed in the Caribbean clearly calls for a co-ordinated approach where, if the territories co-operate, you can get maximum benefits in these areas.

There is also, Sir, the distinct possibility where you can have one free trade area collaborating on concessional terms with other developing free trade areas in the world, which may require products that we have while we may require products that they have.

Nothing has been done in this area, because when the technicians within CARICOM make a recommendation, whether it be at the Secretariat level or whether it

be at the level of the technicians of the Multilateral Clearing Facility, who does it goes to? It goes to the central bankers, or it goes to the individual Governments — and then the individual Governments do not get together.

So there have been a number of sensible suggestions made, particularly the suggestion where you can have a free trade area within developing countries co-operating within free trade areas with other developing countries so as to enhance the market availability of both groups of nations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want now, Sir, to turn to one other area. CARICOM and the trading arrangements within CARICOM were specifically designed to allow the nations of CARICOM to make best use of the foreign exchange that was available to them, recognizing that foreign exchange represented a major constraint.

By not having an appropriate institution, by not paying attention to the problems facing Barbados, we find ourselves in the position where we are the only people at the moment really making a big noise and shouting for the availability of credit once again to CARICOM, because we are in a weakened position, since we are in a creditor position to the extent of \$130 million.

It is not a situation of strength. It is a situation of weakness that we have found ourselves in — and a situation of self-imposed weakness.

Therefore, Sir, it is necessary to look very carefully at the credit arrangements that have been made available for trade. And I make no apologies when I say that if avenues are made available, whether through foreign injection of capital or by what other avenues hard currency may come from, it is absolutely important that there should be an institutional arrangement to establish — and I am going to use the word — proper 'conditionalities' for the use of credit within CARICOM. You cannot have a credit situation which permits trade, which increases the volume of trade and you do not have rules, and you do not have conditionality whereby all the trading partners must not agree to it.

If you want to make concessions, then those concessions should come within the framework of the conditionalities agreed on. You must never again find yourself in a situation where you rejected bilateral arrangements for trade, because you felt it was not the best use of the foreign exchange available to you, and then several years later, you end up with people owing you \$130 million and then you have to revert to the same bilateral arrangements for payments under your trading system within CARICOM — which you originally decided was not to your advantage, and was one of the major reasons why

you instituted a Clearing Facility, and within that Facility you extend your lines of credit.

So what has happened? You are, in a sense, \$130 million worse off, and you are back in the same situation of bilateral payments. So it is not only a question of using diplomacy in order to deal with the licensing system in Trinidad and Tobago, it is also a question of getting that line of credit being made available again, and that line of credit should be made available in such a way that it does not increase the indebtedness of Barbados. This might well not only result in the wheels of our factories starting to move again, but also in greater job security for people in the industrial sector, and in a future situation where we would not find ourselves in this position.

My view is, Sir, that those responsible for CARICOM trade, and for the financial arrangements within CARICOM, principally the Prime Minister of this country and the Deputy Prime Minister, have been extremely negligent. And it is no use the Prime Minister waiting until the Deputy Prime Minister gets on a plane to go to Europe, to go to the Christ Church West constituency and then say he agrees with all the criticisms that have been made about the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility. There is no point. It is a joint responsibility. Both are responsible. As a matter of fact, Sir, if I had to apportion blame, I would say the blame lies greater on the Prime Minister of this country, who gets a day-to-day printout of the external position in respect of CARICOM payments, than the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member has one minute more in which to wind up his speech.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They must both share the responsibility. But do not let the fact that you have made a mess of the situation get you angry when you go to conferences, because you are not in a position to use harsh words to anybody. However wounded you might feel, recognize that you made the error and that the correct approach to it will be for both of you, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, to apologize to this country for your negligence and offer your resignations to the country.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable Member obviously sees that there is little hope of his achieving power in this country unless we voluntarily give it up.

The position of the Labour Party on CARICOM is well known, it is longstanding, and I am very glad to see that, at long last, the honourable mover of this Resolution has had the courage to come out in public and express views which I knew he held as long ago as when the Federation broke up, but because of his own

situation, it was not politic for him to express them openly as he did today.

We are all Federalists, we belong to that generation, so I have no difficulty at all in lending my support at this time to some of the things that are contained in the Resolution. But I feel that the Resolution is lacking in strength in a number of identifiable areas, where experience has shown now that the existing institutional arrangement that we have in CARICOM is defective.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Barbados' position in CARICOM cannot be questioned by anyone. We have remained steadfastly loyal to the principles of the integration treaty. We have sought to initiate new areas to expand, widen and deepen the integration movement.

Let us not forget, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that in 1976 when we assumed power, one of the first things we did was to try desperately hard to overcome some of the difficulties which were evident in the relationship between Barbados and Trinidad, difficulties which, to a large extent, were contributed to by the wild statements of the Democratic Labour Party.
4.00 p.m.

Now today, after seven years, a look at the trade figures would show that, despite all the difficulties, the failure of the Heads of Government to meet, the other institutional arrangements of CARICOM functioned and functioned well. Indeed, statistics will show that the total volume of trade, discounted for inflation, within CARICOM has increased.

I am going to bring the statistics before the debate is out, because at our suggestion, now that the Secretariat has brought out statistics relating to all the region up to 1980, it will be revealing to honourable Members, because it allows you to have a global look at the totality of the trade.

I do not want to dwell too much on the relationship between Barbados and Trinidad. The present Prime Minister of Trinidad will tell you that in late 1976 or early 1977 at a meeting in Georgetown, both of us came to the conclusion — he was then Minister of Trade — that for a long period of time only Barbados and Trinidad would be called upon to prop up the integration movement because of the very bad financial situation in which Jamaica and Guyana were in at that particular time, and none of us saw any hope of any dramatic recovery there.

It was for that reason that, with the full approval of the Cabinet of Barbados and the full approval of the Cabinet in Trinidad and Tobago, particular steps were taken to initiate joint venture agreements between Trinidad and Barbados. I can recall all of this, the meetings that took place at the level of Trade Ministers, at the

level of Foreign Ministers, then at the level of Prime Ministers when most of the areas were settled. Out of that came the joint ventures. The joint venture of the cement company is a living example of how two Governments determined to have a common objective can carry out a project.

I agree with the point made by the honourable Member in respect of bauxite. But whose fault is that? Barbados does not have the energy resources to utilise the raw material. Just think of it. Why didn't the bauxite processing and deeper integration go through? Barbados was able to get through its joint venture in the cement. Look at the joint venture with the air transportation, an area in which if ever there was hostility and bitterness between two countries and between two people, it was between the honourable Member for St. John (Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow), and the Prime Minister of Trinidad in relation to air transportation. There can be no denial of that fact at all. There was a profound disagreement on that area. We were able to do something about it. We are still out there trying our best to do something further. I think CARICAGO is regarded as another outstanding example of the efforts that we made.

I am now going to deal with the area of financing, the Multilateral Clearing Facility and the question of energy. There is absolutely no doubt about it, the economy of Trinidad and Tobago has taken a turn for the worse. You only have to read the speeches by people who make speeches in Trinidad and Tobago. It is not always politicians that make speeches in Trinidad and Tobago, sometimes civil servants make speeches of a greater import than the politicians, but if you read the speeches in Trinidad and Tobago, if you read the newspapers, you will recognise that the fall in oil prices in the international market, together with the fall in land production in Trinidad and the refinery problems in Trinidad, which is also a worldwide problem, that Trinidad expects to lose a tremendous amount of revenue in the current financial year — and the future does not look that good either at the present moment.

So with a reduction in the amount of money in circulation in Trinidad, it is natural that people in Trinidad, in the business sector and other areas, would begin to look at the future in a different light. What has happened is that the protectionist movement has reared its head in Trinidad, like it has reared its head in Barbados, in the United States and in Europe and everywhere in the world.

Let us not forget, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that whatever we may say about CARICOM, I know, and the honourable Members on that side who travel know too, that one of the things that gives West Indians great pride is that when they go abroad, whatever people may say about the West Indies, they praise CARICOM as one

of the most successful integration movements after the European Common Market. There is no other region in the world which has done as much as we have done towards the creation of an integration movement, and in strengthening it; so we have something to be proud of.

But protectionism is something that has raised its head. Politicians can be afraid of protectionism; they can fight it. We are prepared to fight it. For six years, we have been fighting protectionism in Barbados. If you listen to certain societies in Barbados, particularly a body like the Agricultural Society; if you listen to certain groups, certain sections of the Manufacturers' Association, they would have Barbados as their own world, and what is more, all three of them would want to be able to sell to the consumers and the consumers alone in Barbados.

That is what they feel. That is their business. They are afraid of competition. But this Government has fought that. We have resisted the attacks coming from honourable Members on that side on the ground that we have not provided enough protection for our manufacturers and our agriculturalists.
4.10 p.m.

We have always said that it is our view that if we are really to make great progress in this area of diversifying our economy, we have to seek out a small area of the world market and fight to expand there. We have to specialise, we have to be good at what we are doing, and we have to believe that the world is at our doorstep and we can expand there. That is why we said, if you protect your manufacturers and you restrict your domestic market, and you restrict yourself to CARICOM, you will encourage inefficiency and you will prevent this specialization.

I have been attacked many times about this. I have learnt to live with it. When they say that we do not give them the protection, I repeat that we do not intend to give them the protection.

That is not to suggest that, at a CARICOM level, some protection should not be given. And the first point I would like to make and it is this. The Government has come around to the view, after careful study, that in the areas of agricultural trade, textiles and the sewing industry, all over the world, there is some element of protection.

We have done an analysis and we have found out that the founding fathers of the CARICOM movement did intend that there would be some elements of common protection — but that common protectionist policy was never worked out. Now what we did, therefore, when we went to CARICOM Council of Ministers Meeting in January, was to put forward the Resolution that, rather

than each individual Government giving in to their manufacturers and protecting on an individual island basis, we should set up a garment industry enquiry into the protective capacity of the existing garment industry, into the potential demand, along with an analysis of the import requirements. After that, then we should ask for a common protective policy.

That committee has been sitting. The chairman of that is a Trinidadian. Trinidad agreed one hundred per cent with us on that. The chairman of that committee is the adviser to the Ministry of Trade and Commerce in Trinidad. Mr. Carl Hinkson is our representative on it. The Secretariat has a representative. We have invited the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce to have a representative on it. So it is a broad-based thing. We are moving.

Things are taking place in which we are trying to strengthen the institutional framework. Very few politicians gave evidence before the Demas Committee. I was one of those who gave evidence before the Demas Committee, and I gave evidence that, in my opinion, the institutional framework of CARICOM was too weak to deal with the magnitude of problems that we have, that we need much more co-ordination, much more harmonization.

As a result of that, if you look into the Demas Report, you will find that there has been an expansion of the Secretariat of CARICOM. But one of the problems we have in CARICOM is that people do not wish to go and live in Guyana. That is a fact.

We have created a Foreign Affairs desk in CARICOM. When the Minister of Foreign Affairs speaks, he will tell you what they have been doing. There has been a lot of harmonization.

We have expanded the section dealing with the monitoring of the Rules of Origin. But I believe — as I gave evidence then — that the time had come where trade was so important that you could no longer leave the integrity of the operation of the Rules of Origin and their administration to each individual territory. I said you needed an independent body which was appointed at the CARICOM level to be responsible to no one but the Caribbean Community and the Council of Ministers, and that body would be something along the lines of the US Trade and Tariff Commission. It would have investigatory powers, it would have a certain amount of judicial power and things of that kind.

I am a strong believer in that, because nobody can tell me that you are not in a dangerous situation where in a country, you have your own people certifying whether goods manufactured in your territory are in accordance

with the Rules of Origin or not. We have gone through all of this.

Barbados was the one that separated that from the Customs' administration. We specifically separated certification from the Customs' administration, because we wanted an independent body. It is very simple, Sir: if my Customs people are the ones to challenge when goods come in from another country, naturally, if I challenge it when my goods go to their country, they are going to challenge my Customs signature too. That is how it works with trade all over the world.

One only has to see what has developed between the United States and France to understand that when they do not want to let in goods, they can move the Customs Port from the sea and put it in the middle of the country for electronic goods, if you really do not want to let them in. I mean, that is what France did to Japanese electronics — video sets and so on. So in an integration movement, your machinery is one of the challenges, your machinery.

I agree with the honourable Member, too, that we have reached the stage where now in CARICOM, in truth and in fact, we are not talking only about trade, we are not talking only about cricket, but lurking in the hearts, there is a yearning right through the Caribbean for some kind of movement which is deeper than trade. That is a fact. That is why there are these calls for more institutional arrangement, even at the political level.

I would agree that we would need to have a consultative assembly. I will go further. I would give that consultative assembly some very limited powers of recommendation only at this stage, for the purpose of harmonization of certain areas. I would do that because you do not want to put in an assembly and not give it any kind of important power, because then it will become a talking shop. That is the experience. That is the concept that I agree with.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that we should disabuse our minds of this question that Barbados is against CARICOM. No Barbadian could be against CARICOM.

I am going to deal with the question of the licences. Barbados did not want licences. Barbados put forward the view that licensing is an unnecessary incumbence, and that once you had settled the problem of the parity of the currency, licensing was unnecessary. And we tried to persuade our colleagues that we should get back to the regime where you had no licensing at all. We could not do that because Jamaica insisted that they had to have licences for monetary purposes.

It was Barbados which put the view that we would then put in a definitive position as to what we meant by automatic licensing, that is, that they had to be processed within seven days. I do not know if the honourable Member on the other side may have different views, but I have no reason to believe that, since the Government of Trinidad signed, through its Minister of Labour, Mr. Mahabir, that they do not intend to carry it out. If the honourable Member on the other side is telling us on this side that he has private information that Trinidad does not intend to carry out their signature, then we will have to ask the Trinidadians about it. I know Barbados intends to carry it out.

But what we should be lending our support to is trying to beat down this protectionist movement that is raising its head in Trinidad, Barbados the Windward and Leewards and in Jamaica, in the United States and in Europe. We have to fight them off and we must give individual governments the strength to fight them off, by demonstrating that, within a common protective tariff, there are opportunities for Trinidad itself to expand the exports in goods that they are producing.

The Barbados Government has looked at the area of energy. The honourable Member cannot know that it was our Administration which deliberately instructed Mobil Oil that they have to buy reformat from Trinidad instead of Venezuela. So there cannot be any talk about the Government of Barbados not wanting to expand trade between Barbados and Trinidad.

But of course, what the P.M. may mean as "harsh words" may be things like this, and you have to say them. You have to tell Trinidad that if we insist that you supply us with reformat, you must give us comparable service to what we will get from the others; that you cannot give me twenty-four hours notice when I expect the boat, when I expect that my reformat will run out, that you do not have any. We cannot operate on that basis.

4.20 p.m.

If you call that harsh words, I will be the first to speak to them, because I believe in speaking bluntly. Is it harsh words when you tell the United States, as part of your air service negotiation, that you are going to ask them to designate Trinidad and Tobago's BWIA as the airline, and when you succeed and you write to Trinidad and tell them you would like to know whether they will take it up, seven months passed and you do not hear anything from them? You call that harsh words! I say all the time that I do not regard that as being serious. These are facts; you do not call them harsh words.

You see, there is a difference in style. Let us get it clearly. There is a difference in the structure of

governing. We have to move fast. As a political party in Barbados, we have to deliver.

Now, historically, for whatever reason, there are some who do not approach government in the same manner as we approach government, and in the integration movement, you will always get this difference in styles of governing. I want to do the most for the people of Barbados in the five years, so that I will get another one. That is how I feel. I do not feel that I will get another one without doing anything at all. For other reasons, I do not believe that.

It is the same thing with the Multi-lateral Clearing Facility, and I am going to give the honourable Member chapter and verse on it. Barbados applied for reformat to be put as an eligible transaction under the Multi-lateral Clearing Facility and under the Trinidad Oil Facility. We never got it under the Multi-lateral Clearing Facility nor under the Oil Facility. But Guyana was allowed to buy oil under the Multi-lateral Clearing Facility.

Now if you call harsh words saying that you cannot have one rule for Peter and another rule for Paul when you are dealing with the same transaction — well, then I have said the harsh words already! So I am not frightened of that at all. I am not telling you anything that I have not said openly already.

There cannot be one rule in respect of oil trade in the Caribbean for Guyana and one for Barbados. There cannot be different rules! If anybody gets vex because I say so, then I will say that again. You cannot have one rule for one transaction which has one eligibility criterium for one country, and then, for the same transaction, essentially a different eligibility criterium! That cannot work. We will not allow it to work! If you get vex, get vex, but that is a fact. Let that one out in the public domain.

I firmly believe, as I have said already, that there is a clear case for rationalizing the distribution of oil within the Caribbean. As a matter of fact, this Government willingly invited expertise from Trinidad and Tobago in the exploitation of oil. The honourable Member does not even know that even in Mobil's time, we in the Barbados Labour Party and the Ministry of Energy insisted that as much technical skills as were available in the Caribbean should be given an opportunity to quote. You do not know that it is a Trinidad firm which does the drilling in Barbados, with a loan for the rig from C.D.B. The honourable Member does not even know that.

When it comes to facts and figures on this, we are not ashamed. And if some people do not like us saying what we have done and what we have not got in return, that is a matter for them. Now we do not brag about

what we get in return, because we feel that in an integration movement, all you can assure is an opportunity. All we want is the opportunity to compete. If you are better than us, and you get more of the market, good for you.

Our people must learn to compete, and that is all we ask for. We do not go around bragging and saying that it gives us self satisfaction. Our personality does not need that. We do not need it. It is not part of us. The Barbadian psychology is to be modest. We do not advertise our good points. We do not have to advertise them. So the position is quite clear, Sir. We know that our psychology is different. So do not worry to much about the harsh words.

I will say, as I have said openly, that one of the problems we have had within the Caribbean was that we had the Ministers of Trade, the other Common Market Ministers Meeting, but we could not get a Ministers of Finance Meeting for a long period of time. The Heads were the Ministers of Finance, and if you could not get a heads of Government meeting you obviously could not get a Ministers of Finance Meeting. So, therefore questions like the Multilateral Clearing Facility, and the other complementary institutions in relation to the values of currencies and so forth were not discussed at the political level. They were discussed at the level of the Central Bankers.

But the Ministers of Trade, over a year ago, passed a Resolution saying that the Multilateral Clearing Facility was an integral part of the machinery for facilitating trade within CARICOM and, indeed, externally. And another point that honourable Members are missing is that CARICOM should not only be an instrument to further inter-regional trade, but it should also be a vehicle for facilitating extra-regional trade as a result of the combination of the manufacturing capacity of the individual units.

So, therefore, the question has arisen as to whether you do not need at a CARICOM level an institution comparable to the United States Import-Export Bank, to the United Kingdom's E. C. G. G. and to the E. D. C. in Canada. That is what we talk about when we say that there is a role for C.D.B. to perform in this area.

I am sure, Sir, that by the time we have fashioned out this Resolution and put in a couple of amendments, if necessary, and so forth, we will get a tangible Resolution.

Really and truly, do not mind the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes). He always wants to score political points. He has a bee in his bonnet about the Minister of Finance. He really wants to be Minister of finance, so he is going to attack the Minister of Finance about some harsh words.

I do not worry about any attack that anybody makes on me. I have been in politics so long that all attacks are

like water on a duck's back. So do not worry about that. You cannot attack me on this subject. I am known universally as being one of the strongest in relation to integration — and one who knows about it too: I cannot worry about the honourable Member. There is nothing constructive in his speech on this Resolution.

I understand the Honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford) on this. I know that, at heart, he would have loved to proclaim the views that he proclaimed today long ago, but it was not possible. Now he knows the situation is such that in his evening years, his leader is not able to handle him. He can now feel free, a breath of fresh air has now moved, particularly since his leader has said that he has no successor. The honourable Member now feels good. His leader has publicly said that he has no successor, the honourable Member feels that he is in a position to appear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think this is the last speech before closing, but I would just like to keep two minutes to say one thing. I really would like to lay those two documents on the Table, because they will contribute to the debate. One is a CARICOM document, which deals with statistics for the whole ten years.

4.30 p.m.

I will also say this before I sit down. We are going to have a celebration of CARICOM this year like all the rest of the territories. In future, Barbados will not have a date different from anybody else. CARICOM day is in July and it will be so in all the territories. From this year Barbados will change its celebrations to suit everybody else. I do not know how the honourable Member's party had that aberration, but do not mind that, Sir.

I will also be laying a document in relation to the trade.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for Private Members' Business has now expired, and I will ask the Clerk to reopen Orders of the Day, Private Members' Notices.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution in the name of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in respect of increasing burdens of wage earners.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has been placing an ever increasing number of burdens

on wage earners in the community by way of reduced disposable income;

AND WHEREAS these wage earners are desperately seeking some relief from this imposition;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon the Government to put an immediate end to its wages policy.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution by the same honourable Member dealing with narcotic drugs.

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

WHEREAS there is growing national and international concern over the large volume of narcotic drugs allegedly entering Barbados illegally, both for transshipment and local consumption;

AND WHEREAS this trafficking in drugs is allegedly handled by highly organised groups who make instant fortunes at the expense of the health and welfare of their immediate victims;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon the Government to take urgent steps to put an end to this destructive racket.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution by the same honourable Member on the Barbados Sugar Industry.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to give notice of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Barbados Sugar Industry, as a consequence of domestic factors, is in a serious state of insolvency;

AND WHEREAS the taxpayers of this country have been called upon by the Government to provide substantial support in order to rescue that Industry;

AND WHEREAS the sugar policy pursued by the Government does not provide for a sound economic base which will result in greater security for the Industry in the long term;

AND WHEREAS alternative policies, rooted in a conceptually different role for the Sugar Industry in the Barbados economy, can be instituted at a lesser cost to our citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call on the Government to make appropriate policy adjustments, based on sounder financial and economic

analysis, which will result in the continuing viability of Barbados' Sugar Industry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I feel that the sugar industry is such an important industry that if Parliament so feels, it would be very interesting to set a date for a debate on sugar.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question in the name of the honourable Member for St. James South dealing with examination fees.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, to ask the Minister of Education:

1. In view of the recent introduction of Examination Fees for external examinations, will the Minister inform this Honourable House:

(a) why was the introduction of the fee necessary?

(b) for what purpose was the fee introduced?

(c) why is there a fee of \$40 for one set of students and \$30 for another set of students?

(d) how much money was paid to invigilators for the year 1982 and how much money will be paid for the year 1983?

(e) how much money does Government expect to collect from the fees?

(f) how many pupils of each of the following schools absented themselves from external examinations in 1982:

(1) Harrison College

(2) Queen's College

(3) Lodge School

(4) Combermere School

(5) St. Michael's School

(6) Foundation School.

(7) Alleyne School

(8) Coleridge & Parry School

(9) Alexandra School

(10) St. Lucy Secondary School

(11) St. James Secondary School

(12) Ellerslie Secondary School

- (13) St. Leonard's Girls' Secondary School
- (14) Roebuck Secondary School
- (15) The Garrison Secondary School
- (16) St. George Secondary School
- (17) Parkinson Secondary School
- (18) Springer Memorial Secondary School
- (19) Princess Margaret Secondary School
- (20) West St. Joseph Secondary School
- (21) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic
- (22) The Barbados Community College
- (23) St. Leonard's Boys' Secondary School
- (24) Metropolitan High School
- (25) Lynch's Secondary School
- (26) Christ Church High School
- (27) Washington High School
- (28) Codrington High School
- (29) Co-operative High School
- (30) Mapps College
- (31) Presentation College
- (32) Seventh Day Adventist School
- (33) Unique High School
- (34) Ursuline Convent
- (35) Wakefield High School

- (g) will the Minister inform the Honourable House of the reasons, if any, given by students for absenting themselves from the examinations?
- (h) did the Minister consult with the various teachers' bodies before the introduction of the fees?
- (i) did the Minister consult with the National Parent Teachers' Association Executive before the introduction of the fees?
- (j) why was the fee introduced without longer notice?

- (k) will the Minister state the percentage rate of absenteeism in 1982 for each subject?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question by the same honourable Member dealing with proposed increase of school hours.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: To ask the Minister of Education:

- 1. Does the Minister propose an increase of school hours?
- 2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative:—
 - (a) has the Minister discussed such proposals with the various teachers' bodies and with the National Parent Teachers' Association Executive?
 - (b) what hours is the Minister contemplating for pupils to attend school should the school day be extended?
 - (c) does the Minister propose that pupils should attend school on Saturdays?
 - (d) will the Minister state how many weeks per year it is intended for students to attend school during an extended school year?
 - (e) will the Minister state if any extension of school hours will apply to secondary as well as to primary school students?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of that section of Orders of the Day.
4.40 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983

Order No. 5 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Public Secondary Schools Boards of Management Order, 1983.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution provides for the establishment of the Boards of Management for twenty of the twenty-one public secondary schools in Barbados. Again, each Board of Management will be responsible for the efficient management of the school to which it has been appointed, and each Board will have a chairman, a

deputy chairman and seven other members. The Boards of Management will have a greater autonomy than the old governing bodies.

We will have to have a separate Order at a later stage to establish a Board of Management for the Lodge School since it is not possible to do so under the present situation with the Lodge School. The Lodge School is now subject to decisions which the Cabinet is about to make to do with the repatriation of the Trust. At the same time, steps are being taken even now in the Ministry of Housing to acquire the property known as the Lodge School. In fact, I think that there is a Section 4 Notice which has already been published in this respect, but I cannot be absolutely sure at this time.

The functions of the Boards of Management are very clearly set out in the new Education Act and the Regulations which will influence the management. The decisions to be taken by the Boards of Management are very clearly set out in the Education Act Regulations, 1982 and I do not propose at this time to go into any great detail on that area.

I do not propose either on this occasion to announce the 20 Boards of Management. I believe that there is going to be a meeting of the Other Place tomorrow, and that a Gazette will very soon thereafter make clear for all to see the chairman, the deputy chairman and all of the other ordinary members of the twenty Boards of Management.

The same thing which applied in respect of the teaching staff and the administrative and ancillary staff for the Polytechnic and for Erdiston will be true in respect of the Boards of Management of the secondary schools. The teaching staff will now fall under the aegis of the Public Service Commission, and the members of the non teaching staff will become employees of the Boards of Management of their schools.

Again, there has been some consultation, and we are happy that the transition period will be a relatively smooth one. People who are administrative and ancillary staff have been given the option either of remaining in the employment of the Boards of Management or seek to be re-absorbed in the Public Service.

Generally speaking, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is really the rationale behind this Resolution.

I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Just briefly, Sir, in respect to those Boards of Management, I wish to refer to two schools mentioned here, Harrison

College and Queen's College. I really wish to note from the Floor of this House that those two schools have had significant anniversaries this year, but I do not think from the Floor of this House we have taken note of that fact.

I think one of them, Harrison College, is celebrating its 250th anniversary, and Queen's College its 100th anniversary. Those two schools have rendered very significant service to this country in developing the talents and skills of those who were favoured to attend these institutions. And I think it is fit and proper that we should take note of the significant milestones that these two outstanding educational institutions have rendered, and to wish that they would continue within the framework of educational policies that will permit them to continue to spread whatever educational benefits they can to the young people of this country.

4.50 p.m.

I, myself, like a number of others in this Chamber, have attended Harrison College, and I know the lady Member, the present Minister of Education, attended Queens College. But apart from that personal anecdote, I think as a body we should very well take note of the outstanding contribution that has been made by these two schools. I do not wish to say anything more about that. I merely wish as a matter of record, and with your indulgence and latitude, to refer to these important milestones in educational development in this country.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): I just want to say in respect of this matter under discussion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we in this country have witnessed the almost total collapse of the high standards of one of our premier institutions. I am referring to the Lodge School.

It was some years ago on the Floor of this House that I made the point that Lodge had become a third class institution in this country, and the then Minister of Education thought that my words were exaggerated, and he sought to reprimand me on the Floor of the House. He has since privately admitted to me that I was absolutely right, that we have witnessed a virtual tragedy with Lodge School. I am not referring to the honourable Member for St. Michael South.

In this country, there is a lot of misplaced humanity, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we are very reluctant to speak frankly about a lot of matters, and we in this House of Assembly have not spoken about Lodge School.

Now institutions take a long time to build up; they can be destroyed overnight; and what we have witnessed is the destruction of Lodge School as a reputable educational institution in the last ten years in this country. There is scarcely an ex-Lodge boy who is not ashamed. It used to rank side by side with Harrison College and

Queens College; it now ranks below pond water level — and we know what pond water level is in Barbados, the lowest level. The Press has said not a word about it; the politicians have whispered among themselves what a tragedy it is and said nothing about it, and the time has come to lay bare the facts that Lodge School under its present leadership — and you have to blame both the school Board — they do not know what they are doing — and the leadership up there at the staff level, including the headmaster in particular — between them they have destroyed a valuable institution in this country.

I hope that it can be rebuilt and that the Minister of Education will not be afraid when she has the power to do whatever has got to be done to put right what is wrong at the Lodge School. That is all I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael South, (Mr. L. E. Sandiford) is seeking to make some sort of explanation. With the leave of the House, I will have no objection to the honourable Member making his explanation.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank the House for its indulgence. I wish in the explanation to make one observation. I know that the honourable Member who has just spoken has spoken with a certain measure of feeling on this matter, but I do not believe it is right that we should try our public officers in public.

It is my feeling, and I just make my own observation, that if there are specific charges or accusations or statements to be made against a public officer, there are ways in which that should be done. And I believe that since they are all public officers, I hope, Sir, that you have had some notice of the intention to make that kind of charge about a public officer, as our Rules indicate.

I believe there is a way of dealing with these matters, and I would hope that we will not deal with these matters in this particular way.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is indeed fitting that the House should mark the anniversaries being celebrated by two of the oldest, if not the oldest schools in Barbados.

This gives me an opportunity to make the point that in recent years, particularly under the World Bank school building programme, we have put a lot of money into building new schools and upgrading the physical plant at a lot of newer schools, and that today Harrison College and Queen's College find themselves in a serious state of dilapidation. It is hoped that the fund-raising drives carried out during this anniversary year at those two schools will

help to raise money to put some of what is physically wrong right at these two schools.

At Harrison College in particular, there are buildings and certain features which are worthy of preservation, from the point of view of the National Trust and the national heritage. There is much that we have a great deal to be thankful to these schools for, and many of us who sit on both sides of this House have a personal debt to Harrison College and to Queens College. The time has come now where we do need to invest some money into the physical plant at both of these schools, and not only these schools, but some of the other older schools as well.

Combermere has really done quite well by way of physical plant, although I cannot say too much for Combermere.

It is sad that what has had to be said about the Lodge School has had to be said, but it is no secret that last year, and again this year, in the Common Entrance Examination, you had to have a higher mark to get into the Roebuck Secondary School than to get into the Lodge School. That is no national secret. That is a fact.

Everybody knows that you have to have the highest mark to get into Harrison College. There was a time when you had to get the third highest mark or the fourth highest mark to get into Lodge School. There was a time when Lodge School produced Barbados scholars from its Sixth Form, but certainly last year and again this year the cut off mark for the Roebuck School was higher than that for the Lodge School.

I do hope that the Boards of Management of all of these schools, and we have tried to bring to the Boards a breadth of interest and we have tried to cover as many professions, trades and disciplines as we can — will bring a new kind of vision I hope in permitting some younger people to come to give the benefit of their experience and their wisdom.

It is still a form of voluntary service in Barbados, which people look upon with deep respect and to which the persons who have been invited to serve were deeply honoured and much flattered to be invited to serve, and I know that they are going to set out, within the bounds of the new legislation, to give good and worthy service to the school Boards.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1983

Order No. 6 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Education (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the last Resolution that I will be dealing with today, and it has to do with certain amendments to the very recently made Regulations to the Education Act. One amendment is to make provision for a clearer definition of one of the categories of persons who may be admitted as pupils to the public secondary schools.

The Resolution also provides for, and I am reading almost directly from the Addendum, a number of consequent amendments to the original Regulations in respect of the operation of the Erdiston Teachers Training College which were passed before, and the Board of Management replacing the Advisory Board. I mentioned that at the time when I introduced the Resolution to do with Erdiston Teachers Training College.

Also, there is an amendment to make provision for revision of the standards applicable for the award of scholarships and exhibitions. I think I need to give a little explanation about that.
5.00 p.m.

The present position with scholarships and exhibitions, Sir, is that at this time, a candidate in the A Level examinations who obtains two Grade 'A' and one Grade 'C' may be awarded what is known as a Barbados Scholarship. Exhibitions may be awarded to candidates who obtain as low as Grade 'E' in their third subject.

What this present situation amounts to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the standards in Barbados, the qualifications for the award of scholarships and exhibitions, are remarkably low. We have had, since I have been in the Ministry of Education, certainly last year, three exhibitioners who have written and asked for permission to have their exhibitions deferred for one year so that they can resit their A Levels examinations in the hope that they would secure better grades, in the eventual hope that they would be able to matriculate for a reputable university.

In a nutshell, what has happened is that our scholarship and exhibition qualification is now pitched so low that it is beginning to preclude our students entry into reputable universities. In the United Kingdom, university entry has also been upgraded, which has caused a rush on the polytechnics in that country, and what it has done is to create an even fiercer competition for students coming from outside of the United Kingdom.

We have not had such a bad time with the Barbados Scholars, because in effect, what the Resolution is proposing is already the case. We are only, in effect, regularising the matter. Last year, we had the situation where four of our Barbados Scholars secured three Grade 'A'

in their A levels and they of course, had no great difficulty in securing entrance to reputable universities. But it is where, in the case of exhibitioners, an exhibition can be secured at the present time with a grade as low as an 'E' in a particular subject, that they find themselves unable to secure entry. Even some faculties in our own University of the West Indies will not accept a Grade 'C'.

So you find yourself in an embarrassing situation where a Barbados Exhibitioner — and let us face it, it is an accolade, it is something that we want to give to our best people — may find himself or herself being denied entry to certain faculties of the University of the West Indies, which is our very own. Certainly, the entry requirements for the Medical Faculty of the University of the West Indies are, across the board generally speaking, looking for nothing lower than a Grade 'B'.

We have also had this situation in recent years where the Barbados Scholarships and Exhibitions have been tied to the University of the West Indies. In other words, if the course that you wanted to follow was available at the University of the West Indies, you had to take it up at that university.

What I am proposing in this Resolution is to return the Barbados Scholarship to what it used to be, the premier scholarship in this country, an award for excellence — and, naturally, we will require excellence. The proposal is that the Barbados Scholarship should be untied from the University of the West Indies.

We have had a rather undignified situation grow up in recent years where Barbados Scholars have gone to all kinds of extremes to skew their courses so that they could say to the Ministry of Education, "Well this particular combination is not available at the University of the West Indies and, therefore, I am requesting permission to go to a university outside of the Caribbean." At the same time, there have been Barbados Scholars and Exhibitioners who had the opportunity to go to universities outside of the Caribbean, but still preferred to choose the University of the West Indies.

The truth is, the University of the West Indies is almost thirty-five years old now and I do not think that we can continue in every particular instance to mollycoddle it. The university must come of age. It has come of age.

I have just said that people who have access to universities in the United Kingdom and in North America opt for the University of the West Indies. And the university, I think, has come of age and must stand on its own two feet and must stand on its own merits. Some students will choose it and some would not, and I do not think that we can go on stymieing our young people, our

best brains, the people to whom we offer the highest accolade in Education.

We cannot with one breath be saying that we need to open our young people to all of the new technology, and at the same time say that if you want to go to a university outside of the Caribbean to study one of these new areas which is not available here, you can only do that by default, so to speak — if the University of the West Indies does not have it.

It really has created a great deal of hardship, it has put hardship on some students who have done well in the Barbados Scholarship. And it creates a bit of embarrassment too, I think. I do not think that it reflects well on the University of the West Indies. There are some people who will take the other view and they are entitled to do that.

So the proposal in the Resolution is that we should untie the Barbados Scholarship, and the Barbados Scholarship only, from the University of the West Indies, so that people who are awarded a Barbados Scholarship would be free to study wherever they want in the world. Our best brains should be exposed to the best that the world can offer.

The Barbados Exhibition will still be tied to the university in that if the subject area, the discipline, that the student awarded an exhibition wishes to follow is available at the University of the West Indies, he or she would be expected to take it up there. If not, as we did formerly, you would have to give permission for that course of study to be taken up abroad.

Now the qualifications. The Resolution is proposing that for a Barbados Scholarship, there must be passes in no fewer than three subjects at Advanced Level of the Cambridge GCE:

“at least two of the passes being at Grade ‘A’ and the other.....
not lower than
‘..... Grade ‘B’.”

This will not really make a great deal of difference if you look at it against last year's results. Last year, all but one of the Barbados Scholars would have got Barbados Scholarships under this new proposal; and the one who would not have obtained a scholarship would have certainly obtained an exhibition.

In respect of exhibitions, we want the qualification for award of Barbados Exhibitions to be amended so that you would require passes in no fewer than three subjects at Advanced Level of the Cambridge GCE, at least two of the passes being at Grade ‘B’ and the third not lower than

Grade ‘C’. And as I have said, exhibitioners will be required to pursue studies at the University of the West Indies when such courses are available at that institution.

But there is something further. The qualifications for award of exhibitions at the University of the West Indies should be amended to provide that in addition to successfully passing the entrance examination of the UWI — and that examination is held in March of every year — candidates should also obtain passes at the Advanced Level of the Cambridge GCE at a grade not lower than ‘C’ in the subjects prescribed for entry in the university programme which the students propose to pursue.

I will tell you why this is so. This is getting back to the Grade ‘Es’. You have young people who will do the UWI Examinations — you have UWI Exhibitions quite separate and distinct from others — and secure decent grades — ‘B’ and ‘C’. They will do the same examinations in June of the same year at ‘A’ Level — you are following, they need that to matriculate anyhow to the UWI — and secure grades ‘C’ and ‘E’. If you follow, they have made a greater effort, obviously, when they sat the UWI exam in March than they made when they sat the ‘A’ level exams in June.

5.10 p.m.

So you have this disparity where you have this UWI exam with grades ‘B’ and ‘C’, and then you are going to pass your ‘A’ levels hoping to matriculate for the same university with lower grades in some of the subjects. It really is a terrible anomaly, I suppose it is best to describe it as such, and that is why we are asking for a grade not lower than a ‘C’ in any of the subjects for the UWI.

The truth is that the majority of faculties at the UWI will not accept Grade ‘E’ anymore. We have found in recent years, and research has shown, that those students who secure ‘E’ grades and still had gained entrance to the UWI, were the students who either did not finish their courses without re-sits and supplementaries — and some of them failed to finish the course altogether — or who switched courses. So what we are doing is an upgrading of the qualifications for the Barbados Scholarships and the Barbados Exhibitions.

I think that I should also point out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there will be no limitations, as there were none before, based on the number of awards. We are not putting any ceiling on the number of Barbados Scholarships, and the awards will continue to be awarded in any, or all, of the following categories: Science and Technology, Language Studies, Modern Studies, Mathematics — another category where you have the complete freedom of such accommodations — and, of course, the special scholarship reserved for girls.

I do not know that there is a great deal more that I need to say in support of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): I wonder if the lady Minister has done a statistical study to see how many previous Barbados Scholars this would have eliminated. For argument's sake. I am certain that my two colleagues, on my right and left, would be very comfortable — 'A' students.

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for St. Philip North were ordered to be expunged from the Record by Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: I daresay, as a matter of interest, that an analysis should be done on how this would have affected the numbers of Barbados Scholarships until the present time. My understanding is that quite a few people would not have reached scholarship standard if this regulation was in place previously to now.

I am wondering if this is not going to create an undue hardship. It is true that we should try for excellence, and I am certain that the Minister is only endeavouring to create an atmosphere where students must try a little more than they had been trying before to attain the level of the Barbados Scholarship. But despite that, I would not like for it to be at that level where very few people will be able to attain that level. The same applies to the Exhibition.

It would be very useful just to get some statistics on the situation now and then.

Thank you, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the University of the West Indies has certainly made a valuable contribution to the development of the region as a whole and many of our Barbados Scholars, and Exhibitioners, who have gone there either by choice or within the context of the terms and conditions under which they obtained the scholarship, have done very well and have made many contributions not only to the university, but are very well placed within the upper echelon of the West Indian society as a whole; and they have also been able to act as a catalyst for regional development.

Despite that, Sir, I think it is a very good idea to award excellence with the widest possible range of opportunity, and those people who succeed in reaching the levels which are required, to obtain a Barbados Scholarship, I believe within the budgetary constraints,

should have a choice before them as to the particular institution to which they will wish to go.

That is the kind of situation I was faced with when I was fortunate enough to have been awarded a Barbados Scholarship not so many years ago. At that time it was possible for you to choose where you wished to go. You were told what your allowances would be and it was up to you to try to function within those allowances. So I can readily agree to that part of the proposals.

Also, in a sense, it does separate the exhibitioners from the scholars. I think that distinction is reasonable, because efficiency in what one does is the result of hard work, diligence and excellence, and it should be awarded on a commensurate basis. If the standards are higher for a Barbados Scholarship, it would seem reasonable that the awards should be higher, certainly if not in monetary terms — I am not sure what they are in monetary terms — in the area of academic possibilities.

It is always Sir, a difficult question to determine what sort of levels should constitute the requirements for a Barbados Scholarship. As far as I can recall, there was a time when you had to reach a certain level in your 'A' levels, and, in addition to that, there was also a Scholarship Paper in each subject, which you had to take and acquire scholarship level in relation to that paper. It is only if you met those qualifications at your 'A' level and at your scholarship level, that you were able to obtain a Barbados Scholarship.

Now, as far as I am aware, there is no longer a Scholarship Paper. That has been abandoned. I was never too sure whether that was a good idea or not, or whether it was because we were tied to the Oxford and Cambridge — whether that was a non-national, non-Barbadian requirement — because that particular facility is no longer offered.

5.20 p.m.

It would seem to me that it is important to be careful of the level at which you set Barbados Scholarships over a wide range of subjects. For example, a guy might be extremely brilliant in Physics and could well be a world leader in the area of Physics, but he might not be extremely good in Chemistry and Biology at the same time. His Physics could be of such a high standard that that may be an individual who could well reach the heights in Physics and make a major contribution not only to this country but to scholarship throughout the world. That is the kind of balance I think you need to be able to strike.

Whereas it is true that some of us would have been able to get scholarship levels in History and English, and a scholarship paper in Latin, Greek, Ancient History — everything at scholarship level, not everybody can do

that. It does not mean that a person who probably has got an 'A' in one particular subject, if that is the subject that he intends to pursue, and he reaches excellence in that subject should not be considered. We have to be careful how we strike that balance, because I feel that there is a possibility, if the requirements are made over-stringent or made too rigid, and there is not some degree of flexibility built into the system, that we might be excluding from scholarship someone who has the potential of being a world scholar in a particular area.

I believe, Sir, that there was a time, if I remember correctly, that if you got a bad year, in the sense that not everyone did as well in that year as you would normally expect in Barbados, there was some flexibility where an individual did well in the Scholarship Paper, and probably did well in another paper — I think at the time the Cambridge examiners made the selection, I think in my time the selection was made overseas — I think they exercised some element of judgment in the award of scholarships. In some cases, it seemed to have turned out very well over the years.

Whereas you need to have guidelines, I believe that within those guidelines you need to have some flexibility. In other words, if in one year you got five people who have five 'A's' and you required a 'B', and another year, let us say, you had three people who had the three 'A's' and a 'B' but one of them had done exceedingly well in a particular subject, would these Regulations provide for that kind of flexibility?

I trust you see the kind of danger and the possibility when you have to stick to these kinds of guidelines and where you do not have a body, which would be impartial, of course, but also capable of being able to examine these very delicate aspects of performance in the papers, and so on, not only in terms of score, because as I understand again, Sir, in the evaluation, it was not only the amount of marks that you got, but it was also the kind of style and discipline and so on which was perceived by the examiner as going into the quality of presentation.

For example, Sir, in the Classics, I was known in the world of classical scholarship as being a great exponent of the style of Pliny; I wrote Latin in the style of Pliny, and that was my presentation for scholarship purposes. Whether these things still obtain or not, I do not know, or whether it is just a code that you work by and you get X amount of marks. What can happen there in point of fact is that you are picking Barbados Scholars who really are not Barbados Scholarship material, and you can omit people who really have greater possibilities.

These are the few areas I would like to draw to the Minister's attention. It would be interesting to know

whether there is some element of flexibility within these guidelines.

Thank you very much.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just wish to make a few observations on this matter. A distinguished Barbados Scholar has just spoken on the matter, and he has spoken a great deal of sense. Sometimes, it is not fully understood how we arrived at the existing arrangements for the award of Barbados Scholarships, but it was really at the insistence or the recommendation of the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate itself which had recommended that the basis be changed.

The Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) was quite right when he said that at one time there was a Scholarship Paper and Advanced Level papers, and the scholarships were awarded on the basis of reaching an Open Scholarship standard as determined by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The specific Scholarship Paper was dropped, and the award was linked to the Advanced Level papers alone.

I would not like to speak authoritatively on it, but I have reason to believe that if a careful research is done on the grades achieved by former Barbados Scholars down through the years, I suspect that a number of distinguished Barbados Scholars would not be awarded scholarships on the basis of these qualifications that are being put forward now, and there are dangers, Sir.

Again, I would like to support the plea made by my colleague for a greater measure of flexibility. In our desire to talk about standards and higher standards, we may be in danger of setting minimum qualifications that are too high. When we are talking about scholarship, scholarship is demonstrated in terms of a specific field of endeavour, and that is established by means of achieving a Grade 'A'. That is scholarship.

I believe that if you demonstrate that scholarship in a particular subject, and you can give your supporting evidence of competence and above average ability, which is demonstrated or recognised by the Grade 'B', those are sufficient minimum standards for the award of scholarships. I do not believe that you have to set it any higher than that. The scholarship is demonstrated by the attainment of the Grade 'A' and your above average performance by the Grade 'B'.

5.30 p.m.

Therefore, I am asking the Minister to reconsider these particular proposals. They do not really achieve anything except to exclude Barbadians from being awarded a Barbados Scholarship. That is the only effect that this could have.

It will not pull the level of the scholarships any higher. In fact, the end result of this will be to exclude persons, who have demonstrated their scholarship ability, from actually being awarded a scholarship. And if you have your minimum standards, you can say that competition within that minimum standard can prevail, but I do not think that you should go at this stage and try to eliminate persons who have demonstrated their scholarship ability.

Asides

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Anybody who gets an 'A' in a subject, that is scholarship in that subject.

Asides

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: How you mean you cannot get into university with one 'A'?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please! If the honourable Member would address the Chair, there will be a reply in due course, but I cannot have cross-talk. That is not contributing to the debate.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am hearing the Minister saying that you cannot get into university with one 'A'. That cannot be true anywhere. You can get into reputable institutions, in fact, without getting an 'A' but with 'Bs', 'Cs' and 'Es' as well.

I think we have got to study the university systems and understand the basis of awards and scholarships. If you are talking about awards or exhibitions, or if you are talking about disciplines in which there is very great competition worldwide, you cannot get into them probably with an 'A' and two 'Bs' or two 'As' and a 'B'. Some institutions which you go to are so exclusive that they are only taking the top-flight because of the demands of those institutions.

I think sometimes we forget that Barbados is still an island, 166 square miles.

Asides

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: We made a little reclamation. You were performing at Christ Church at the same time that the fishermen were demonstrating! I know that, so we did a little reclamation up there! That is true, so we have a little more up there!

But, Sir, I think we have got to realize that whenever we talk about university education in this country, we seem to think that if we do not go to Oxford, or Cambridge, or Harvard or Princeton, or Manchester for that matter, or one of the top-flight universities in

Canada, or ever Edinburgh, that those are the only universities. There was a time when you could get into Edinburgh without even having an 'A'.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable Member saying that is when the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) entered?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: No, Sir. I am not saying that! But I think we have got to be serious on this matter, and we are really making a plea out here: In an attempt to raise or to do something called "raising standards", let us not start at the wrong end.

I believe that in this particular area here, we would ask the Minister to look at this again and to recognize that, in fact, there is absolutely nothing wrong with the existing minimum qualifications for the award of Barbados Scholarship; absolutely nothing wrong.

I did not quite understand the part about the University of the West Indies and the attainment of 'Cs' or 'Bs' in the overseas examinations. The Minister went through it quite carefully.....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of elucidation: You can have, and it has happened, students sitting the UWI Entrance Examinations in March getting 'B's' and 'Cs'. Now, they still have to sit the 'A' levels in June to matriculate to the universities, and sometimes they will secure a Grade 'E', which would deny them entry to a particular faculty. Having already passed the UWI examination in March, if you follow, you can then sit your 'A' levels and disqualify yourself. Do you understand?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is a matter which I think the Ministry can solve with the university and with the schools in this particular area. I do not wish to comment on that particular area, although I note that you can get also into the university with five O levels. I believe you can get in now with O levels. But I am assuming that all of these things.....

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Please, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable Member for St. Michael South knows that when you go into university with O levels, it means you have to spend the first year, or possibly two years, matriculating in A levels; so do not make it seem as though you can get into university with O levels and all of that rubbish. Those N-1 Courses are coming to an end, as he well knows, at his own institution, the Community College.

We cannot afford to pay for people to do A levels at the university, in the Sixth Forms and at the Community College as well. It costs three times as much to train a person to do A levels at the university, so the

place to do it is at the Community College, and the pilot scheme is starting, as he knows in September this year at the Community College.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not really going into that area any longer. I was just referring to some tangential points relating to that matter.

I merely wish to make a plea for a greater degree of flexibility in these matters, and I hope the Minister would take into account the points raised from this side of the Chamber.

The existing arrangements were arrived at after very careful consideration of submissions put forward by the Oxford Examination Syndicate itself. In fact, they wanted all distinction between scholarship and exhibition abolished, and we felt, after careful discussion, that we should retain the distinction and give ourselves a great deal of flexibility, well recognising the place of scholarship and high academic performance.

We recognized at the same time that the prime importance in these matters, the people who take pride of place, are the young Barbadians, and we are interested in training young Barbadians. We should not allow any over-commitment to something called 'Scholarship' or 'Exhibition' retard national development in any year. We should be able to say, "these are the best of our people this year, and we will permit them to get into whatever educational institutions they can get into to develop their talents to the fullest.

5.40 p.m.

After all, this is what social development is about; it is what economic development is about; it is what national development is about. I wish to say no more on that matter.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: If I might answer some of the points raised, the former position which obtained at the time when some of the Members on the other side won Barbados Scholarships, including the last speaker, were far tougher than they are today, and far tougher than anything which is being proposed today. In those days, you had to arrive at Open Scholarship standard, and you had to sit a Scholarship Paper.

We heard the honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford) boast just now that he is a three-year man, and so was the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes). The truth is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that today Barbados is behind hand. The situation which exists here is quite different from what exists, say, in Trinidad and Jamaica.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I wonder if the honourable Member would give way. This is not contentious;

it is just an analysis of the situation, and what, in fact, I was pointing out, and I also wish to re-stress is response to the point you made about competition being tougher then as compared with now; it is my own feeling that the competition is tougher now.

That is what the Cambridge people are saying; it is tougher now, not then, and it is because of that toughness that they asked for a change. It was a question of not reaching the Open Scholarship standard in the region, because we were the only people in the Caribbean, and no other country in the Caribbean was using the standards that we were using! And it was because of that that they asked for a change.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I understand this perfectly and, if I may finish my point, that is why in the Caribbean today we are at the bottom of the scholarship heap. In Trinidad and Jamaica, for instance, you do not have the situation which you have in Barbados today where you get so many 'As' at A level or so many 'Bs' at A level and that qualifies you for a scholarship. The Cambridge examiners themselves select what would be the equivalent of Barbados Scholars in Trinidad and in Jamaica, and in the past few years in Trinidad and Jamaica, their scholars have acquired scholarships with no less than three Grade 'A' A levels. That is what it has taken!

The competition is tougher today. You are perfectly right. And do not let us fool ourselves, our students, our scholars and exhibitioners are competing with their counterparts everywhere else in the world in the same disciplines: Computer Science, Engineering, Business Management, Dentistry, Medicine and Law. These are the areas where the competition is tightest, and the tighter the competition, the higher the qualification has to be. You cannot get into a decent red brick university in the United Kingdom today in the area of, say, computer studies without two Grade 'A' A levels, because the competition is so tight.

The point is that today you are not going anywhere as a scholar without two Grade 'A' A levels, and I do not think it is fair to suggest that you would be denying future potential scholars an opportunity. I make the point: look at last year's scholarship winners. There was only one of that group who would not have had a scholarship under these proposals. You have got to do exceedingly well.

You cannot get into a decent university in the United Kingdom today to do Dentistry with two 'Bs' and a 'D'. I speak of knowledge attained in the Ministry of Education. We had a National Development Scholar who for three years struggled to get a place in a university in the United Kingdom to do Dentistry and it came to the point where I almost had to say, "You will have to

relinquish this because all the years we hold it for you, it means that somebody is being denied the use of it." In the end, he managed to secure a place at a university.

The competition is very tough for places, and it is not that we are looking for places in obscure disciplines where there is a lot of room for play. We are competing with the best brains in the whole of the United Kingdom for places to do Engineering or Computer Science and Business Management, and this is where they are going.

Look and see the area where the Barbados Scholars have gone in recent years. Our best Barbados Scholars, the ones who have managed to get three Grade 'A' A levels are the ones who have gone to the best universities, because that is the only way they are going to get to the best universities.

It is no use saying to leave the Barbados Scholarships where they are. You will find then that you are going to arrive at an embarrassing situation where your Barbados Scholars cannot gain entry into decent universities. One Grade 'A' A level is no longer sufficient. Even our own University of the West Indies, I tell you, is getting to the stage where they, too, are upgrading their qualifications. And because of the number of closures in the United Kingdom, that too, has created an even greater pressure on places.

I think I need to say, too, that the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who won a Barbados Scholarship in the area of Classics, then went to a university to do medicine. Barbadian, Champ Alleyne, now holds a very senior position in the Pan American Health Organisation, for years the Head of the Research in the Medical Faculty of the University of the West Indies, a Barbados Scholar who could have gone to Cambridge or Oxford, but who chose to go to the University of the West Indies to read his Medicine and did exceptionally well; but again a Classic scholar moved to medicine. That took effort, and that is the whole object of the exercise here. We must return the Barbados Scholarship to an award for excellence. We have to get away from mediocrity.

I agree with the honourable member for St. Michael South Central. You cannot have a situation where there can be no distinguishing between scholarships and exhibitions. We have had this for the last three years, and do you know what it has created, Mr. Deputy Speaker? It has created a situation where a student tells himself why should I struggle to get a Grade 'A' when I can get an exhibition with a Grade 'B' and get the same award, get my tuition fees paid and the same allowances as for Barbados Scholarships. There is not that extra incentive

to go for the Barbados Scholarship, and it does create difficulties.

It is a matter of concern to me, for instance, that this year no Barbadian qualified for the Barclays Scholarship, but a Kittitian could qualify, and Jamaicans qualified. The Barclays Scholarships are tenable everywhere in the Commonwealth, because these are people who are getting two and three Grade 'A' A levels.

We cannot any longer continue with this idea that one grade 'A' A level is sufficient to grant a Barbados Scholarship and where we can have people getting exhibitions with grade 'E'. You have an exhibitor who gets a grade 'E' in one of his papers, and for the particular discipline he wants to get into at the University of the West Indies, our own University, they say, "I am sorry, we are not taking anything lower than 'C'." It depends on what you want to do. If you are going to do an ordinary Liberal Arts degree, they will take grade 'E', but they are not going to take Grade 'E' in the Medical Faculty; they are not going to take Grade 'E' in the Engineering Faculty at St. Augustine, if you follow what I mean.

So what we are doing is trying to regularise the situation, because our scholars are already up there, some of them. But even so, at the minimum standard that we have now set, we are still behind Trinidad and Jamaica, because their scholars are securing three Grade 'A' A levels.

We are not penny-pinching about this. Some years, between Barbados Scholars and Exhibitors, there are thirty awards, and in as large a country as Jamaica, they are awarding many more than thirty, so the competition is even stiffer there. The point is that we are not only competing in Barbados for a Barbados Scholarship. In fact, it is a universal competition that our students are engaged in when they are competing to be eligible for Barbados scholarships.

As the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said, we do not sit scholarship papers today, and you do not have to arrive at any special qualification to become eligible for a scholarship. Those days have long past. Any child who sits A level examinations in Barbados is eligible for a Barbados Scholarship or a Barbados Exhibition.

But universities have their own entry examinations, even our own. The University of the West Indies has its own, I should say, scholarship or exhibition examination. Oxford has its own examination. Again, it is a cause for deep concern that of the Barbadians who sat the entrance examination for Oxford this year, none of them passed. 5.50 p.m.

So our standards are falling a bit. And I think that our young people have the potential, but they need the incentive. I am quite determined that we must distinguish the Barbados Scholarship and let it be the premier award again, but you have to make the effort. You are awarded excellence. You have to get away from this attitude that mediocrity is to be glorified. It is something which is infecting even the national temperament and the national psyche in Barbados where we are glorifying mediocrity. To what end? I am not sure at all, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

If I can say a few words about the value of the awards, it is intended that with the Barbados Scholarships and the Exhibitions, the Government will continue to pay all tuition fees, but we are going to distinguish between the allowances paid to scholars and allowances paid to exhibitioners. Barbados Scholars must and will get more and greater allowances than Barbados Exhibitioners, and that will be another area of distinction, another incentive I hope.

It is a little late in this academic year for this change to work as an incentive, although there are students writing examinations even now and it will make a difference. I announced the intention to do this on March 30 in public at the Foundation Speech Day.

But the fact that we are untying the Barbados Scholarships from the University of the West Indies and that our young people will be eligible for universities anywhere in the world, is going to be a great incentive, and very attractive not only to the students, but to the parents as well. It is something that there has been a great cry for in the public domain for some time now, and I do not think that we can continue to overlook it any more. That used to be the situation. I think that it is a progressive step that we return ourselves to that situation.

We are competing in the open world. In the area, say, of Computer Science and Electronics, if a chap wants to go to Japan, which is obviously the best place in the world to go to do a certain type of electronics, and he wins a Barbados Scholarship — if he has done so well, why should we deny him the opportunity to do that? So I do not care where they want to go. If they want to go to China, to Japan, wherever, as long as they are going for that knowledge and that technology to bring back to us here in Barbados, it is alright, because that is who we are competing with.

You hear the Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. H. B. St. John) telling you that we are competing with the Koreans, the Taiwanese and the Japanese. So we must expose our best brains to all of this. And we would be fools not to. We cannot, in pursuit of mediocrity, allow ourselves to become so parochial and so localized in our thinking about academic qualifications that we feel that everybody must graduate from the University of the West Indies. Everybody cannot graduate from the University of the West Indies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is just one other point I would like to make. I do not think I can agree that any persons who are really eligible will be excluded. I think I need to say that circumstances have changed.

It is alright to say that, by this new criteria, a chap who won a Barbados Scholarship ten years ago could not win it today. It is very easy to say that, but there is nothing logical in that. The chap ten years ago did not have the competition that we have today, because every year competition gets tighter.

Ten years ago, you could have gotten into a good university, both in the West Indies and outside of it, with one Grade 'A' at A Level. And beyond any shadow of a doubt, we know that it is very, very difficult to do that today. So we have to deal with the scholars.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am still pleased that honourable Members see clearly the kind of rationale behind this and are appreciative of the need for us to keep abreast. As I said, I still have some cause for concern, as Minister of Education, that our scholars are still being asked to aim for a minimum of two Grade 'As' at A Level, whereas in counterpart countries in this region, scholars are being awarded scholarships on the basis of three Grade 'A' A Levels. But I do not know that we are ready to move to that as yet.

But I know that we are ready to move from the present situation which is one Grade 'A'. In fact, last year, only one of the Barbados Scholars received his scholarship on the basis of one Grade 'A'. Most of our scholars, I am pleased to see, are getting two Grade 'As' and half of them last year secured three Grade 'As'.

And look at where they went with those three Grade 'As'! One has gone to MIT, another one has gone to Cambridge University, the first time we have had a Barbados Scholar going to Cambridge in a long, long time. We cannot overlook these things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I hope that when this is made public it is going to give extra impetus to those people sitting examinations, because our young people have the potential, they are bright and they can do it. It is just that in the past few years we have been saying to them, "There is no difference between a Barbados Scholarship and an Exhibition." So many people have said "Why try then for the Barbados Scholarship?" "Why try for two 'As' when you can get through with two 'Bs'?" Or, "Why try for even one 'A'?"

But we know that they can do it when we look at last year's results, and the year before that, and we recognize that they are not going to go anywhere near the reputable universities with matriculation less than this anyhow.

With those remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. J. G. ODLE: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, that concludes Government Business. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until June 7, 1983 at 12.00 noon.

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

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

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, May 24.	
1983.....	3619
Mr. Sandiford, ...	3619
(Minutes deferred)	

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. L. SISNETT	3619
--------------------------	------

National Insurance and Social Security
(Collection of Contributions) (Amendment)
Regulations, 1983.

National Insurance and Social Security
(Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment)
Regulations, 1983.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN.	3619, 3620
---------------------------	------------

The Post Office (Inland Letter Post) (Amend-
ment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Mail Notice Service) (Amend-
ment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Private Letter Box) (Amend-
ment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Miscellaneous Service)
(Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Overseas Letter Post)
(Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Overseas) (Parcel Post)
(Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN.	3620
---------------------------	------

A Resolution to cancel Resolution No. 64 of 1982 and to approve the guarantee by the Government of the repayment of a sum not exceeding the equivalent of U.S. \$7,500,000.00 and the principal and the interest and other obligations in respect thereof to be made by the Off-Shore Banking Unit of Barclays Bank International to the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

A Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Government of the sum of U.S. \$10.5

million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the purpose of assisting in financing the Industrial Credit Fund (ICF) to be managed by the Central Bank of Barbados.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Resolution by Dr. R. C. Haynes (St. Michael South Central) Re increasing burdens on wage earners. 3645

Resolution by Dr. R. C. Haynes (St. Michael South Central) Re Narcotic Drugs in Barbados 3646

Resolution by Dr. R. C. Haynes (St. Michael South Central) Re Barbados Sugar Industry 3646

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Question by Mr. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South) of the Minister of Education (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER) Re Examination Fees 3646

Question by Mr. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South) of the Minister of Education (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER) Re Proposed increase of school hours. 3647

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ERDISTON TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983 3620
Miss Miller, 3620, 3628; Mr. Sandiford, 3621; Mr. Tull, 3623; Mr. Franklin, 3627.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983 3631
Miss Miller, 3631; Mr. Weekes, 3632.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983 3647
Miss Miller, 3647, 3649; Mr. Sandiford, 3648, 3649; Mr. Cheltenham, 3648.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1983. 3649
Miss Miller, 3650, 3654, 3655; Mr. Franklin, 3652; Dr. Haynes, 3652; Mr. Sandiford, 3653, 3654, 3655.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON GOVERNMENT
TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO RESTORE
FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN CARICOM 3633
Mr. Sandiford, 3633; Dr. Haynes, 3637;
Mr. St. John, 3641.

SUSPENSION. 3633

ADJOURNMENT 3658

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BOLDEN, His Honour C. L. (St. Joseph)
CHELTENHAM, Hon. Dr. R. L. (Christ Church East)
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North)
HAYNES, R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
MILLER, Hon. B. A. (City of Bridgetown)
ODLE, J. G. (St. George North)
St. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church East Central)
SANDIFORD, L. E. (St. Michael South)
SIMMONS, N. K. (St. James South)
TULL, Hon. L. R. (St. George South)
WEEKES, L. A. (St. Michael North West)