
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 22, 1984.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. L. S. Craig, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House)
Mr. L. E. Sandiford, M.A. (Econ.) J.P.,
Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, (Minister of Education)
Hon. L. B. Brathwaite, (Minister of Housing and Lands)
Mr. J. G. Odle, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw, (Minister of Labour, Social Security, Sport and Community Services)
Mr. L. L. Sisnett, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry)
Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, M.A., M.Sc., (Econ.), (Minister of Agriculture, Food & Consumer Affairs)
Mr. R. E. Brathwaite
Mr. L. A. Weekes
Mr. A. Truss.

Prayers were read by Rev. Father Stapleton.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. N. K. SIMMONS, Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN and Hon. V. L. JOHNSON entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, May 15, 1984.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, May 15, 1984, be taken as read.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On Saturday, 19th May, 1984, I received certain correspondence dated 16th May, 1984, from His Honour the Speaker, the Honourable W. C. B. Hinds, representative of the Constituency of St. Peter. In accordance with Standing Order No. 73 of this Honourable House, I declare that I am satisfied with the authenticity of this letter. It is now my sad and unpleasant duty to read this letter to this Honourable Chamber.

“Fleur de Lis”
Prospect,
St. James
16th May, 1984.

His Honour the Deputy Speaker,
House of Assembly,
Public Buildings,
BRIDGETOWN

Sir,

My prolonged illness has for some time now prevented me from attending regular sittings of the House of Assembly and performing my duties both as Speaker of the Chamber and as the representative of the Constituency of St. Peter. The House and my Constituents have been most understanding. Had my health improved sufficiently or the facilities of the Chamber permitted, I would have wished nothing better than to have returned to the Chamber to continue as the representative of the good people of Saint Peter.

Having regard to the House's Standing Orders, I would not wish my continuing absence in any way to affect adversely the proper functioning of our parliamentary institutions or our democratic system of government. In

the circumstances, I have, with regret, decided to tender and do now tender my resignation as Speaker of the House and as the member for the Constituency of Saint Peter.

I have enjoyed my tenure as a member of the House. The good people of St. Peter in sending me there conferred the highest honour on me and provided me with the opportunity to make a contribution to the island's public affairs. I remain humbled by the honour, satisfied by the experience and enriched by the years of service. I have enjoyed the thrust of debates and the exchange of repartee. I have learnt from the experience and knowledge of others.

I wish particularly to express my thanks to the Staff of the House, who have contributed so much thereby making my term of office as Speaker an enjoyable one. Please convey to them my best wishes and thanks for their several courtesies. I also wish to thank all Honourable Members both past and present and with whom I have served, for their courtesies and indulgence. I pray God's continuing guidance on the Members' deliberations and express the hope that all Members will continue to uphold the high ideals and principles of our parliamentary institutions.

Yours respectfully,
Walter Clare Burton Hinds, MP., J.P.,
Representative for the constituency of St. Peter
and Speaker of the House of Assembly.

I now direct that the receipt of this letter be noted on the Order Paper to be called as the first Order of the Day at the next sitting of this Honourable House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. B. M. TAITT and Mr. P. M. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I crave leave of this august Chamber to say that after listening to the contents of the letter which you have just read, I share your sentiments in respect of your saying this is a sad occasion. There is going to be some occasion, at the appropriate time, when I will rise to pay tribute to a man whom I have walked with hand in hand in the north of this country and of whom no doubt I will speak from my heart.

On this occasion, I just rise to acknowledge on behalf of the Members of this Chamber the letter which you have read. As I said, it is with deep regret that I have to rise.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The 1st Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Transport Levy Board for the period 5th October 1981 to 31st March, 1983.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1983.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Bill to control the carrying of offensive weapons in public places.

A Bill to provide for the establishment of a Housing Credit Fund.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the following were read a first time:

A Bill to control the carrying of offensive weapons in public places.

A Bill to provide for the establishment of a Housing Credit Fund.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1984

Order No. 3 was called — To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the National Petroleum Corporation Act.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS (St. Thomas): Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the permission of the Leader of the House, I propose to introduce this Bill.

Sir, the National Petroleum Corporation Act which was passed in 1979 came into operation by proclamation on 1st April, 1981. The general functions of the corporation included dealing with licences and leases under the Petroleum Winning Operations Act, that is, the right to control the drilling for oil in Barbados. It also has power to enter into the refining of crude petroleum and of dealings in petroleum.

12.25 p.m.

As originally passed, the Act made no provision for dealing with the functions of the Natural Gas

Corporation. But after I became Minister responsible for Energy, I decided that all matters relating to petroleum winning and petroleum distribution, including natural gas, should merge under one Board, and therefore an Act was passed in 1982, called the Natural Gas Corporation Transfer of Functions Act, which brought the Natural Gas Corporation under the NPC and abolished the Natural Gas Corporation itself. The Natural Gas Corporation Act was, therefore, repealed, except for two sections, one dealing with consumer relations and one dealing with liability taxation, for unlike most Government corporations, the Natural Gas Corporation both makes a profit and pays Corporation Tax on that profit. It has always been a relatively profitable body.

It has taken some time to incorporate the question of taxation on petroleum winnings and taxation on straight-forward distribution of petroleum products, these being the two types of taxation envisaged under the two separate statutes. In addition to this, there was another Act going back to 1911 called the Gas Works Act, which regulated the old Barbados Gas Company that existed to provide and supply gas around Bridgetown. The old Barbados Gas Company had the right, like other utility companies, to dig up the highways and install the gas mains.

All of these matters are now sought to be consolidated in the Bill before the House. It is necessary, in our view, for the National Petroleum Corporation to have all the leasing power, which I believe it exercises and has always had, to break the highway in the course of laying gas mains, and that is being incorporated. The special taxation provisions and the Corporation Tax on the Natural Gas Corporation are also being incorporated.

Further to that, the management of the National Petroleum Corporation itself, is being brought into line with other Government corporations. The post of Executive Director is being changed to that of General Manager. The post of Deputy Executive Director is being replaced by one of Managerial Administrator, and the existing post of Manager, Technical Operations, is being created at the level of the other positions, and this requires some alteration throughout the Act, specifically Section 20.

I cannot think that this is a matter which is likely to give rise to very much controversy. It is only a consolidation matter and, therefore, I will not dwell too much on the details. It will be noticed that this Bill makes no specific reference to the Barbados National Oil Company, which is a fully-owned subsidiary. Indeed, it does not much impinge upon that.

We have the good fortune of having a Member of the House, the Honourable Member of St. Michael Central (Mr. A. Truss), who is the Chairman of the National

Petroleum Corporation. I am quite sure, if the honourable Members need information, he will be able to explain the exploration programme of the Barbados National Oil Company which has now raised our domestic product, I believe, to almost 40 per cent of our domestic needs, and which has engaged on a programme of petroleum exploration in many parts of the island, including those parts where petroleum was first found back in the 19th century, in the Scotland District.

As far as natural gas itself is concerned, I am aware that the general public demands some extension of the natural gas network. Speaking from the point of view of the Ministry of Finance, or the National Petroleum Corporation itself, it is true that we do not consume all of the natural gas that is produced. A lot is still flared. We do not have the distribution network to bring all the natural gas that is being produced in Barbados to householders. There is even still, I believe, a gas well near St. Philips' Church which is not being exploited because of a lack of the distribution machinery.

But distribution of natural gas is not only a matter of the availability of the gas. The cost of the distribution does not lie only in the joining of the pipes with the existing network. It lies in expanding the number of customers who can use the gas, especially the big industrial customers who can be relied on on a long term basis to use natural gas. These things cost money, and they are all under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance. Indeed, I believe and I can almost say that I hope that I will very shortly see an aggregation from the Barbados National Bank for my consent, for the lending of a sum of money to the National Petroleum Corporation for the expansion of natural gas facilities.

It is not something that the Government has forgotten but we have to take decisions, and those decisions can only be based on commercial principles. I believe that some decisions have been made by the corporation to make it cheaper for subscribers to put the gas in their houses. I believe that steps are on the way, and indeed may have already been put into force, to allow the capital cost of the installation to be charged off monthly subscribers. I welcome all this, but it has to be understood that capital works have to be undertaken before natural gas can be as widely available as the supply of natural gas would permit. There is no point of having an elaborate capital programme to expand natural gas unless you are sure that enough gas will be there in the future to maintain the supply over the length of time necessary to pay more tithes to the cost of installation.

In conclusion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would say that there are some areas of Government activity in this country where the path of progress has been wide and straight, where there have been successes, where there are no difficulties, where profits are made, integrity in admin-

istration exists, and general satisfaction is given to the public. Unfortunately, these are never the areas you hear about in the media. On a day when the Minister of Labour can go on the television and say that he has got 500 new jobs for farm workers in the United States, the *Advocate* newspaper next day has a headline saying that seventy people are going to lose their work at a factory which is closing down, with big pictures of the people, but not a word of what the Minister of Labour has said. 12.35 p.m.

Similarly, you will hear all about the National Housing Corporation and the Transport Board, where some dissatisfaction may exist, but not a word about the steady increase in petroleum production, the steady expansion of the natural gas network at Station Hill and surrounding districts, which I understand, will very soon come into New Orleans and the City. Hardly a word will be heard about that. You never hear anything about the insurance business, you never hear how the insurance companies of Barbados, since the treaty between Barbados and Trinidad in 1979, have multiplied their income and their assets by five. You never hear of these things, you only hear of the little picky things so beloved of journalists under the influence of opposition politics and opposition politicians.

So, I want to congratulate the National Petroleum Corporation, its Chairman, its members, its executive officers, Mr. Harcourt Lewis, who has recently resigned, Mr. Moe and the others. I want to congratulate the Barbados National Oil Company. It may drill a well here and there that is dry and that is a million dollars down a hole, but it also drills ten wells that are full of petroleum, and that is \$20 million coming in. They are dealing in sums, the like of which the other corporations do not even reach, and I would like to congratulate them all for doing their work so efficiently and unobtrusively. The only thing perhaps they need is a larger public relations department to let the public of Barbados know that most things in this country are still doing well, including some Government activities.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have pleasure in seconding this Bill. It carries one step further the implementation of the Government's objective of ensuring that such petroleum resources as we have are exploited in a manner which suits and befits the needs of Barbados and not the needs of multinational corporations.

I am very glad that some time was spent during the course of the introduction of this Bill in pointing out to the public that an economic judgment has to be made as to the benefits of the alternate uses of natural gas. In this

House in the last Session, I well recall that we had an interesting debate on a suggestion as to the alternative uses. At that time I was Minister responsible for Energy, and I was able to bring before the House the opinions of an adviser at that time in the Ministry, financed by the UNDP, in which it was pointed out that to distribute gas in residential areas in Barbados would have cost \$22 million, at that time, nothing to do with the cost of connecting from the individual households to the general lines, and you had to balance that against the existing commercial interest rates as well as the then predictions of gas reserves.

We also had a problem that while a larger distribution system would help you in the daytime, the evidence was very clear that you would still have a problem of flaring in the night time. The general economic conclusion was that the best thing was to try to find large scale users who would take both during the day and during the night first, then that would generate some money to be able to permit the distribution of gas in areas which were nearer to the existing lines and you would gradually expand your system.

That is why the decision was taken to build, for security purposes, the loop line from Woodbourne to St. Lawrence and from Codrington to Light and Power Company. We are now in the position in which we have a secondary distribution system, for honourable Members on the other side will recall that one of the problems we had prior to the introduction of these loop lines was the potential difficulty which would arise in the event of damage to the main transmission line, which is from Woodbourne to the Belle, and which is laid above the surface along the other transmission line. So we had to tighten security and we have had to look for this large scale consumer.

I believe there are two boilers that are fired at the electric company now when there is a sufficient supply of gas and that the flaring percentage has been reduced. Of course, since then a number of new developments have taken place. There has been a large number of outstep wells and the capacity of the existing transmission system therefore has to be looked at. I think the Chairman of the Corporation would be in a position to tell us about this.

It was envisaged at the time that if our oil production had increased as it was increasing, at some time we would have either to build a parallel line along the Woodbourne to the Belle line or build a larger line and bury it. Everybody accepts the fact that your main transmission line should be underground and not above the surface.

I am very pleased to see that, despite the bitter opposition of the Democratic Labour Party and the

honourable Members opposite, the Government of Barbados took the wise decision not so long ago to bring under total public control all of the oil resources of Barbados. So today, despite the Jeremiah, despite the prophet of doom, despite the third part of the DLP's Gaul — for there are now three parts, Sir — despite the maze like Caesar's Gaul, they are divided now.

The Barbados Labour Party is proud of the fact that it had the wisdom and was not scared to take the decision when the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) was trying to excite the public that it was a bad decision not to allow this island to be blackmailed by Mobil Oil Company. We are very proud of the fact that other Governments have now recognised the courage of the Government in taking that decision and all of us are the beneficiaries. Without that additional oil production that we have in Barbados, God knows where the value of the Barbados dollar would be today.

12.45 p.m.

Let there be no doubt about it. Oil production in Barbados is a substantial factor in maintaining the parity of the Barbados dollar. Do not let anybody fool you about that, because the amount of oil that you are importing is reducing that, together with the fact that the oil price has gone down a bit, so we are very proud of that.

There comes a time sometimes in politics when Governments have to take serious decisions and not to allow themselves to be influenced by those people who are timid, by those people who should know better, but who, like the honourable Member for St. Michael South, have so much ambition that they cannot contain their ambition.

I heard him on television myself saying that you have to be careful and sometimes you must not allow uncontrolled and unbridled ambitions to take hold of a movement. I agree with him. Can you imagine what a serious consequence it would be? Not only must we not allow them to take hold of our movement, we must not allow them to take over the country. They can do a little bit of damage in the movement, but God help us if they take over the country.

There is a good God in Heaven. He looks after Barbados well. He inspired the honourable Member to warn us all. A word to the wise is enough.

This achievement with the National Petroleum Corporation is a success story for Barbados. It was the Labour Party that took the original decision, no doubt about that. We have been consistent on this. Even at that time within the party there were some who, for different reasons and different motives, had their own private

interests at heart. They were affected. One could understand that kind of motivation. They objected, but it was settled in the usual Labour Party style of Government.

We listened to the objections, we analysed them and we came to a reasonable settlement.

When the first Natural Gas Corporation Act came into operation, there was a big argument between the land-owners and the Government of Barbados on the royalty payment, and we settled it like we have always done — successfully. You can go and look at the newspaper reports in those days — they are not distributed today. That has always been the fate of the Government in power, and particularly of this Government, but we are not going to abuse them like they abused us during the constitutional debate. We are not going to use any foul language about them; neither them nor the judges — nobody at all.

The backs of members of the Labour Party are broad. Their shoulders are big with great degrees of tolerance and years of experience, settled and determined in their decision-making process. They do not have any problems in respect as to who is who. The conclusions that we can come to are that the decisions that were taken by the Government in respect of that monumental decision have paid off handsomely.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is difficult to believe that the honourable Member who just sat down was talking about a situation and time and place here in Barbados. It is only because we are here, and we see him in the flesh, that we know he must necessarily be addressing the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable Member debating the honourable Member who has just sat down?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to know what you are debating.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am getting to the seconding of the Resolution, and I want to be certain that I understood what.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: And I want to know what you are debating.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am debating the Bill before us, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would not appear so. It would appear that you are debating the honourable Member who has just sat down.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. He is not worthy of debating.

The honourable Member, in seconding the motion to this Bill, talked in terms to which I will advert shortly, but I wish to deal with the ramifications of the Bill for the energy policies in this country.

I think it would have been proper when the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. Adams) introduced this Bill in talking about the success story if he had laid the ground work, if he had given some full information on the background of that success. The Natural Gas Corporation did not begin in 1976. It did not begin in 1981, nor did it begin when this particular Bill which is being amended, the National Petroleum Corporation Act, came into force. It began a long time ago, and the success story of the Natural Gas Corporation, as a public corporation that has been profitable, can be traced throughout the 1960s.

The honourable Member for Christ Church West Central (Mr. M. A. King), who sits behind me, was one of the Chairmen of the Natural Gas Corporation during a time when Board members did not receive exorbitant remuneration. Board members did not receive any assistance by way of their personal development and the Natural Gas Corporation was making a substantial profit and delivering a service efficiently. It has always had committed employees and it has always had good technological employees, and, therefore, the lie must first be put to any suggestion that the success of the Natural Gas Corporation, or the delivery of natural gas in Barbados, owes its genesis or even its development to the Barbados Labour Party. That would be a most erroneous concept, and the first thing I wish to do is to lay it to rest.

The honourable Members on the other side took over an energy policy in Barbados that was clear, that was direct, and when the honourable Member for St. Thomas suggests that the Democratic Labour Party fought them on a decision to encompass natural gas and all other matters into one entity, the honourable Member is either ignorant of the facts or he is misleading the House. However.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot say that the honourable Member is misleading the House, because that would certainly show that the presiding officer has allowed an infringement of the Rules.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: With all due respect, Sir, we are told that to say one is inadvertently misleading the House is not unparliamentary. What I am seeking to say is that because he is ignorant of the facts, he quite inadvertently misled this House. And since Your Honour could not have been privy to the facts as I would be, Your Honour would not have been in a position to know until now, when I reveal the facts, that the honourable Member was not seized of all of the information.
12.55 p.m.

The honourable Member must remember that when I sat as the Minister responsible for Industry in this country, the now Managing Director of the Barbados Light and Power Company presided over a Committee that was established and reported. That report, a document of this Honourable House, and it has been for some considerable time, contains recommendations concerning the way in which energy should be developed in this country were made. The honourable Member, as Chairman of the Cabinet, should be aware that from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, a Cabinet Paper was submitted back in 1975 or thereabouts in which it was recommended that the basic policy in Barbados be encompassed in a single entity that would look after all of the energy requirements in this country. So when the honourable Member seeks to give the impression that the Barbados Labour Party has at least one success among a string of abysmal failures, and he unfortunately chooses natural gas and energy products, he is not only wrong — he is deadly wrong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we wrestled with them on the acquisition of the assets of Mobil, we did not wrestle with them on the concept of a single entity. We raised questions on the absence of \$2 million from the funds which the House had voted for and the amount which we read elsewhere as the price which was being paid for the assets.

Secondly, Sir, we raised questions on the efficacy of the method that was being used to acquire those assets.

Thirdly, we said, and we maintained that the oil under the ground in Barbados is *prima facie*, on the face of it, owned by the people of Barbados, and that in assessing the cost which we paid for these assets which we took over from Mobil, we were of the view that the wrong method was used and as a result Mobil emerged from that deal like a hound's tooth, clean, and that they were the beneficiaries of a miscalculation on the part of the Government, or something else which we would prefer not to consider at this time.

We are now producing 40 per cent of our total energy needs. I wish to submit that the average energy-user in Barbados cannot be aware that we are now producing 40 per cent of our needs. The fact that we are producing 40 per cent of our energy needs in Barbados from our own indigenous resources has not been reflected in the cost to the Barbadian consumer. It has not been reflected in the cost of gasoline, it has not been reflected in the cost of natural gas, and it has not been reflected in the cost of electricity.

We have on more than one occasion called, and today I call again, on the Minister responsible for

Finance, and consequently the Ministry responsible for Energy, to come up with a comprehensive energy package such as will allow the people of Barbados to benefit from the fact that we are now producing 40 per cent of our energy needs. What is the point our getting up and saying that we are now efficient in the Barbados Petroleum Corporation, that we are producing 40 per cent of our oil and gas, and the people of Barbados are paying per capita the highest price for products anywhere in the western hemisphere?

We believe that a good and solid energy policy would be reflected in the quality of life of the people of this country. It is not good theory, because it has not been proved, with many years of practice since 1973, that constantly increasing the price of the energy product at the pump, will act as a deterrent to the use or over-use of such energy. It has been demonstrated over and over again that no matter what the price of a gallon of gasoline, those people who have been trained to misuse energy will continue to misuse energy, and the only result that occurs when the price is high is that there is a scouring in the economy and in the Gross National Product in such a way as to have a lopsided result, when in fact what you are looking for is a smooth development and a broad-based growth in the economy.

I do not wish to go into great detail explaining that particular concept, but it should be very straightforward. Those persons who own motorcars and who cannot afford it, but who would buy the gasoline because they have to, will spend more of their earned income in the purchase of gasoline than they will in other areas that would be more productive to the community if in fact they help to supply the demand in those areas. That is the argument in a nutshell. So the policy of trying to preserve energy by keeping the price of gasoline and other similar products in Barbados artificially high is not a useful policy for an economy the size of Barbados. What it has done, on the contrary, is to dampen demand in the wrong areas. As a result, the country is not making the kind of economic progress that it should be making if we are indeed producing 40 per cent of our energy needs here in Barbados.

If one looks at the records in the Economic Planning Unit's publication, one will see that Barbados has had no economic growth in the last four years. We had a minus growth four years ago, the next two years we had minus growth, and last year, according to the Central Bank and according to the Economic Planning Report, we had zero growth, and the prospects for Barbados suggest that we are going to go into either zero growth — the first quarter of this year suggests that we have had still no growth — or we are going to go back into a negative growth situation again. How can we then be arguing and beating our breasts with pride that we are now producing 40 per cent of our energy needs, when in fact it is not

being reflected in the economic development of the country?

We have heard a thesis that we now need large industrial users of natural gas in order for the production of natural gas in Barbados to be economically feasible, or at least profitable. You will recall that when the Democratic Labour Party conceived the cement plant, part of the package for the development of the cement plant at St. Lucy was the inclusion of a concept of piping natural gas from Woodbourne, or from the appropriate area, to the cement plant, so that the furnaces of the kiln could be fired with the use of natural gas. This formed part of the feasibility study which was done by the Democratic Labour Party in the development of an appropriate sized cement plant for Barbados and for the surrounding Eastern Caribbean. The concept of the cement plant was embodied in a total development package, and it was indeed arising out of that concept that the idea of firing the Light and Power furnaces with natural gas became a concept, and today, I believe, to some extent it is a reality.

1.05 p.m.

You may recall, Sir, that the then Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and two other Ministers, including myself, visited the site at Spring Garden where a total development concept for the Spring Garden area was under review at the time, and where we discussed the developments which were going on at the Light and Power plant at Spring Garden. We had made available to the Light and Power Company that large tract of land in that Spring Garden area where they now have the major works of the Barbados Light and Power Company, and as part of the environmental preservation of that very fragile area of Barbados, we examined very carefully the use of clean fuel to produce energy.

These are matters which formed the basis of large quantities of information available to the Barbados Labour Party Government. It appears to me that they either do not understand what they are reading, or that if they have understood it, they have been perverse in their execution of the projects which we conceived. The end result has been that most of the projects which we conceived, which they have implemented, have cost at least 50 per cent more than they ought to. The cement plant I say in passing, is a towering example of the error of the ways of the planning people, the Minister responsible for Finance and the Minister responsible for Planning, who, for a long time in the Barbados Labour Party Administration was one and the same person.

They have misused the plans which they found, and it seems to me that they do not quite understand what they should do. Even this Bill we are here dealing

with is the manifestation of the ineptitude of this Administration as it goes about in trying to deal with the fundamental development of this country. Even the Bill which they brought down establishing the National Petroleum Corporation came down minus all of the parts which are now to be incorporated by this particular amending Bill.

They came down here and brought a half-baked arrangements, because they wanted to be in a position to tell the people — “look what we are doing. Here are some successes.” If you will recall, Sir, this came in 1979 and it got underway in 1980, and you know what happened in 1981. So they wanted some successes to show the people, but even in the implementation of a very straightforward principle of consolidating our capability to produce our own energy, they managed — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to be very careful in what I say — to make a mess of it. So, today, they come back now to change the staff structure and to incorporate some of what they left out.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central himself during the debate to which he alluded earlier, reminded the then corporation, because he was giving up the responsibility for Energy, that they have a duty to be careful in their exploration programme in this country. We have a very fragile coral structure that makes up Barbados. It is a very young country in geological terms. It is, therefore, very vital and necessary that if we are to be boring wells for oil exploration, we be satisfied beyond any measure of doubt that we will not be harming the geological structure of this very small and fragile island.

I have been very concerned as I hear the Minister responsible for Energy, almost every other week, dispelling information on how many wells we are digging, where we are digging these wells, and how much the oil production has increased. And I recall even the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central issuing a warning, because of all of them on the other side, he was the only one who appeared to have given any deep and considered study to the whole question of well placings, and the whole question of spacings, in terms of distance and time, in our exploration programme.

I should like the honourable Member for St. Michael East or the Prime Minister to get up and tell us in some detail and give us an assurance that the programme on which they have embarked is paying full and sufficient consideration to the environmental conditions of Barbados today and the environmental conditions which the activities they are now pursuing will have for Barbados not only five years from now, not only ten years from now, but in the foreseeable future. This is very important, because as anyone who has been following these matters can tell you, there are large stretches

of land in the United States, and in other oil producing countries in the world, which now lie totally useless because they have been ill-treated by wild-catters, and by others who attempted to extract as quickly as possible all that they possibly could by way of early profits.

I am not now saying that that is the case, because sufficient information is not being published on the drilling schedules and the environmental protective aspects of our exploration in Barbados. I believe that a good and sufficient energy policy in Barbados would see the publication of these schedules. We are no longer in a situation where the multi-national corporations are trying to hide the real facts from the Government. We are no longer in a position where the multi-national corporations do not wish the knowledge to become available to the national entity. So the information should be shared by all and sundry, because now the resources and the institutions belong to Barbados, and are being run by Barbadians, according to the Government.

For those reasons, I am calling for a full and frank publication of the exploration programme which the Government has embarked on. I would like to be able to see where it hopes to be in another three to five years, so that we in the Democratic Labour Party and other people in Barbados will be in a position to give them advice, if necessary, as to where they are going wrong. We are not now here discussing a mere political point, we are discussing the very existence of the country in which we live.

In the area of St. Lucy and St. Andrew, within the next five years, most people in Barbados have not yet adverted to the fact that there is going to be a tremendous hole in the ground as a result of the quarry exercise which will go on in that area of our country. As Your Honour knows, that part of Barbados has a completely different geological structure from the rest of Barbados.

Now we as ordinary citizens of this country have a vested interest in knowing that we are not indiscriminately destroying the very foundation of our country. This country which relies on its environment and for its major foreign currency earnings cannot afford to have any amateurs or any wantonness in the exploration and exploitation of its natural resources. It is crucial, therefore, that any development in quarrying, mining, or in oil exploration be done in such a meticulous manner that all the citizens can feel satisfied that their vital interests are being protected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to look now at the actual structure of the new corporation. It seems to me that it is fine to hear the Prime Minister today congratulating Mr. Harcourt Lewis. I recall it was only the other day, it seems, that they found the distinguished gentleman almost unacceptable. I am not debating him,

Sir, I am just making an observation of what I have found. Since his name was called I have to refer to it.
1.15 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you enough opportunity to retort to his name being called.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Moving away from that Sir, I am going on to say, however, in relation to the structure which they now propose, they must know why they want to change from an Executive Director to a General Manager. I would say, however, that, again in the context of the kind of industry which they are engaged in, it would seem to me that the Chief Executive of this corporation ought to be able to participate in the decision making at the very highest level. It would seem to me that the Chief Executive Officer, who is involved not only in the day-to-day administration of the agency, but who is also involved in the same crucial issues to which I adverted earlier, whomever is the person that is the Chief Executive Officer of this corporation, should be involved in all the technical, all the managerial and all the executive decisions of such a corporation. I do not believe that we ought to be left entirely to a neophyte in a position of Chairman — and I am not here referring to the present Chairman, although neophyte he might be — I am dealing with the concept of having a chairman of a corporation of this kind who may be totally ignorant of the technical and other considerations.

I believe that the Chief Executive Officer of a corporation such as this, who will be carrying such a vital part of our community in his responsibility, ought to be involved in all of the decisions concerning this corporation. I, therefore, agreed with the structure which they had before, where the Chief Executive Officer was the Executive Director, because as Executive Director he participated in the decisions at the directorate level. Now they are changing them to bring in a General Manager, who will be required, by definition, to carry out instructions that are given to him and participate in the general policy.

I look forward to hearing the philosophical background to the decision to make this change, because surely it must have been something fundamental which would require them in four short years to come to the conclusion that this needs change. I hope that the reason is not that they have not sought to find someone of the quality of the Executive Director who is now departing from the corporation, and as a result trying to see if they can patch together an administrative system by which they can continue to run the corporation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That brings you to the end of your speech.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am the first speaker on this side, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was saying, I hope it is not a case of their trying to put together and patch together an arrangement. I hope that they are not saying in relation to the last Executive Director for whom they found a place after brutalising him, that they are now proceeding to downgrade the position which he held into an inferior position. This is a pattern which we have seen coming from within the decision making of that Government in other areas, and I hope that they will understand that in the area of energy, and in the area of the Barbados National Oil Company and the Barbados Petroleum Corporation, there is no room for the petty methodology which has been a watchword of this Administration.

I have to touch on one matter which the Prime Minister raised. I think it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister in referring to what he called the successes of this Government finds it necessary and desirable to attack the Press. He said that the *Advocate* carried a picture of 70 women who would be laid off, but not a word about what the Minister said about finding 500 jobs. That is not only unfair, it is not true. On the same page the same Minister is dominating the front page with three full columns of foolish comment about May Day, comment that no one can understand — but the *Advocate* duly carries three full columns of it. The television carried the comment about the jobs, but if you look at what he said on the television, if I were an *editor*, I would not have carried it myself.

The concept is not that the 70 persons were laid off. If they were the first 70 this year, the Prime Minister's point would be valid, but they are part of an accretion. It may be as high as 7 000 that have been laid off in the last few years, and, therefore, what has been happening is that the newspapers have got to highlight every 70 and every seven, because the Government keeps telling the public of Barbados that the unemployment rate has only risen marginally, and they put up figures like 15.7, and the truth is that almost every week somebody is being laid off somewhere.

In the industrial sector, we now have a situation where people are coming into Barbados, setting up plants and then walking away from them without saying a word to anybody. Holy Moly Ltd, Blaupunkt and a number of other companies are examples where the people have actually walked out of Barbados leaving large and unpaid debts behind.

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Is he talking about Forbes and Mapps?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member is now giving us a litany of the small companies and the local people that he closed down. I am glad to hear him calling out the names. I am sorry for the people, but if he is going to give us a litany of the Barbadian people who had companies, who were important factors during the time of the Democratic Labour Party, but under the Barbados Labour Party now they have been closed down, I agree with the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. The list is a long list.

They have this way of coming in this Honourable House and going on the television, because they do not hold political meetings. They stopped holding political meetings after they did not get more than 120 people at their last political meeting; so they decided that is not a forum they are going into, they decided they are going on the television. I do not accuse them of going on the political hustings at all, they have not been out there, to discuss anything like natural gas, or the Natural Gas Corporation, or any of those things such as we are discussing here today.

What they have been successfully doing is reducing them. The reason why they do not have any industrialist who wishes to use natural gas is that for the last few years they have been systematically reducing the capability of the local person in Barbados to become an industrialist.

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The computer does not use natural gas. Go along).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member, in his usual argumentative style, said that the computer does not use natural gas. Little does he know that if in fact he had a computing agency along with those who use natural gas, the litany of woes which he is now about to give us about all those factories in Barbados that have closed down would not be a fact. The truth is that the 70 persons, of which we hear, that June 1 they would have to sing the Doxology.....
1.25 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member says that I established the Semiconductor Ltd. That is true — and another 100 more. That is a fact. The Democratic Labour Party was involved in setting up factories. We never used to close them down, and if we were in power now, for the ones that are going home, we would have five or six more coming in.

Why do you not give us the Government if you cannot run it? Why do you not call in Kirpalini? It is a simple matter. All you have to do is to ask us to come and help. Resign if you have difficulty running the country.

You have no industrialists to buy natural gas, and therefore, the people who should be using natural gas cannot get it. If you do not have the industrialists, the domestic consumers cannot get natural gas, because of the reasons which you have adumbrated. That is true, and we are saying that it is your duty to find the industrial users so that the people who live in Barbarees Hill, Richmond Gap, Passage Garden, the people who live within one mile in Bridgetown, would get natural gas — and the people who live in the New Orleans. I am sure Peter Miller would want them to know about natural gas. The honourable Member got up in here today and said that we are producing 40 per cent of our needs, and we have thousands of householders in Barbados who are still going to the gas station and putting a big tank on their backs and carrying it home.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am standing by the fact that as we come to look at the energy policy, the most we have been getting from the Ministry of Energy is that the people in Barbados are using too much energy. From as early as 1974, we set in motion a policy which would have seen a training, an education programme for energy use and energy conservation in the country. How a person uses energy is the result of that person's acquaintanceship with energy. If a person has not been told, if a person is not aware as to how much energy is used when he or she turns on a light bulb, when he uses fluorescent instead of ordinary bulbs, if these kinds of things are not made known to the population at large, it is useless to expect the population at large to become aware of these things. I do not understand how a Government that would put out so much false propaganda on a nightly basis on the television sets in Barbados, could find difficulty in composing a simple energy education programme to assist the people of Barbados in their conservation of energy.

You are not going to get them to conserve energy by burdening them with additional levies. You are going to get them to conserve energy by the simple experience of teaching them. We have the tools by which to teach. We may not have the people by way of the Government, but the Government can find the people who would help to teach conservation of energy.

You cannot get up every week and say the people are using too much energy while failing to assist them, and then expect them, after you have said that, to stop turning on their electric lights, or stop turning on their televisions, or stop driving their motorcars. What you have to do is to reduce the price of electricity in the country.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You would be surprised. If you reduce the price of electricity in the country and give the people a higher quality of life, they would have an interest in conserving energy. Put them through the hoop on a weekly basis. They are so busy trying to live

during the day that when they get home at night, they are glad to put on the television and see something.

The Government has no fixed policy on energy. What they have is a fixed propaganda programme. I am surprised that the Minister should say that they need a better public relations programme. I have not seen more information that is useless put out by any department than the present Ministry of Energy. And the Chairman of the Board and the Minister do not always say the same thing. As a matter of fact, there are times when one is not certain whether one should accept what the chairman is saying or what the Minister is saying. But be that as it may, I think that what we should have is an energy policy, with energy conservation forming a part of that energy policy, instead of getting a few hundred dollars and telling the people of Barbados that you are starting a wind energy programme.

I wonder why this Government believes that the people of Barbados are so stupid, so absolutely and totally without any redeeming feature so far as brains are concerned, that all they have to do is every three years put out some statement and the people would accept it. They came in 1976, you will recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and told the people that they were going into St. Joseph, they were going off Bathsheba, and they were going to be setting up wave energy. The people of Barbados said, 'Here are what we call imaginative people. They are going to use the waves of the sea to provide us with energy.' In 1976, they promised that. It is nearly 1986, and only a few weeks ago they are going to put out that they have signed an agreement with some group to do a feasibility study on wave energy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, they do not fool the people of Barbados with that kind of out-put anymore. You have a Ministry. You have a full-time Minister of Energy while we cannot get a full-time Minister of Tourism. We cannot get a full-time Minister of Industry, but we have a full-time Minister of Energy. We also have a Chairman of the Barbados Petroleum Corporation. We have a large coterie of expertise, they say.

I accept that you may need a Minister of Planning and Energy. But if we have that, we ought to see the results of it. We ought to be able, as a small country, to be a shining example to the rest of the Eastern Caribbean, or indeed to the western hemisphere. By now we should have been pioneers in energy conservation. Instead, what have we got? A lot of rhetoric, and the honourable Member comes in today and tells us that we are producing 40 per cent of our energy needs!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, ask anyone in Barbados if he, from his own experience, gets the feeling that we are producing 40 per cent of our energy needs. When you go to Trinidad and Tobago, where they are producing 90

per cent of their energy needs, one can get the feeling that they are producing their own energy needs, and yet their Minister responsible for Energy and Mines is in the public arena inviting the Trinidadians to understand what the energy policies are of that country. Despite the fact that they have made large amounts of money, petrodollars as they are called, you still have the Government having to assist the community in understanding the energy policy of Trinidad and Tobago.
1.35 p.m.

This brings us to the whole question of the Caribbean Community and energy development. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you may recall that about 1978 there was a meeting of those persons who are concerned with the preservation of the seashore and other diminution of the natural beauty resources of island against spills. We are now into 1984. I should like the Minister responsible

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to let you go that far. You have wandered way outside the Bill, and I am not going to allow you to deal with oil spills and so on in the Caribbean Community.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. I am dealing with oil spills from Barbados.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are at home today. I am not going to let you go that far.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If you would bear with me, Sir, the oil spills from Barbados

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have not reached that. I am not going to let you go that far.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: As Your Honour pleases.

Can I talk about oil spills resulting from burst mains in Barbados, can I talk about land spills? If Your Honour would allow me, I should like to ask what provision has been made for

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are we dealing with?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We are dealing with the Barbados National Oil Company, we are dealing with the Barbados National Petroleum Company

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are dealing with a Bill to amend a specific Act.

The Minister introducing the Bill strayed on to the Barbados National Oil Company by saying specifically he would draw to the attention of the House that the Bill did not deal with the Barbados National Oil Company. He said it was a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Barbados

National Petroleum Corporation. I have allowed a certain amount of debate because it was introduced by the Member introducing the Bill, but I am not going to allow this debate now to travel the entire Caribbean before we come to a conclusion.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, my reference, if Your Honour will hear me, to the Caribbean, had merely to do with a policy. I was not about to deal with oil spills throughout the Caribbean. This amending Bill which we have deals with

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This amending Bill will not allow us to deal with oil spills. If you can show me, I am prepared to agree with you.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Very well, Sir. If you will turn to page 2, Clause 8A, it says: "Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the Corporation may, in the discharge of its functions under this Act

- (a) open and break up any street, road or pavement;
- (b) open and break up any bridge, sewer, drain, tunnel within or under any street, road, bridge or pavement;
- (c) lay down pipes, conduits, machinery and other apparatus; and
- (d) do such other things as it considers necessary or expedient in connection with paragraphs (a) to (c)."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tell me where the oil spills are!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, Sir, the way in which we transport oil these days is by pipes, and in the transportation of oil by pipe

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a minute. Tell me where we are going to get oil spills! Tell me where we are going to clean up the oil spills that you are referring to!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I will tell you where. There is at Brighton and at Spring Garden where the Light and Power is, a beach. That beach runs from Lands End all the way up the west coast. If oil is spilled at that mouth where the Light and Power is located, it is going to contaminate the entire west coast. I am very serious.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Member is trying to stretch this too far. I rule that it does not fall within this Bill.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: As Your Honour wishes. I am sorry, but I will proceed.

In the context of making preparation for the preservation of our environment, a point to which I alluded earlier and said I would return, I am disappointed that we do not have in place up to now a plan that will take care of large-scale environment diminution. It is very vital in a community of this kind that we be prepared where we are drilling and exploring for oil and natural gas — we heard the honourable Member say we still have to flare natural gas as it comes out — by now to have in place, I am dead serious about this, what may be called emergency arrangements for dealing with certain accidents, let me put it that way. I have never heard from the Ministry or from the Petroleum Corporation what the emergency plan is. I know that when we made recommendation that there be a single corporation that would deal with all aspects of the importation and exportation of oil in and out of Barbados, it included arrangements for such an emergency. I should like to hear from the honourable Member who is the chairman of this corporation what the plans are to protect the people of Barbados in that regard.

I come now to the payment of royalties. For some considerable time there has been a question as to the payment of royalties in this community for those persons whose lands have yielded oil. We have been promised some time ago that we would be given a definitive statement on this, and to date I have heard nothing from the Ministry responsible for Energy or the corporation which suggests that these matters have been dealt with. I think it would be proper today if we could get full and complete information on the whole question of the payments of royalties.

Then there is also the whole question of the oil depletion allowance. I formed the impression that what we are getting into is a form of oil depletion allowance. Based on what the Minister who introduced this Bill suggested in one of his comments, it seems to me that, from a tax point of view, he intends to go in the direction of an oil depletion allowance. Perhaps now is not the time to go into any detail about some of the dangers connected with oil depletion allowances and such concerns, but I notice that this amendment makes provision for certain depletion schedules and a certain methodology for dealing with depletions. The Government ought to take warning that these are not matters that they should go into lightly. I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you are familiar with the extent to which this method has been used for those whom the Deputy Prime Minister described as the owners to find a way around paying their proper share in the development of the society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to end by summing up what I said. I think that if we are in a position where we are now producing 40 per cent of our energy, the community as a whole ought to be in a position to feel

that this is so. Secondly, if we are going to be exploiting our natural resources, we ought to have a clear-cut schedule that is open and available to all and sundry in Barbados, so that we would be in a position to see danger signals, if necessary, as to what is happening with the protection of the geological and other structure of Barbados. Concomitant with that, I think there ought to be provision for the protection of our environment, and that we ought not to be looking at the mere fact that we are producing 40 per cent of our energy needs as the only criterion to be taken into account in the proper development of our oil resources.

I reiterate that the successes which have resulted from the activity of the Petroleum Corporation are the consequence of what occurred when persons like the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central headed the Natural Gas Corporation, and when they set for the people of Barbados a standard at the Natural Gas Corporation which has evolved into the kind of thing which the Prime Minister talks about today.
1.45 p.m.

It just is not true to suggest that it is the Barbados Labour Party that has brought this success by some Act that was passed in 1979. The sale and distribution of natural gas and other oil products did not begin with the Barbados Labour Party. The planning for the consolidation of the oil industry into a single unit, as I have said, can be found in the files of the Cabinet of Barbados, and it is only a matter of whether the Prime Minister is able or willing to tell the full and complete information....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation. The honourable Member said the sale of natural gas in Barbados did not begin with the Barbados Labour Party. Who was in power in 1949?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You see, even when the honourable Member gets up on a point of elucidation, he manages to make these omissions. We know his capability. That is why I keep everything he says with a certain reserve. It is the profitability I am talking about. The profitability occurred under the Democratic Labour Party. The honourable Member gives the impression that because they formed the National Petroleum Corporation, that is why we have profits in oil and gas in Barbados. The point I am making, and I am going to make it again, is that under the Democratic Labour Party, the Natural Gas Corporation always had a profit — always.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But you are repeating yourself. You are breaking the Rules.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am ending now, Sir. It is just that when the honourable Member got up on a point of elucidation, he re-opened the debate in the wrong

direction. I am merely cementing the point that it was the Democratic Labour Party that brought the profits in this area to Barbados.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. A. TRUSS (St. Michael Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am in support of this Bill to amend the National Petroleum Corporation Act in order to incorporate certain provisions of the Gas Works Act, maintain provisions of the National Gas Corporation Act and to provide for the appointment of a General Manager of the corporation in place of an Executive Director, as outlined in the Objects and Reasons of this Bill.

The honourable Member who just sat down, strayed very far and wide and dealt with several of the subjects within the whole area of energy which I am not competent to deal with, that is in relationship to my being Chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation. The National Petroleum Corporation came into being by the proclamation of the Governor-General on 1st April, 1984 and the general functions of the corporation are far ranging, but it has been designed basically to deal with natural gas. The Barbados National Oil Company Limited, which is a subsidiary of the National Petroleum Corporation, deals to some extent with a lot of the areas which the honourable Member for St. Michael West raised. That is a separate corporation, run by a separate chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I am sure that the honourable Member would understand what I said, that a subsidiary, by definition, is part of the whole. If it is subsidiary to, it must necessarily be part of the whole. So what we are doing is creating an umbrella under which that operates.

Mr. A. TRUSS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish the honourable Member would not jump the gun. I will not give way on a point of elucidation again. I am just setting the stage for my contribution. The point that I am making is that I intend to deal with the functions of the National Petroleum Corporation. I am not going to deal with Energy Conservation, the Barbados National Oil Company, oil production, and so on. The Prime Minister, who introduced the Bill, will deal with that.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West dealt with the idea of reducing the position of the Executive Director to that of General Manager. For the Record I think it should be clear that it is not a reduction in position. It is just a change in title which is in keeping with the policy of the Government in relation to all of the other Government corporations.

I believe there are only two corporations that had a position of an Executive Director, the Export Promotion Corporation and the National Petroleum Corporation.

In fact, Cabinet took a decision some time ago that none of the other corporations should have Executive Directors, but should be streamlined and have General Managers. Indeed, I may say that many of the General Managers of such corporations are not directors of the very same corporation of which they are General Managers.

In the case of the National Petroleum Corporation, the Executive Director was a Director of the Board of Directors. In this case, the General Manager is also a Director of the Board of Directors. So the position is not being diluted. The title is being changed in an effort to regularise the Government's attitude towards statutory corporations.

The restructuring of the corporation will lead to greater efficiency, because instead of having an Executive Director and a Deputy Executive Director, we now have made provisions for a General Manager, and the administration and technical sections have been split. So you have a Manager of Administration and a Manager of Technical Operations. You have two positions under that of the General Manager, whereas before, under the Chief Executive position, there was only one position. So in fact what we have done is to strengthen the corporation in terms of its management structure, rather than dilute the position.

The honourable Member said that the less expensive energy is, the less people have a tendency to use it, that if the cost of electricity was reduced people would use less electricity. I do not know from what brand economics he is preaching, but my understanding is that the more expensive something is, the more likely the person would either change from using it and use another product or try to reduce the consumption of that particular product. That is my understanding of basic economics, so I do not subscribe to the same view as the honourable Member. To reduce the cost of electricity in this country would increase consumption. As a matter of fact, even though the cost of electricity is increasing, consumption is increasing because the standard of living is increasing.

In 1982 the island paid \$75.5 million for its crude imports, which is 721% over the 1973 level. All things being equal, when he talks about what Trinidad produces, I can only say very briefly that what Trinidad produces in a week, we produce in a year. It is not fair to compare Barbados with Trinidad. So what in fact the honourable Member has called for is basically opposition politics; to get on that side and to call for a lot of things which we are certainly already doing on this side and then say that we should do them. A great deal of the things that the honourable Member touched on, are presently being addressed by this Government. They never had an energy policy to the extent that we have one. They never had a

Minister of Energy. So it is not fair to say or give the impression to this Honourable Chamber that we are doing nothing at all in the whole area of energy when, in fact, we are.

Very often they quote from the Central Bank Report when it suits them. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central on another occasion said and he was very careful to quote the source. In this particular case, I shall quote the source, and the source is the Central Bank itself, the Annual Report of 1983, because it deals with this whole question of the purchase by the Government of the Mobil Exploration Company and the setting up of the structure of the National Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiary, the Barbados National Oil Company Limited. They voted against the Bill.
1.55 p.m.

This is what the Central Bank Report says on page 12 under the caption Energy:

"Since the purchase of Mobil Exploration's assets by Government, emphasis has shifted to shallow drilling at the Woodbourne field with a sharp increase in output: 380,000 barrels of crude were lifted in 1983, 47% above the 1982 level and 25% over the 1980 peak. Barbados was able to cut its oil import bill by one-quarter."

It goes on to say:

"Sales of natural gas expanded by more than fifty percent to 11.4 million cubic metres, with increased purchases by commercial customers. Some 4.4 million cubic metres were used to generate electricity, about five percent of the power company's fuel requirements."

That is what we have done. By the purchase of Mobil Exploration, by the establishment and the streamlining of the National Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiary corporation, the Barbados National Oil Company Limited, we have been able to do better than when the whole operation was in the hands of Mobil, and they on that side.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now 2.00 p.m., the time of interruption. Will the honourable Member be able to complete his speech in another ten minutes?

Mr. A. TRUSS: No, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are a lot of matters I would like to touch on in relation to natural gas. There is no way I can finish in ten minutes, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting now stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. There are no Questions on the Order Paper to be answered today. We therefore move to Private Member's Business.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no item of Private Member's Business on the Order Paper. Government Business is now resumed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS RESUMED

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken the honourable Member for St. Michael Central was speaking. He may now continue.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1, 2, and 3, were called and passed.

Clause 4 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Clause 4 of this Bill deals with an important section relating to a change of the management structure of the National Petroleum Corporation. I recommend that, now that this restructuring has taken place, the new management structure take some cognisance of the proposals which I have put before this Honourable House which relate to the general principle that there are areas of high population density, particularly in the area of St. Michael South Central — and I refer to Martindales Road, Halls Road, Carringtons Village and Brittons Hill — where with a minimal capital output, significant rewards can be gained not only for the people but for the corporation itself, in terms of generation of income for the corporation and offering a well deserved service to the people of this area.

I have brought personally by petition to the corporation since 1979 a survey which I myself and several residents in the area took — it was at that time the Natural Gas Corporation, I think pointing out that in many of these areas there are existing lines. I understand that some of them might be old, but nevertheless they can be resuscitated in order to provide natural gas for these people. I really honestly believe that the new management should look again at that policy, because we are virtually talking of a situation where perhaps for every ten or twelve feet of pipeline you put down, you would be connecting to a potential customer.

I make this plea on behalf of myself, on behalf of the honourable Member for the City, on behalf of the honourable Member for St. Michael Central and the Chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation. He knows that what I am saying makes a lot of sense, that in those areas there can be no question whatsoever that you cannot amortise in a very short period of time the capital outlay which you would make in terms of putting down gas mains.

I would like the new management structure to be sensitised to this very basic principle. I understand the position of the corporation where they would like to have *pari passu* with consumer usage a situation where industry that can use the gas all year round, night and day, but I would say that these are specific instances where it can be done, and where it can be done expeditiously, to the advantage of all the people in the area who would get cheaper gas, and at the same time the company would make a lot more money.

I am a firm believer that when in Opposition you are here to criticise, but you are also here to make constructive criticisms. Even if this would advance the cause of the honourable Member for St. Michael Central and the cause of the Barbados Labour Party, I would say it would also advance the cause of the people of St. Michael South Central, and I am making another plea here on the floor of this House to give the natural gas to the people of Delamere Land, Bannister Land, Halls Road, Carringtons Village, Brittons Hill, both on my side and the side of St. Michael South. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that capital developments of this kind not only exist in the minds of parliamentarians, but can be brought to bear in a very intimate way on the lives of the people of the country, and in this way they would better understand, in my view, what energy is all about. I make this plea, for the dear, loving people of St. Michael South Central.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Appeal to the General Manager.

Mr. A. TRUSS: The General Manager of the National Petroleum Corporation intends to carry out the policy of this Government.

For the very first time, I can very much agree with the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in relation to his plea. But it is strange that the honourable Member should ask us to spend more money in the distribution system, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, criticise the Government for borrowing too much money by saying that the Government's debt is too high. That is inconsistent.

The policy of this Government is consistent, because we intend to borrow money and we intend to improve the distribution system, but the cost of laying transmission lines and distribution lines.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, if the honourable Member will give way. Is the honourable Member giving me an assurance that areas in St. Michael South Central will get the natural gas that I just asked for?

Mr. A. TRUSS: I can give the assurance that, to the best of my ability, I will bring natural gas to all the people of Barbados, including those who live in St. Michael South Central.

The point I was making was that over the last year, the National Petroleum Corporation laid over four miles of mains, which cost some \$846 000.

It has always been the accepted practice from the old Natural Gas Company to spend money from current account facilities for capital expenditure. When the National Petroleum Corporation came into being, and a new directorate was set up, I, as Chairman, took a different view, and the Board of Directors followed me in the same view, that one must borrow money to have a capital programme and you cannot use the money from current account to establish such a programme. This is why at present we are negotiating with the Barbados National Bank to borrow \$5 million to put natural gas into the areas of Christ Church and St. Michael in particular. We are also cognisant of the fact that the people of St. Andrew and St. Philip must get natural gas as well, because these two parishes are indeed the parishes that produce the natural gas, but 56 per cent of the Barbados population live in Christ Church and St. Michael.

So the point made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is a valid one, but in terms of return, the National Petroleum Corporation gets a better return for every dollar spent in St. Michael and Christ Church as against the other parishes, including St. Andrew and St. Philip. It is a question of priority. In New Orleans alone, the few avenues there will cost \$1 million. The \$5 million is a drop in the bucket in relation to natural gas needs.

Natural gas is being produced and it is being flared and it is being wasted. We are building a new transmission line from Woodbourne to the Belle because the problem is that many of the mains on the distribution system in the

City, in Christ Church and the rest of St. Michael are old and we are losing almost 20 per cent of all natural gas that we purchase from Woodbourne. So when we buy the natural gas from Woodbourne, by the time we collect the money through the distribution system, taking what is in the system into account, we lose 20 percent. That is largely due to the fact that some of the mains are over 100 years old.

In Barbarees Hill we have just spent \$300,000 in replacing the mains in the constituency of St. Michael West. St. Michael South Central will get and so will St. Michael Central. Right now the total number of consumers are more than 9 000.

We presently have a system where the pipe is too small to use a different type of technology, that is polyethylene pipe. In the larger countries, if you have a four inch main in the distribution system and you have a leak, it is very easy to insert polyethylene pipe into that system without having to change the system or dig up the pipe. In this way it is a lot cheaper.

We cannot use that because throughout the distribution system in Barbados there is only one inch and two inch mains. You cannot push in a main smaller than that, because you just would not get the pressure that is necessary to feed the system. So what we have to do is to dig up the lines and replace them with new lines. We are using PVC pipes and that is a very costly thing, but the whole idea behind borrowing \$5 million and capitalising it over a period of seven years is to be able to make some large input into the distribution system so that you can save the \$500 000 per annum that is being lost at present by flaring the gas at Woodbourne.

When we took over from Mobil, it is true to say that they were not flaring because natural gas is an associated gas, but when we took over at Woodbourne, they were producing 316 barrels per day. Today, we are producing over 1 700 barrels per day. That is why we have more natural gas, thus the flaring. The answer to that, as I have expressed, is to set up a new transmission line from Woodbourne to Belle, which we are working on, and then to fix lines as best we can throughout the entire distribution system, which, as I have said before, is very costly and will take time.

The volume of gas has increased substantially over the last year as compared with previous years. We have jumped 47 per cent in one year in our sales alone. And when we talk in terms of profits — the honourable Member for St. Michael West said that they have always made profits — the old Natural Gas made profits of \$10 000, they broke even; some years they made \$15 000. We are dealing now with profits of \$500 000 and \$750 000. Indeed, we may break the \$1 million profit line.

We are not in the profit-making business, but the point must be borne out that the National Petroleum Corporation is one of the few corporations in this country that does not need a subsidy from the Government. It is efficient. It runs very smoothly and, in fact, it makes money. We can now turn around and borrow \$5 million, and repay it over a period of five years, in order to assist the people of Barbados by bringing natural gas to their homes. And let me say this, natural gas is 25 per cent cheaper than LPG. It is also a safer and cleaner fuel to use.

In Bridgetown, over the last two years — we cannot deal with parochial politics, we have to deal with the whole issue — we have had to look at every restaurant in the City of Bridgetown that carries the large LPG containers and change them over to natural gas, for fear that if there is a fire, the whole City of Bridgetown could burn down. Now, every major restaurant in Bridgetown is being connected to the natural gas system. There is no politics in this, it is plain commonsense so that in the event of a fire, we can turn off the natural gas, there would be no explosions and the City of Bridgetown, hopefully, could be saved.

We have to look at all of these areas. We cannot look at one isolated area, the constituency of St. Michael South Central. We are looking at the entire population of Barbados. We are looking at St. Philip North and South. We are looking at St. Andrew. Priority must be given however to Christ Church and St. Michael.
3.05 p.m.

Asides

Mr. A. TRUSS: St. James already has natural gas running all the way up to St. James North. The point is that in terms of proper business application, it makes much more sense and it is much more viable and much more profitable to concentrate your efforts in an area where your returns will be greater rather than spend money in an area where the returns are not good. The time will come when, of course, we will have to go into the outskirts of the city and carry natural gas to the people of St. Andrew, particularly, because we recognise that natural gas comes from St. Andrew as well as St. Philip, but the topography of these parishes are so difficult that the cost would be so astronomical that it would not at all make any sense. We would need to borrow an additional \$50 million if we were to look at the other parishes than St. Michael and Christ Church. We are also looking right now at Orange Hill and Turners Hall.

The honourable Member asked about his constituency. We take a broader view of things. There is Crumpton Street, Pine Plantation Road, Belmont Road, Welches, Scotts Terrace, Rock Dundo, St. Lawrence Gap, Paradise Village, Club Morgan, Oistins, Searock

Road, Enterprise, McCleans Gap, Brittons Cross Road, Ladymeade Gardens, Jemmotts Lane, Barbarees Hill, Mahabir Gap, 2nd Avenue Barbarees Hill, Halls Road, and School Road, Gittens Road, Rawlins Road, Turners Hall. In all of these areas work is presently being done and expansion of the services are being looked at. I cannot say that they have natural gas in all the roads in these areas, but in all the areas which I have mentioned here an attempt is being made, including the periphery of the city of Bridgetown, to constantly improve the natural gas service. But I recognise only too well the sentiments expressed by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

I should like to say that the present Deputy Executive Director will be Acting General Manager until such time as the position is filled. Of course the position will have to be advertised in keeping with the policy of the Government of advertising positions within the Civil Service so that people who feel competent to apply for such positions can so apply. When that time comes, the position of General Manager will be filled.

The present Director and I, as Chairman of the Board, and the Government itself are very conscious of the fact that it is very important to bring natural gas to the consumers of Barbados because it is a cheaper fuel, it is a cleaner fuel and certainly it reduces the import bill, because LPG is imported; it is not produced here in Barbados. In the fullness of time, if we do develop sufficient reserves — and there is every reason to believe so, because the hydrocarbons that have been discovered so far indicate — there may be sufficient natural gas to set up a LPG plant. I do not want to go into all these things, because I do not like to promise the public of Barbados or this Chamber things which we cannot fulfil within a given period, but all these things are possible and they are on the drawing board, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): I wonder if the Chairman, being a part of the directorate and the management team, could throw some light on something that I was wondering about for a long time. In St. Philip, as the Honourable Prime Minister said just now, right in the centre of a residential area there is a well with commercial quantities of natural gas, and from the time you come out of the well, the first foot of line would be connecting somebody. There could be no wastage at all from that well.

I wonder if any management study has been done so that we can know of the feasibility of having the Church Village, Chapel, Sunbury, Padmore area serviced. The important thing is that the well is right there and from the time you lay the first foot of main you are serving somebody in that area, so there could be no

wastage, there is no time lag, no dead lines at all from that well.

Mr. A. TRUSS: Mr. Chairman, certainly the corporation has looked at that area, but it has looked at several other areas as well. There are several areas within St. Michael and Christ Church that, from the existing system, have expanded and produced far more beneficial results than the areas just mentioned by the honourable Member for St. Philip North. But that area is under consideration as well, and in the fullness of time he will get natural gas.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the assurance that the honourable Member for St. Michael Central accepts the economic and financial thesis which I have advanced, particularly in relation to the generation or the provision of natural gas in areas of high population density. I also accept his assurance that St. Michael South Central will be included in that arrangement, and I shall be keeping a close check on whether the arrangements in relation to Bank Hall will also go across the Bridge into Carrington Village, and whether the existing mains that run across Jemmotts Lane will be resuscitated, as well as the mains that run along Tweedside Road. As far as I have been made aware, there are mains somewhere in that area which can be put to use, and you can make enough money out of that area in order to provide natural gas where the actual cost would be more expensive and the return on your capital investment would be lower in the rural areas.

I should not be giving these fellows these ideas, Mr. Chairman, but I have to put the cause of St. Michael South Central at all times, and, Sir, before you stop me, I will insist that out of some of the profits made out of the provision of natural gas in that area that St. George North should get some natural gas too, because I live up there too. I live at two places, Christ Church where I have natural gas, and St. George, where I have to rely on LPG.

Mr. A. TRUSS: The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is unaware of the fact that we are presently putting down a natural gas line in Jones Gap, Carrington Village. He does not even know that is happening, and that is his constituency. If he goes down there now he will see the people working in Jones Gap, Carrington Village.

In relation to the main road in Carrington Village, it is not possible to go through 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue Nurse Land off the main in Carrington Village. The honourable Member has forced me to tell the House of Assembly that I am putting natural gas in Jones Gap, but I am doing it for the people of Barbados, not for the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. My responsibility is a wider one. I do not deal with parochial issues.

In relation to the main highway of Carrington Village, Tweedside Road, in case the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central does not know his constituency, it is Tweedside Road that has the main, but the main is too small to carry it into 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue Nurse Land; so we would have to dig up the main and replace it with a bigger main. That is the point I was making in relation to dollars and cents.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order: It has taken me four years of agitation to get something done in one part of Carrington Village.

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

(Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Deal with the clause, man!)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Leader of the House cannot interrupt the debate on that basis.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Just one question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member must understand that he has been ruled out of order. Please take your seat. It is not a point of order. Do not let us spoil the afternoon's proceedings.

The question that Clause 4 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 5, 6 and 7 were called and passed.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 3.15 p.m.

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

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BOARD ACT, 1984

Order No. 1 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of the National Health Service Board.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS (St. Thomas): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the National Health Service Board Bill represents the most important of the legislative measures which are necessary to give effect to Government's eight-year-old plan to introduce a National Health Service

into this island. That plan was first contained in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto of 1976, and was repeated in our Manifesto of 1981, put at its most succinct.

The concept of a National Health Service of Barbados as enunciated by the Government is to follow the model of medical care delivered free at the point of delivery for such primary health needs as are at present satisfied by general medical practitioners. Barbados, to some extent, has always had a free health service. The hospital services provided by successive Governments have been very extensive and have been largely free to persons who wish to make use of them. At the same time, there has been a parallel health service for those who can afford to pay. So, over the years, the system which prevailed in Great Britain, whence most of our doctors have come in terms of training, prevailed in Barbados, but with the exception that, for many years, the Government went on expanding expenditure on the public health services and the free services provided in Government institutions, rather than in making an effort to create a unified health social service to the entire community and removing the distinctions between the health care available to those who can pay and those who cannot pay.

There are many people in our society who cannot afford to pay the consultancy fee of \$25 or \$30 to a doctor. There are many women who have pains and what Barbadians call "bad feels". These may be the symptoms of some underlining disorder. They may be no more than the ups and downs and the general feelings that all of us have day by day. But for some women, private medical care is available for a fee, while for others, there is the long wait at the Casualty at the hospital to determine whether you are suffering from the pressure or whether you merely need a change in diet to restore your feeling of well-being or whatever.

The Casualty Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and before it the Barbados General Hospital, have become bywords for overcrowding, long waits for service and so on. At the same time, the medical profession of Barbados, the general practitioners, have enjoyed very reasonable incomes, incomes indeed comparable with their counterparts in Great Britain — perhaps you could not say in the United States — and persons pay consultancy fees which are in most of the civilized world but a dim memory of the past. For it is very important to tell Barbadians that except in North America, in virtually the entire developed world nobody pays to go to a doctor; that when in Europe you go to a doctor, you go if you care with an empty pocket unless you anticipate a prescription for which reduced charges are applicable.

It is not unusual as countries develop to have a free health service, it is usual, it is normal, and what we are going through in Barbados with the doctors has been gone through in virtually every English-speaking country in the developed world. In America, the doctors won; in Britain, the Government won, if you want to over-simplify it. In Barbados, the Government will win; not because we are seeking confrontation, but because we are, in fact, seeking compromise and a middle way.

The existence of this Bill itself is not so much a compromise, but an understanding of the position of doctors. We do not intend in our National Health Service to make doctors civil servants. In communist countries doctors are basically civil servants — they are employed by the Government, and they have conditions in terms of service just like any other civil servant. They are not very well paid in communist countries. In the Soviet Union it is well known that a coal miner gets paid more than a doctor or general practitioner. In most communist countries, indeed the great majority of general practitioners are women, just as the great majority of teachers are. They do not enjoy the status in those countries of the medical practitioner as we understand it in Barbados, and as is known in the developed countries of the West, and I advisedly say "E". In Barbados, we want to maintain the prestige of the profession as far as we can, but merely ensure that the best medical care at primary level is available to everybody, whether they can pay for it or not. That is what the National Health Service is all about.

For those many people who go to the ordinary clinic run in connection with the Casualty, known as the walk-in clinic, there will be no more walk-in clinic eventually. For people who go to what used to be called Parochial Medical Officers and then District Medical Officers, there will be no more District Medical Officers. The idea of pauper medicine will be abolished. You will choose your doctor, you will register with your doctor — and for the scheme to work, everybody in Barbados will have to register. You do not have to go to the doctor, but everybody will have to register and will have to have a doctor, and various means will be taken to ensure that — and you go to that doctor and he will treat you free at the primary level.

I have simplified the mechanics of the Bill and of the structure which we envisage. The Bill itself sets out that structure and the details will be further spelt out in regulations. Very shortly the general practitioner service will become one of the health services being delivered by the Ministry of Health. The other services will be the public health services, Queen Elizabeth Hospital services, and the geriatric services, both in the geriatric hospitals and the services where the nurses visit old people who are really too feeble to go out to doctors, and who are

not institutionalised. They will remain with the Ministry of Health.
3.25 p.m.

(Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You mean the community health services).

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am obliged to the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, whose aside from his seat is possibly the most useful that he has contributed for a very long time. He has pointed out I should be calling them the community health services. The community health services will remain under the Ministry of Health. So will psychiatric services, so will control of those specialist services which will be rendered at the hospital, and which, possibly as a consequence of the general practitioner service, will become more important. But the general practitioner, the ordinary doctor that you go to in Barbados, will be controlled in future, those who join the National Health Service, by a National Health Service Board, which this Bill before the House seeks to set up.

The Bill has 18 sections, and to take us through without going into details, Section 3 sets out the purpose, section 4 says what services will have to be provided to all persons resident in Barbados; Section 5 establishes the Board and Section 6 says what the functions are. Section 8 gives the power of employment, and then Part III, Section 9, states that a National Health Service Fund is to be established. The health levies which are collected by National Insurance will be paid into that Fund, and that Fund will be administered by the Board. The rest of the Act is miscellaneous, it gives the Ministers powers in relation to the Board and so on.

The thinking behind the Board, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that as the doctors will not be civil servants, they cannot be paid in the ordinary way from the Treasury, nor will they accept Civil Service delays in payment and bureaucratic red tape such as they are afraid of, maybe because of those who now have to deal with the Treasury and the Ministry of Finance. The Board will be there to administer the service, to employ them, to contract with them, to arrange for the supply of services to pay them and to deal with all matters relating to the general practitioner service.

The doctors will not work without their own Board, and the Government is glad to give them a Board which will very largely be dominated by doctors. It will have the Chief Medical Officer, representatives of pharmacists and nurses, and it will have two doctors, not only one as stated in the Bill. I had a very cordial meeting with the doctors yesterday at which we agreed to increase the representation of BAMP on the Board and also to appoint a specialist doctor to the Board. The Minister will appoint such a specialist from

among his nominees. An amendment in due course will be offered in Committee to effectuate those terms which we have been able to settle with BAMP.

The Board will largely be dominated by doctors. It is not a Board in which the Government, as far as I am concerned, needs a great say, wants a great say, or will have a great say. It is a Board for running the health services of this island, and I would much rather the doctors get on that Board and quarrel among themselves than quarrel with the Government in the future. They have sharpened their teeth on quarrels now for the last 12 months, and I would like to get the Government's hand from out of the jaws of the medical profession. Sometimes I think the medical profession is a Cerberus with several jaws and not just one. When you think you have your hand out of one jaw you find that another jaw has hold of the foot, and yet a third jaw has hold of the St. George's Medical School.

To return once more to the Bill itself, there are numbers of matters which, since they have been raised by the profession, I should perhaps deal with. The first relates to what will actually be general practice services. There is some argument about the use of the words in Section 2 "necessary and appropriate" and so on. We seem to have settled this, and I could not possibly set out all the things that doctors will now have to do free for patients. What I can do is mention the things that it is proposed to exclude from the service. I mentioned some of them in the budget but it will do no harm to repeat them.

The treatment of broken limbs and fractures, the administration of anaesthetics, medical examinations for visas, for insurance policies; none of those things will be done free by doctors for patients. If they do a medical examination for a visa, the patient will have to pay them for it. For an insurance policy, the patient will have to pay them for it.

In passing, I may mention that when they go to a doctor for a medical certificate to get off work they will not have to pay. I can reveal that the Government is about to postpone the restriction of uncertificated sick leave for civil servants until such time as the civil servants will be able to benefit under the National Health Service and get their certificates free. The financial aspect of it is not part of the Government's view in the sick leave issue. We have no intention of making civil servants who may genuinely be sick for the 21 days pay to have 15 of those days which they do not have to pay for now. We will give them the opportunity of holding this matter up until the National Health Service is sufficiently in operation to let them get the certificates free.

(Asides)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Honourable Members opposite seem to be angry with me on that. Is it because honourable Members opposite are led in this matter by a doctor who is very angry on behalf of his

profession, not on behalf of himself, that doctors will now have to give civil servants certificates free in order for them to get a couple of days' sick leave?

Aside

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Honourable Members will have to make their points from their seats. Their points do not appear to be fractious points, but they will have to make their points from their seats, I cannot answer the entire debate in the course of the second reading.

I would like to be able to tell the House all the details of the after hours service, of which so much has been heard in the Press and elsewhere. I give my opinion to the two parties to the dispute — the Ministry of Health, a negotiating team, and the BAMP, their negotiating team — on the question of after hours service that what is at present being contemplated may not contain within itself any serious possibility of a compromise and, therefore, they should attempt to restructure the concept of an after hours service; that, to all intents and purposes, a total after hours service does not now exist in Barbados.

3.35 p.m.

You cannot, I believe, expect to get a doctor to come to your house at 1 o'clock in the morning because you have a headache. I believe if you ring a doctor and tell him you have a headache and you would like him to come and look at you, that the doctor would be very unwilling so to do. It does not happen to me, I can only speak from hearsay. It seemed to me that the negotiating team was demanding from doctors, who have already worked a full day in a surgery, further attendance for the possibility of after-hours service for a reward which would not be satisfactory if they found themselves having to work a couple of hours during the night as a result of any increased demand for their services outside surgery hours.

I, therefore, cannot tell the House that there has been any final decision on the form the after-hours service should take. All I can say is that that is a matter of further negotiation and discussion, and, I think, new initiatives in constructing schemes. But I think it is intended for the general public to have some element of an after hours service where they can obtain free attention, and this will be structured into the National Health Service. The negotiators will change their present ideas and, in due course, a new announcement will be made about that.

At the outset of the scheme, we cannot introduce ophthalmic treatment, vision examination, spectacles and so on, nor could we give hearing aids or other prosthetic appliances. Free though they may be in Britain and other

places, in Barbados we cannot contemplate that this will be part of the service at the outset — nor are we offering a free dental service at the outset. Dental service is free to children, but we cannot offer the general population dental care in these early stages. Barbados may have to become a richer country before we can reach that stage.

A great deal has been said about the financing of the scheme, and it is to that that I now intend to turn my attention. In 1980, I think it was, maybe 1981, it was decided that the scheme would be introduced in two phases: Grade A, which is for persons 65 years and over, and Grade B, which is for the rest of the population.

I, myself, have my doubts as to whether a pilot scheme was ever necessary, but haste has not by any means been the by-word where the implementation of this scheme has been concerned, and delaying tactics, not for the wish of delay but because of the fear of a step into the unknown, have been visible on both sides in this matter. Perhaps the concept of the Group A Scheme is another well-meaning, well thoughtout and well-constructed delaying tactic, not really intended to stop the general population from early access to the National Health Service, but conceived because none of the parties particularly concerned are really sure where they are going and really confident about the future.

But even at the early stages, the estimated expenditure on the general practice services for the elderly over a year will cost \$3.9 million, the main part of which will go to the 60 doctors expected to be engaged in that scheme under contract with the National Health Service Board. In the final phase, when the general practitioner services will be available to all residents in Barbados, we are projecting that the total annual cost will be \$21.4 million, again the major part of which will be going to the 100 doctors whom it is estimated will be needed to provide the proposed services.

The panel size which has been fixed by the Government, and which I indicated to the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners is not negotiable at this stage, will be put at a maximum of 3 000 patients per doctor. This is undoubtedly a severe point of contention between the doctors and Government.

The Government's case is that 3 000 patients is less than the maximum panel size of a general practitioner in Britain, where, I believe they call it the morbidity rate, is considerably higher than Barbados, and where, because there is an older population, there is a larger demand for general practitioner services. The British limit is now 3 500. It started at 4 568 when you and I, Sir, were first in Britain. We would remember that the doctors with whom we registered worked for long hours and serviced over 4 000 patients each, and that number of patients is not too large. The doctors case is that they should get

the same amount of money as we proposed they should get for 3 000 patients, but for treating only 2 000. This is unacceptable to the Government and the service will be introduced on the basis of 3 000 at or about capitation levels which have been conveyed to the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners.

I do not intend to give figures at this stage, because I am not going to insert into this debate matters which even now at the last moment might be changed in negotiations between BAMP and the Government. I am going to say what is not negotiable, and that is the panel size, but I am not going to say anything about those matters which are negotiable, such as the after-hours service, other than to say that the Government will negotiate.

I mentioned capitation fees. It is very important that we understand this. There are two sorts of medical services — those which have the capacity to break the taxpayers of any country, such as those that exist in the United States and, to a lesser extent, in West Germany, and to a lesser extent still in France and to an even lesser extent but still there in Britain, where there is an element of free facilities, and, on the other hand, the capitation fees which are more moderate *vis-à-vis* the taxpayers.

Under the capitation system, you pay a doctor so much a year to look after everybody in his panel, so much per person, per year. If the person does not go to the doctor at all in the course of a year, that is profit for the doctor. If the person goes once a week and the doctor does not find some way of controlling them, that is hard luck for the doctor, but that is the intended system in Barbados. It has worked in other countries and we believe it can work in Barbados.

What we know is that any services we do offer will be used. We however, intend to offer a service which, if used, will not result in a serious reduction in the surplus cash of the consumers of the service, because, ultimately, it is they who will pay. In the last analysis, there is no free lunch. There is no free health service. This is free at the point of delivery, but somebody has to pay in the end, because we are not printing the money to give the doctors. Ultimately, we have to pay for everything.

For every tenant in the National Housing Corporation who does not pay her rent, somebody else is paying it, because nothing is free on the face of this earth. Everything has a cost — let us always remember that — and the cost cannot be concealed. The cost can be spread more widely, as we are spreading this cost.

3.45 p.m.

We are spreading this cost over the whole population, lifting up the medical service available to the poor

partly at the expense of the rich, because the rich pay more Health Service Levy than the poor. But the levy which the rich are paying is going to help the poor get a better health service, and the rich will be saving on the medical fees which they pay when they go to see a doctor.

That is the overall financing. Now to the individual financing. The doctors seem to be very resentful whenever the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Health says anything about the remuneration which they will be getting under the National Health Service. They are employing, I understand, public relations consultants, and every time the Government says that the maximum available to a Grade I doctor on start-up will be \$188 000 a year, out of which he should net at least \$106 000 plus such other fees as may come his way during the year, the public relations consultants for the doctors intend to say that the doctors are only going to get \$12 a day for working twelve hours a night or whatever. In other words, the doctors intend, by using public relations consultants, to attempt to convince the public that their rewards are very small.

I am going to repeat for the record again the basis on which doctors' remunerations was calculated. I said it in the last Parliament when Dr. Caddle was in here, and he quarrelled that, as he put it, his private business was exposed. Yes, it is a fact that Dr. Caddle's surgery was one of those privately visited by the investigators estimating doctors' salaries. Yes, it is a fact that they counted how many patients visited his surgery and multiplied his number by the fees which he was known to charge. Dr. Caddle's surgery was not the only one which was visited. His, perhaps, was the most affluent, but a number of other medical practices were examined. The sum total of Income Tax assessment was I believe — I have never seen it, but I believe it was made available as a total, not for any individual — and the sum total divided through by the number of doctors was that the average income return by general practitioners could be known. The general practitioners were then confronted with the gap between their Income Tax returns and the observation of the investigators who went around to the doctors' offices.

We approached this matter in a civilised, if somewhat cynical, way, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do not think there are many Barbadians who doubt that doctors understate their incomes. Perhaps other professional people who can get away with it also understate theirs. I know of no lawyer who could send and pay a bill for Mr. Forbes' Rattan business of \$100 000 in bills of small denominations, every one \$20 and under. I know of no lawyer who can do that.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: No, not Dr. Caddle. If you call his name I will whistle, as they say. The honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves)

well knows what I am talking about, and the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central knows even better. Do you want the date? I will convey it to you in writing.

Anybody can have \$100 000 in cash. Maybe he had a fast food restaurant in addition to his medical practice. One hundred thousand dollars in cash is not impossible, Sir. Dr. Caddle had several burglaries, I believe, of over \$30 000 in cash at different times.

As I said, we approached this in a civilised way. The sum was added to the average return made by general practitioners to arrive at a more realistic estimate of their incomes. I think that sum was \$20 000. A further representation was made. The doctors said that just adding on, I think it was \$20 000, was not enough. You had to give them the Income Tax they would now have to pay on that \$20 000 as well, because when they did not declare it it was tax free, and that was added on. That is my understanding of the process.

Anyway, whatever the result of the process, the result of the negotiations has been that a number of allowances have been structured into the doctors' remuneration, start up fees, allowances for further education, allowances for payment of premises, allowances for nurses and so on, and bear in mind that where a doctor was paying his own receptionist before, the Government is going to pay it for him now, but we are not including that in his net income. Formerly, out of his gross income he had to pay the receptionist. What we are telling you now is net income, is money in his pocket less tax, and it has been worked out as that for the group, that is, the whole population, a gross amount of up to \$188 000 can be earned, a net amount of \$106 000.

Of course, not every doctor will have a full panel, so not every doctor will necessarily make that. But even that, however, is a very large income for Barbados, when you consider that there are perhaps only two dozen people, I think there are 32 people in all, who are declaring incomes of \$100 000 and over, and I really do not know if there is more than one doctor in that lot at present. He is not a general practitioner.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am guessing. I really do not know. You guess from looking at the statistics and seeing who is self-employed and who is not self-employed.

We believe that that level of remuneration for doctors is not unreasonable. Indeed it will cause the Government many, many problems. It will cause a great deal of friction between hospital specialists, who are now negotiating salaries that do not reach \$40 000 a year, and the general practice service. It will also cause friction in

respect of professional payments for other persons engaged in Government service. But be that as it may, these are the problems involved in a national health service, and the figures I have given are the optimal figures for doctors with suitable experience. There will, of course, be many doctors who will get less.

I mentioned hospital specialists. I should explain to the general public what will happen if you go to a general practitioner who does not feel able, and as a matter of his opinion according to the Act, as we will notice from Section 4(2) of the Act, does not feel able to treat a patient, he will refer the patient to a specialist. A patient will be able to choose to go to a hospital where the Government will continue to provide specialist service free, or the patient can go to a private specialist whom he will himself have to pay.

3.55 p.m.

The effect of this Act will be to introduce a minimum of decision for many doctors who prescribe themselves as specialists in Barbados but are really only general practitioners with perhaps a little interest or extra knowledge of, or extra skill in treating particular complaints, where such skill is recognised by the general public to the extent of allowing them to charge specialist fees. I am sure there are going to be some difficulties in this. I think that paediatrics, although a technical specialty since it covers a range of the population by age, is unlikely to have so much strict specialist work within its borders as to attract to paediatric specialists all the children in Barbados. I think many parents will send their children where they will get free service rather than send them to a paediatrician. There are special problems and I recognise those. I do not know if in Barbados we have what I would have thought should have been called "geriatricians", but I am told geriatologists. I do not know if we have any of those in Barbados, people who deal with the ailments of the old, but if we do have any, I would think they would also have a very hard time under this Bill because of the special provisions anyhow being made for the care of the ageing.

All of these problems are recognised not only by the Ministry of Health but by the Cabinet, certainly by the Chairman of the Cabinet, and the Government is going to bring goodwill to bear on these problems. We understand that with a panel of 3 000 patients, many doctors will feel that it is one thing to see 50 or 60 patients a day for \$25 or \$30 each, but it another thing to see 50 or 60 patients a day when you are not being paid anything. When you are being made very tired the \$20 bills cannot alleviate your fatigue, when you are being made very tired and getting nothing except conversation, perhaps there is the inclination to refer to the Delaware Clinic or the hospital, depending on who the patient is. On the other hand, when the specialist in the hospital working for \$3 250 a month plus a few little allowances keeps getting letters from doctors who are

working for \$8 000 a month, and they say that they do not have the skill to treat the patients, I believe that frictions may arise there. These are recognised and understood by the Government, and we will be doing our best.

We believe that, eventually, supply and demand will bring these things into balance, because 3 000 is the maximum number of patients. A number of specialists will leave the hospital and set up as general practitioners, and many more will leave what they call private practice specialties and become general practitioners too. As more doctors enter general practice, the number of patients available to each doctor will fall and doctors' incomes will perhaps balance out at present day terms, around \$60 000 a year to \$100 000, that kind of range. I am just guessing on observation and the fact that there are nearly 200 doctors in Barbados, that the Government employs the majority of them, and that the services provided by Government will necessarily be curtailed and, therefore, there will be more doctors available for general practice. But these are matters of detail which will be settled in due course.

There is very little more that I can add on the Bill itself. I am not now the Minister of Health, and if I talk too much about group practice and records, clerks, and their duties, I really would be getting into details that more properly belong to the debate in the Other Place. Sufficient to say that we will be encouraging group practice, that the polyclinics will make available space to general practitioners to conduct their private practices from, that the National Health Service Board will pay doctors sums of money to pay their receptionists, clerks, medical record-keepers and so on. The matter is being organised at the best level available to Barbadians. So I would want to go from the details of the Bill into my conclusion, which rests more on personality and the nature of the dispute than upon the details of the legislation.

We have had a campaign, Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the past twelve months particularly, the like of which has really never been fought in Barbados. The doctors have fought the Government harder with more Press interests, more television propaganda than all the bye-elections ever fought in this country put together. There have been more editorials on the National Health Service and on BAMP than the Democratic Labour Party was able to enjoy when it was in power, far less when it was in Opposition; and, of course, our poor party, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has never been anywhere at all in the Press stakes.

The doctors have been given credence for every statement they make, to the extent that they have dragged down a man who on medical subjects is not a fool and is by no means hysterical, and I refer to the

honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. The doctors have dragged him down in the trivialities and foolishness that he should be ashamed to get into. He is now being made to look ridiculous in the *New York Times* as well as looking ridiculous here in Barbados.

The doctors have dragged every red-herring that could exist across the trail. The Barbados Medical Association rejects the St. Georges Medical School; said that it is no good; persuades somebody to say that it is connected with the Mafia — and the British Medical Association, through its present President, praises the medical school!

Asides.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I hear honourable Members saying that the President of the British Medical Association is a Director of the Medical School. That does not tell you anything. Do you believe that a man could be elected President of the British Medical Association if he was a member of the Academic Board and a trustee of a Mafia-controlled organisation? What kind of idiots are you? Sir Gordon Wolstenholme is one of the most eminent doctors in the world, a man with an entry of thirty lines in *Who's Who*, a man with an honorary member of countless Medical Associations — the French, German, Swedish — do not mind the Philippines and the Thai — the Venezuelan and even the Russian, a man who is the holder of the Pasteur Medal and the Linus Medal, the special award of the German Medical Association. The honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has never got near enough to see one of those to read the writing on it.

The St. George's Medical School is supported by two of the most eminent doctors in Britain — one of them is one of the most eminent physicians in the world, and this is the medical school which these people attack, and which the *Advocate*, day after day, editorial after editorial, joins in attacking. This is the kind of parochialism that we have had to put up with in Barbados in connection with these issues.
4.05 p.m.

Anyhow, I believe the medical school is behind us, I have reason to believe that everybody realises they have gone too far. Look at what it has done to another man, a doctor, a professor.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Remember Standing Order 28 (10).

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I have not said anything bad about anybody. I said good things about Lord Pitt and Sir Gordon Wolstenholme, I have not reflected.

Look at a professor. A man offers his resignation as the Vice Dean of the medical faculty at the university. A newspaper knowing that he is also a professor said he offered his resignation as a professor, and so the man denies that he has offered his resignation. You and I have a word for that which, if I had given you notice, I could quote.

It is obvious that, in a literal sense, it is true that Dr. Walrond has not retired as a professor and did not offer to resign as a professor. In a literal sense, he offered to resign as Dean, but look at the stratagems to which this medical school has reduced otherwise decent people. Look at the confusions while this is being dragged across the threshold of a new and progressive initiative in Barbados. Look at the way people have diverted their attention with the St. George's Medical School.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am glad that I have moved the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to such enthusiasm as to agree with me and to say new frontiers in health development. He agrees with it, and we are wasting time talking about a medical school, and corpses, and so on. Let us talk about Barbados' entry into the ranks of those countries which recognise that one of the essential freedoms and one of the essential rights of a population is the right to medical care, irrespective of income, irrespective of social position.

Nonetheless, I think we are very nearly over the hill of controversy now. I think we will hear less of the St. George's Medical School, I think we will hear less about the \$12 a night for the after hours service — \$12, \$3, \$5, whatever it is — and then we will hear less of the \$100 000 a year income that the doctors will get too, because the doctors have no interest in telling the general public that. I think what we will now get is an honest attempt to complete this and to bring it into operation.

The honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) has in his day been very cogent on the whole matter of a National Health Service. I remember listening to his speeches during the last campaign in which, unconsciously, he was saying how impressed he was by the manifesto pledge, because he was saying he was sure that the Government's conception of a National Health Service had to be the pledge that impressed most of the public.

I know there are many people, the doctors among them, who think it is all right to provide two tiers of medical service, one tier for poor people and another tier for those that can pay. That is the only point of contention on the principle which exist between the doctors and us. This Government believes that there should be one

variety of medical service, whether you can pay or not —, free access to general practitioner service without queueing at the Casualty or queueing at the District Medical Office; that everybody must have a private doctor, his doctor to whom he can relate over a long period of time without the cash nexus being the determinant of the sort of treatment you will get, where you will get it, and how you will be handled during that treatment. We are not prepared to go along the lines of providing free service only for paupers at hospitals or district offices. We want to unify the medical services as a true social service.

There is already too much social disunity in this country, and because the disunity is growing wider among the different strata of the non-white population of Barbados, it is not being perceived. Barbadians have gone on so long believing that there are only two kinds of people in the country, white people and black people, that they do not understand that a new class structure has developed among black people, and that this class structure will be as destructive in the long run to the development of Barbados as the dichotomy between white and black was in the past.

(Mr. B. M. TAITT: You mean white people like Henry Forde?)

Rt. Hon. J. M.G.M. ADAMS: That is a very cogent aside, a very cogent aside indeed. There may well be white people like Richie Haynes, Branford Taitt and Henry Forde. That is the exact point I am making, that society is becoming more stratified than most of us realise, because there is only one stratification we have in our heads, and it is time that Governments strike a blow against any further development of the social and economic class structure in our country.

I have often said in here, and I think I first said it in opposition to a speech made by the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves) when he said that the Government was not prepared to provide an all-class housing area, that you are not going to get doctors and lawyers going to live among bus drivers, and so on. The honourable Member will remember that he was Minister of Housing, and I indicated that the Ministry of Housing should not be seeking to set up housing estates which basically are single housing estates for single social and economic classes. The honourable Member will recall that this is something against which I have always fought, and the example which I have always used is one which can appeal to most of us, and certainly it can appeal to me.

As a boy growing up in Spooners Hill, lawyers lived surrounded by small houses. In these days now, lawyers live in West Terrace surrounded by other lawyers, and their children never meet people who do not have a water

closet in their houses. Bear in mind that this is in fact what is happening in Barbados, even though we as politicians do not perceive it because we are looking at trivialities and not understanding that there are still underprivileged people in this country. It is one of the greatest faults of that party over there. They speak as a party of the under-privileged, but they do not realise where true under-privilege not only lies, but is developed. Anyway, enough unto the day is the argument thereof.

Back to the National Health Service and the personalities. We have been helped very little in the public debate by the doctors, nor do I think that they have helped themselves either. I have, however, been helped by some very devoted people in the Ministry of Health and by a series of Ministers of Health who have all wrought mightily with this knotty problem. The present Minister of Health, Senator Trotman, has made every effort to learn about National Health Services from the bottom up. He and the present Permanent Secretary, Mr. Archer, have returned only this week from the latest visit to Britain. To discover what? To discover the truth in the face of all the hysterical allegations by one or two members of BAMP about how many people are on a panel, how it works and how the specialist referrals operate. They discovered the facts as opposed to the fictions.

Dr. Ramsay, from the word "go", gave up his practice to devote himself to the development of the National Health Service in Barbados. Dr. Ramsay's work in the field of public health is well-known, particularly his study of protein deficiency especially in the inland parishes of St. Thomas and St. George, which led to nutritional studies and nutritional improvement that has virtually eliminated protein deficiency malnutrition from Barbados. He has lent his great authority and sincerity to the question of the National Health Service and in bringing it on as a final achievement in the social field of the Ministry of Health. I have been much heartened by all the people who have helped and assisted in this regard.
4.15 p.m.

I think that we are on the home stretch, as I am on the home stretch of my speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that within a month or so — I would not like to be too specific about the date, as it depends on the fact as to when this Bill is passed — the Group A model will be introduced. We will be dealing with the old people and working towards the general population.

Health levies will be transferred to the National Health Service Fund. I have said nothing about the Drug Plan. That has been dealt with at length before. I have said nothing about future financing, but honourable Members can rest assured that when the National Health Service is in full operation, perhaps another half per cent will be required in National Health Service Levy to pay for it. We must not think that we are going to pay

doctors fees and get a freeness where no freeness can in fact, totally exist.

I wish to thank everyone, especially the representatives of BAMP whom I saw yesterday and with whom I have been able to have a satisfactory dialogue and to offer compromises that may assist them in coming to a total negotiating agreement with the Government. Even if there remain one or two areas on which complete agreement cannot be achieved, I am satisfied that the sincerity of the Government in this matter is understood by BAMP, and that in the fullness of time the Government's right to choose and to govern will be recognized and understood, and it will also be seen that there is a little wisdom in politicians and civil servants yet, because the people did not choose BAMP to determine what sort of medical service would be delivered.

The people chose the Government to determine how Barbados would be governed and what social services would be provided by those whose role it is to offer such services. The people have chosen us to deal with incomes policy, with health policies, with educational policies; and as long as they have chosen us to do those things, we will take those decisions. When Vice Deans are elected by referendum and given dictatorial powers, they can exercise those powers when they are given powers of legislation by proclamation. At the moment, it is my humble duty to remind the House and the general public that in 1976 and 1981 we received a mandate to carry out a health policy which we set out in our manifestos and canvassed on our platforms, and we fully intend to carry out that policy. If we have to take decisions, we take them, and we have taken this one and we will pursue it.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I rise to second this Bill and reserve my right to speak on it.

I also beg to move that this Bill be now postponed for further consideration.

The question that further consideration of the Bill be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, June 5, 1984, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that the House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, June 5, 1984 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.20 p.m.

CONTENTS**MINUTES**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting
of Tuesday, May 15, 1984 1140

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER 1140

Letter re resignation of Speaker of the House

PAPERS LAID

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON 1141

The 1st Annual Report and Financial State-
ments of the Transport Levy Board for the
period the 5th October 1981 to 31st March,
1983.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS 1141

The Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year
1983.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG 1141

A Bill to control the carrying of offensive
weapons in public places.

A Bill to provide for the establishment of a
Housing Credit Fund.

FIRST READINGS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG 1141

A Bill to control the carrying of offensive
weapons in public places.

A Bill to provide for the establishment of a
Housing Credit Fund.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1984** 1141

Mr. Adams, 1141; Mr. St. John, 1143; Mr.
Taitt, 1144; Mr. Truss, 1152, 1154, 1157; Dr.
Haynes, 1154, 1157; Mr. Franklin, 1156.

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BOARD ACT,
1984** 1157

Mr. Adams, 1157.

SUSPENSION 1153

ADJOURNMENT 1165

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ADAMS, Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. (St. Thomas)
BOLDEN, His Honour C. L. (St. Joseph)
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North)
HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
St. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church East Central)
TAITT, B. M. (St. Michael West)
TRUSS, A. A. (St. Michael Central)