
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1981-86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 17, 1985.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock, on Tuesday, December 17, 1985.

PRESENT

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Speaker)
His Honour R. E. Brathwaite, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. L. S. Craig, (Minister of Information and Leader of the House)
Hon. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning)
Hon. B. A. Miller, (Minister of Education and Culture)
Hon. L. B. Brathwaite, (Minister of Housing and Lands)
J. G. Odle, Esq., B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. V. L. Johnson, M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works)
Hon. L. R. Tull, Q.C., M.A., (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs)
Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw, (Minister of Labour and Community Development)
Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, M.A., M.Sc., (Econ.) (Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources)
P. M. Greaves, Esq., B.A.
L. A. Weekes, Esq.
M. A. King, Esq., Q.C., LL.B.
W. O. Franklin, Esq., A.I.A.S., J.P.
Hon. A. Truss, (Minister of Tourism and the Environment)
O. S. Arthur, Esq., M.Sc., (Econ.), (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)
Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)

Prayers were read by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, December 10, 1985.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that the Minutes of December 10, 1985 be taken as read, Sir.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am in receipt of a letter dated December 12, 1985, signed by the honourable Member for St. John, indicating intention to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.

I have accepted the contentions in the letter and the honourable Member will be allowed to do that at the appropriate time.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. A. TRUSS: Sir, I am commanded to lay:

The Auditors' Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados Board of Tourism for the year ended March, 1985.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay:

Law Revision (Rectification of Omissions) (No. 2) Order, 1985.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay:

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 7 months ended 31st October, 1985.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am informed that there are going to be some notices, which have not as yet arrived, and I will be seeking leave of the House during the course of the day to introduce them. And if possible, if the House agrees, which depends on the magnitude of the Notice Paper which is coming down, I may, hopefully, if the House does agree, do some of them in all of their stages, Sir. But I make no commitment at this point in time.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to ask leave of the House to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance. Permission to do so has already been sanctioned by Your Honour, and at the appropriate time, 6:30 p.m., as ordained by the Standing Orders, or at such earlier time as the House may think fit, I shall proceed with my notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is leave of the House given to the moving of such a motion?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, no doubt Your Honour has granted permission to deal with this matter, which lies within Your Honour's jurisdiction, and surely, Sir — I want to be very, very clear — I am not challenging, I am not that rude to attempt to challenge Your Honour's decision to have it dealt with as a matter of urgent public importance, Sir, but I would have hoped that this matter could be dealt with under Private Members' Business, because my own personal view is that I do not see the urgency of dealing with this particular matter. I am not challenging or questioning Your Honour's decision, but I am sure, Sir, that the matter which we are going to deal with does not in any way jeopardize the country's health services. The health services are not going to collapse.

Surely it is a matter of importance, because any single item that comes here before this Chamber is a matter of importance, Sir. Every Bill, every Resolution, every Hybrid Bill, every Question that is asked, Sir, is a matter of public importance. But in respect of the urgency, Sir, personally I do not really subscribe to that. I do not see the real urgency, Sir. The St. Joseph Hospital does not pose a threat to the entire national health services such that they will collapse, Sir. I and my colleagues respect Your Honour's judgment and ruling, Sir, and I have no

alternative probably but to go along with what is going on, the matter which is going to be dealt with during the course of the day. That is my comment at this point in time, Sir.

Surely in my mind I have no objection. I would have dealt with it under Private Members' Business, as I have done so often, although the Opposition invariably does not come back in to do their own Private Members' Business. There has not been a single item under Private Members' Business for months to be dealt with, Sir, and this drama which is being trumped up by Members of the Opposition, Sir, to my mind really does not deserve to be treated as a matter of urgency. I want to be very, very clear on that particular word, Sir.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, Sir.

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

The question that those several Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Order No. 1, Sir.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

12.25 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1985-86, No. 16
—\$6 496 131

HEAD 84 — MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Chairman, early in this financial year the Government took the decision to provide an accelerated tenantry development programme in order to answer the long, neglected needs of persons who reside in what we describe as tenancies in Barbados. Hitherto, we have been focussing our attention in large degree towards the maintenance of existing roadways and we have tended to hold back on expenditure as it related to the very crying need for tenantry development. Recognising that our people are asked to pay a levy, we determined that it was only reasonable and fair for a sensitive Government to respond in this particular direction, and therefore we accelerated our programme for tenantry development. Throughout the length and breadth of Barbados, in what used to be mud paths and areas restricted and cut off from the amenities that most of us in Barbados take for granted, we have built modern, high standard, barber green roads that have had an immeasurable impact on the quality of life of the people who live in those remote and deserted areas.

Mr. Chairman, it is not difficult for any Government to respond to any need. Usually, granted the limited resources available, we have to take a conscious decision and set a list of priorities which have to be met. We have had a programme of road reconstruction and rehabilitation that is unprecedented in this island. It sometimes is surprising when I hear people talking about the legitimate concerns that we have with respect to things like potholes, but when one listens to the trumped-up and orchestrated complaints, one wonders whether anybody takes notice that never before in the history of Barbados has so much attention been paid to roads. There has been road reconstruction for the purpose of providing safer access, tenantry development, highway construction, side-walks, roundabouts; all designed to harmonise the interaction between pedestrian and traffic, and all designed to enhance the quality of life in Barbados and to improve the general socio-economic environment so that we can provide the right atmosphere for accelerated growth for our people.

Under the Government's road construction programme we have said a great deal about the industrial access highway, a project that by itself will cost \$90 million to complete, and work is well in progress for the eventual start of that project around the middle of

January in the new year. Altogether, Sir, our programme of — I would not want to use the word I had in mind — our programme of road construction and highway development is going to cost \$195 million. When one thinks in terms of that volume of resources being put into road construction in Barbados, I do not see how any reasonable person can conclude that there is a programme of neglect such as in recent weeks certain groups have been trying to portray.

Mr. Chairman, by the end of this financial year we will have built 50 subsidiary tenantry roads in this island. The purpose of this supplementary is to permit us, in response to what we regard as an urgent need, to take the opportunity to provide further relief in areas where persons have waited long for these services which I am describing today. There are certain districts in Barbados where people do not have any access at all to their homes. They have to traverse very difficult terrain, shoes in hand, in order to gain access to where they live. They have waited long and they have waited patiently, but help is on the way, and we will be providing relief in some of those areas very shortly. It is because of this accelerated programme, and in order to alleviate what has been described as really substandard conditions, that this supplementary is necessary.

Under the road maintenance and rehabilitation programme we are spending Bds. \$38 million, in association with the World Bank, and this is a maintenance and rehabilitation programme where we have targeted heavily traversed areas in Barbados for road widening. We will be taking out the dangerous bends and unsafe bridges throughout the island, so that the roads, which were built at a different time for a different quality of traffic, will be able to cope with the tremendous stresses being imposed on them by today's vehicular traffic.

From the time I was a boy, Sir, and even long before that, Cleland Hill was unstable, but Cockrow Rock Bridge was able to withstand traffic for which it was designed. But because of the heavy battering that the cement trucks have inflicted upon that bridge, it has been knocked out completely and will now have to be reconstructed. We have to provide temporary access across it, but it will eventually give way when the new Northern Access Road, from the cement plant to Greenland, is constructed, and that will begin in the forthcoming year as well.

12.35 p.m.

If I may go back to the World Bank programme under which \$38 million is targeted, the first project which has been completed under that programme is the Government Hill pedestrian access, the footpath. It is a very attractively designed facility and provides accommodation for the children who go to the Springer Memorial and all of the other schools around Government Hill. It

takes them out of conflict with the traffic on that road and puts them on an elevated foot path, away from danger. That is the kind of attention we are paying to the kinds of problems that existed in Barbados for generations, but which, until now, have been left unattended. It is only the imagination of a Government like this that will draw attention to these kinds of things that people take for granted — we provide the answers — and I do not think there is any person, still with reason, who would quarrel with the Government Hill Project. That was done in association with the World Bank.

Currently under construction is the junction in the road section Smith Corner to Kingsland, that very heavily travelled piece of road on the way to the airport. That is earmarked for improvement, widening and straightening, and that, too, is done in conjunction with the World Bank. That is in progress, at the moment. The section, St. David's via Highway 6, is also under construction.

Lodge Hill, that section of road that connects the British American Tobacco Company — the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves) is over there saying "Thank you" — that connects Lodge Hill with Cave Hill, that road is very narrow and really designed for one lane traffic and is now being widened to make it a safer link between those two important highways.

In addition to that, the very dangerous stretch between Cave Hill and Holders in St. James is also under construction for road widening and straightening. The very narrow access, which has occasioned a great deal of difficulty for buses and trucks going through there by the Meteorological Station, is being widened. I passed through there this morning and the bulldozers are busy cutting back that rock to widen that corner, so we will have a safe stretch of road in there.

International tenders have been invited for three important projects — and the closing date for these tenders, coincidentally, is tomorrow — and these roads are the Warrens to Sturges section, Haggatt Hall to Six Roads and Canewood to Belle Gully, that road that links Jackson with Lears, a very narrow stretch of road, which is going to be widened and straightened. All of this activity is going on at the moment, in this island, and we still have people seeking to convey the impression that the Government is like the honourable Member for St. John (Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow), fast asleep and neglecting its responsibility in so far as road construction and rehabilitation is concerned.

Within the next couple of weeks, a major redesign of the Highway 2 will begin, that is the section that links Mile and a Quarter to Warrens. I travel that road each day, and those of us who know it will recognize that it has been a major artery between the north and south of

Barbados — Mile and a Quarter to Warrens. That road is going to come in for major redesign. It will occasion the removal of some houses in the Westmoreland area. These houses will be resited on lands belonging to Lancaster Plantation. All of those bridges and culverts — the Warleigh Bridge, Whitehall Bridge and Westmoreland Bridge — are going to be redesigned. Westmoreland Bridge is going to be by-passed altogether and the road will be straightened at that junction. We will abandon the whole unsafe 'S' bend at that point, and what we will have is a very modern new road design for Highway 2. That work will start within the next few weeks.

Recognizing, Sir, that we have been experiencing some exceptional rainfall in Barbados over the last two years, which, co-incidentally, is primarily responsible for the very heavy potholing that we are experiencing at this time — it is not neglect on the part of Government. It is that we have had rainfall in Barbados, for two consecutive years, such as we have not had in recent memory. Major flooding has occurred in both years, at Speightstown, Wotton and in other flood-prone areas.

For many years, Speightstown has not been flooded out, but, for two consecutive years, it has experienced flooding. Wotton has experienced heavy flooding and certain low-lying areas. The Bush Hall and the Black Rock areas have experienced exceptional rainfall and they have been flooded out. Rogers Quarry, in my own constituency, as a consequence of those heavy rains, has fallen in, so has Ellis Quarry, to give an idea of the volume of water that the ground has been absorbing over the last 2 years.

Roads, like quarries, built on marl, will suffer when those kinds of unusual rain patterns are present and, therefore, we in Barbados have had our share of road damage during this year. But instead of concentrating on patching, which really is no answer in the face of this kind of weather, we have been doing temporary reinforcement of holes, and in the major areas affected, we have targeted a three-year programme of asphalt overlay. In other words, instead of just going around and patching holes, we are going to go and lay over these highways, which are in pretty bad condition. This will include Highway 1 and Highway 7, among many others. Where roads are now in unreasonably bad shape, we will be overlaying them so that they will have a proper surface restored. We expect that that will be able to alleviate some of the suffering that the travellers of Barbados have been experiencing, and then, as I have mentioned earlier, there are the tenantry and subsidiary roads.

I would just like to give an idea of some of the areas which have been surfaced and roads which have been built in the last couple of weeks. You have Powletts Land in Bush Hall, St. Michael; Reece Land in Bush Hall;

Ellis Road, Bush Hall; Simmons Land, Fairfield; Bromefield, Phase 3 in St. Lucy; Inch Drive in Christ Church; Storehouse Gap, St. James. That work has been completed and work is to start on a whole series of other roads.

12.45 p.m.

What is important, Sir, is that we have not only been relying upon our own resources at the Ministry of Transport and Works. I believe that we have a fairly sophisticated road maintenance plant in Barbados in the hands of the private and public sector, and rather than continue with the slow and, very often, frustrating pace at which some of the work within the Ministry itself is done, we have decided to marshal the resources of the private sector for the purpose of road construction and road maintenance. The Barber Greene overlay programme that I have just described will be handled by the private sector. Many of the tenantry and subsidiary roads which I have just called were completed by the private sector, and others are now in progress at St. Lukes in St. George; Drax Hall in St. George; at St. Thomas, Arthur Seat; and Greenfields in the City. Many of these roads are being done by the private sector and we will continue to rely to a large extent on the private sector for road construction, because it is clear that they are able to work quite a good deal faster than the Ministry of Transport and Works. I am not always convinced that the quality of work is exactly the same, because the Ministry of Transport and Works, though dilatory in many respects, still manages to do some outstanding work. The problem is it costs too much money, and we are hoping that by an accommodation of public sector/private sector resources, we will be able to meet more of the legitimate needs of our people and bring a higher level of satisfaction, so that instead of complaints, legitimate complaints albeit, our people will be able to recognise that we are responding to them and that we are seeking within our resources to provide answers for the problems that they experience.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that I have given enough in terms of introductory remarks on behalf of this Resolution that is before us, and I will now give an opportunity for Members to reply.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. L. A. WEEKES (St. Michael North West): Mr. Chairman, had I not been a resident of this country for nearly all my years, I would have been likely to accept what the honourable Member said. Little does he know that he has now given Barbados an international reputation in respect of the types of roads that we have got. Not so long ago, when we invited some athletes here to

contest the 10K, which is supposed to be a publicity exercise for Barbados, the only complaint, and that is a wheelchair complaint, was that the potholes prevented the person in the wheelchair from doing a much better time. That was his complaint. We go a little further. Even newspapers have decided to sponsor a contest in respect of the bad state of the roads. So certainly the Minister ought not to try to convince himself that, for the limited time he has been there, he has been able to do justice and what we consider fairness to the people of Barbados.

At the outset I would like to say this: building roads generally has never been considered as prestigious as, say, the Ministry of Health or Education. It has always been taken, in my view, as a political tool, primarily because the vast number of people who are likely to be seeking employment are usually people in that area, who would accept that kind of work, and it has a strong voting potential possibly in influencing any election. I can further establish this fact. If you look at the 1985-86 Estimates, the concern is not there. That is only a few months ago. And if you look at the years taking the last 5 year span, if you want to consider the seriousness of the Minister's approach from his speech today, you will find that in this one year, 1985-86, the amount asked for in this Resolution is far more under the same Heads for the last five years. It did not even reach \$5 million. So how come that over the years we have been concerned about road building, and yet still in an election period, because this seems to me to be one of the prime motivations for this Resolution today, we are asking for this sum? I am even surprised it did not come a little earlier, because Christmas is around the corner and there are a number of people in this category who would have been glad to find some form of employment. So I could almost take the Minister's speech as one of trying to convince himself that he is doing well.

History will show you that road building was a continuing process, and it would also show you that we have never had such bad roads. Despite modern technology and better technicians, I believe, our roads are worse than they were before. To say that you spent millions of dollars and not having spent them in the way they should be spent as to get the best out of that money does not necessarily mean that the roads are better. You can spend \$1 million and still have inferior road in the end.

I would like to caution you as you go along. Watch the Spring Garden Highway. You are talking about potholes. One is noticing very carefully that the edges which you have for emergency parking are gradually starting to break away. The problem there is this: as the road eats from the side, it is likely to eat inwards, and as a result, despite the money you spent in doing that road, you may eventually find that you have to spend more in maintenance.

One does not object to having good highways. We are all for them, but at the same time I think your major problem has been a lack of steady maintenance. That is the problem. A pothole does not start as a pothole. I have heard some of the people on Gutterperk calling them gullies and that sort of thing, and it must be true that the driving public is concerned about this serious problem.

We boast about the number of vehicles we have in Barbados, but we can also destroy them, too, and in the end it can have a direct impact on the importation of parts, which in the end takes away some of the money out of the country which we can very well do with here. So that is known — vehicular problems. Parts are expensive and you have that problem.

The other problem we have is the tenantry roads. The Minister just read out some roads, and you can see the political bias. That does not say that roads are not placed in other constituencies, but, as I said, during election periods, obviously, you are going to.....
12.55 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: I am speaking the truth, it is a fact see the bias. So once you have the bias, you are putting not the interest of those who should use the roads but you are putting your self-interest first. And that seems to be a serious problem, because the \$6 million that you are asking for here cannot even scratch the surface of the problem of repairing the roads. The \$6 million is only a means of doing something at election time, in my view, as that is why I am saying that this Resolution tends to bear more heavily on the side of those who need to get assistance at this time rather than the interest of the people who they should serve.

Let us take another problem. I have asked for water in my constituency. The road is no good already. It is not any road. But you put in the water, and one would have thought that this would have been an ample opportunity to do a complete job — not for me — but those people who had to use that road are worse off today than if you did not put in the water and leave — I am not complaining about the water — the road in that condition. If this were done by a private contractor, you had better think about them again because I can never remember — possibly under the Democratic Labour Party Government — where such services were put into operation and the roads were left for people to slide and fall.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Because you did not have any. No water, no gas!)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: I would like to tell you, you stayed away too long from Barbados. We were the people in Barbados that brought water into people's homes, and if I had the records here I would show you that even in my own lifetime, people were fighting at the standpipes. We remove them, we removed the standpipes, but we did not remove them injudiciously. And it was obvious that we had to do it. It was clear why we had to do it.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Oh!)

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: You know that, too.)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: We were continuing a social revolution in Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Education. We could not educate our people and send them to the most prestigious schools in the country and send them at a pipe. We did not only do that, we did not only put water services for them, we made sure that there was electricity. So we gave them a complete reform in respect of those services.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Not in Pool, St. John!)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: So roads were so necessarily a part of the development that we had to make sure that those tenancies which we built were well serviced with roads.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this whole exercise, in my view, should be to relieve the concern of all of those people whom from time to time have found much difficulty in negotiating entrances and exits from their homes. I am not here to take away from anybody what they have done, but if you develop tenancies, it is obvious that you must complete the development, you must put roads in, and if you tell me that this \$6 million is in relation to the whole of Barbados, unless you are going to intimate that you are going to come back for money again, I would call the numbers of the tenancies not even in the country, in St. Michael, where people have been unable to get proper access to their homes.

It is not only that roads must be put in, Sir, they must be properly laid out. I have seen some tenantry roads constructed where the water goes into people's homes. I can mention a case in the Honourable Minister's constituency. You see, I cannot say it is mine, because I have had one or two roads done, but these were roads that the

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Oh, you got some done!)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Yes. These were roads that the Honourable Minister, when he was the representative, promised the people. So he figured obviously, that he had

the opportunity not to do it for myself or the people, but in order to gain down the political road. But he has done it in his own constituency.

Aside.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: That is why you did it. You have nothing to offer but to tell the people that you gave me roads. But you have not given me any. I would have agitated for those roads anyhow.

Mr. Chairman, the question of drainage. They have built roads without even proper slipper drains.

Aside.

(Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You do not give me any roads. He got roads and I have not got any.)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: The result is, as I just mentioned, water flows into the people's homes. Some people have actually said that by building the roads without due consideration water settles under their homes when it rains. I am not blaming the Minister for it, but I am drawing to his attention that if you are going to give out these contracts to the private sector, you need to emphasize the fact that it is not only the roads you are building, but you must make sure that any side effects are taken care of, Sir.

One of the problems which we also find in the development of these tenantry roads is a lack of co-ordination between the utility companies which put down utilities. It amazes me in this particular time of our development that we should be using the middle of the road, in some instances, to put down natural gas or electricity, when under the building exercise, through the Town and Country Planning, there is a certain amount of side road or part of the side of the road which is left for sidewalks. Certainly, that can save some of the expenditure, and you could avoid breaking up the road.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: It goes on the side. In all the new roads, it goes on the side.)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: But the position is that if you spend money today and you allow that to happen, the roads are worse. If you look at some of the roads where some of these utilities have been placed, although the roads were bad already, they are worse now. So that I feel that that should be a consideration in part of your own development plans. I think the island as a whole deserves much better in respect of the road system.

Highway 1 used to be a recognized route, and it was recognized because on that west coast you had the link up from the airport to the hotels on that side. I am sure the Honourable Minister passes there fairly often, and I am sure that when he drives on that road, he himself would want to feel that he should have spent some of the money from another area on that road. It is in very

bad condition. I am not going to worry about potholes, because those are accepted now as part of the pattern, so we look forward now with this kind of Resolution and hope that some of the problems relating to that road will be solved.

Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister does not feel that he has accomplished very much in his period of time. He has not,.....

(Aside: I do not feel, I know!)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: not in respect of roads, for those roads that I just mentioned, people complain daily about. The money you are voting, the \$6 million, I do not know how far it will go. You were very careful not to say which roads are going to be benefitting from this money.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Three months to the end of the next financial year. You come back.)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: You come back for more money.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Yes. You come back.)

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister is *au fait* — he must be — with what I have been saying, and I am sure that he knows that I have been saying it with a genuine interest to have a better road system in the country. I know my time is running out, but before I sit down, Sir, I hope that we will see the benefits of this \$6 million.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You made a poor speech though.)
1.05 p.m.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): I have been watching the gentleman over there, and I only want to intervene, Sir, to give the House the benefit of my views on this, because I have been around here long and I have always advocated that there ought to be no partisan politics in this matter. That is why we increased the vote this year to \$6 million. That is why areas like Hanshell Land and other areas, which for years should have been done, are being done. Those areas do not concern this political party but they are areas that all of us recognise are areas with a lot of population, urban areas, and are deserving of some of the money that has been voted.

The second point that informed the Government's decision is that the Plantation Tenancies Scheme, the development of electricity and the development of water

in the rural areas, necessitated that we do precisely what the honourable Member who just spoke about, namely an integrated programme. So that again there was some attempt in choosing the roads to have a rational basis.

We were able to have surveys done in the country areas, in particular, because of the Plantation Tenancies Scheme. We have devised a programme for the urban areas, including my own constituency, too. Honourable Members will know that if we wanted to do this on a partisan basis, the first priority will be mine, because I am the Minister of Finance and I agree to the supplementary. But Scarborough, Ashby Land, Welches Tenantry, some of Enterprise and a number of those areas have not been included because they are a part of an urban programme that we have submitted for long-term financing to USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank. We are doing it because we want to be able to bring into operation that part of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act that relates to urban tenancies. You will recall that under that Act, there is no question of a restriction on the amount that the landlord can charge, except that if he does not put in the services — roads, water, and lights — he is only entitled to charge on the basis of his current freehold value.

So we have explained that, in respect of those areas, there is a need of some long-term money to ensure that if the landlords do not want to develop, in the same way as in the older days the honourable Member for the City and a Mr. Clarke and others used to develop, like Kensington Lodge, like G. P. Evelyn did Harts Gap — we used to have tenantry developers. Parravicino did Martindales Road and a few others — if we do not have enough of them, now that we have made it clear that we want to have the urban tenancies sold, we will have a backup mechanism. The reason why a large number of urban tenancies, and urban in the sense of stretching from Christ Church right down to St. James, to Speights-town, in particular, because Six Men's in St. Peter is counted as an urban area. Urban Barbados starts from somewhere near the Lighthouse or Chancery Lane, that is still now, right down to St. Lucy, but the second ledge is the boundary, for all practical purposes. That is what has happened in Barbados. All of those tenancies are there. That is why also honourable Members will notice that there have been a lot of advertisements in the newspapers in which the Minister of Housing has designated these tenancies. All of these tenancies are now designated. You can go in, you can hire the surveyors and you can start to lay out the tenancies. And we do not want them to be done in any hodge-podge manner. There is logic behind the whole programme.

I am a proud man of the fact that this Government can say that, since 1976, we have done over 250 tenantry roads — 250 tenantry roads! — since 1976. Anytime you are ready, when the time comes — I do not know why

you are setting up yourself so much for and indulging in a lot of morning-glory gallops instead of waiting to the real time, I do not know what you are doing it for — the facts are going to hang out. Your record in relation to subsidiary and tenantry roads cannot bear comparison with ours, neither on a kilometer basis, a mileage basis nor on any other basis. Two hundred and fifty tenantry roads have been done — 250 roads.

In addition to that, we have the Highway Maintenance Programme and I heard honourable Members talking on that. I know, Mr. Chairman, you are very tolerant and indulgent, because, strictly speaking, this particular vote has nothing to do with highway maintenance.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Telling me? So what? The point is that it does not have anything to do with it.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So what? It is private and tenantry roads. There is another vote. It says so. It is private and subsidiary roads. These were the old roads that, under the Local Government system, were the roads the Local Government people would do. The highway rehabilitation and new construction are different.

I just want to say this, Sir. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition may remember, or he may not remember, that once he made a statement that Barbados may soon find itself in a position where we had to import aggregate from abroad — he said that at one stage, he said that — not because you do not have enough aggregate in Barbados, but because of the nature and quality of our aggregate, it may not be the correct aggregate to put on roads, and that is what we are finding. A large part of the problems that we have can now be scientifically traced to the fact that we have exhausted a number of the good quarries that we have in Barbados and we have to do a research job to find alternate hard stone quarries. There are some here, because we did a geological survey on it. Somebody must tell me — and that is what we are pursuing now — why it is that in a number of the larger projects we have in Barbados, the consultant engineers are saying that the quality of the stone is not hard enough to bear the wear, particularly at the airport. I believe the same thing is happening to some of the roads, and we are going to pursue that.

1.15 p.m.

Cambridge Quarry, the best quarry in Barbados that could meet any specifications, was allowed to go into disuse.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It has nothing to do with us at all. The Government is no quarry owner. As a matter of fact, the Government has taken a decision — we have done a geological survey of it, we have proved that it is a good quarry, we have done all of the work — we are telling the owners to put it out for bid. We are encouraging them to put it out for bid because it is one of the best quarries that are available. We will go further. We will help them, because the specifications that are going to be approved for certain road projects will be such that unless you have hard stone, your quarry is out of contention.

That is what we have been doing, because we know there is an old report from a road research laboratory in Britain about Barbadian roads, and I see it myself. Somebody ought to tell us how it is that the road we built for the deep water harbour in 1960-61 is still good. The only thing wrong with that is, since the sewerage scheme has cut across channels in the road, it has not been properly repaired. That was done with bitumen from Trinidad. I remember when it was done, you had to heat it and it was done with stone from Bagatelle Quarry. They worked Bagatelle Quarry down so deep that the people say it is no longer any good because it is too deep and it costs money to haul up the stone. Those are the problems that we have, and we have to grapple with them. The Government, as I said last week, is aware that this is a major problem and we are doing something positive about it.

They say they have invented a machine now that takes the old Barber Greene road, cuts it up, digs it up, channels it back and recycles the material. That is what they say they have invented now, and we are looking at that too, because I cannot understand how it is that you can put down the Barber Greene, whether private contract or Government Barber Greene, and the first rain falls the thing skins off as though you have a layer, as though it is the top, icing on a cake. It happens, I have seen it myself, so there is something wrong fundamentally with the materials and things of that kind.

The specifications have been tightened up, going right down to the source of the stone. So that when honourable Members hear in the future that the Ministry of Transport and Works has got new specifications in relation to road materials, it is as a result of an analysis being done of the quality of some of the stone coming from some of the quarries, and therefore we have to ensure that it is the right stone being used.

I am not going to say anything more, Sir, other than to point out that, obviously, all the roads of Barbados cannot be done in any time span, because,

perpetually, we have to repair old roads and to build new ones. What I want to see is that with the given amount of money that we spend every year on the roads, the distribution is fair and equitable having regard to the priorities, including the historical anomalies — because you have to remember that there were some historical anomalies that have to be put right — given the fact that we want to do an integrated development, and also given the fact that we want the best value for our money.

I know that whenever I speak about value for money in relation to MTW I get into trouble. I used to be getting into trouble when I was in Opposition, when I was a Minister, and now I am Prime Minister I get into the same trouble, because I do not believe we get value for money, and nobody is going to stop me from saying so, and I do not care who gets offended.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Starting with the Minister you are not getting value for money).

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: It is strange, because when I was in Opposition this Minister was not the Minister, and we still did not get value for money!

Aside.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: No, we are doing it differently this time, we are trying a three-pronged approach. First of all, the capital programme is going to be totally separated from maintenance. We have done that, I announced that last week. From April 1 the Ministry of Transport and Works will have a completely different division, headed by a Permanent Secretary and a Technical Officer, looking after the capital projects. Maintenance and drainage and transport are going to be under a Permanent Secretary and a Chief Technical Officer, too. We must have the best attention being paid to these problems.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: You have not made the right change yet.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: At least we made a change. You never had any change at all, that was your problem. At least we made one!

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Oh, well if you do not do anything, you know you cannot do anything wrong! If you do not build the roads, you cannot see what is wrong with them!

That is the position, and I believe that as a result of the information that we have built up now — we know we have a problem with aggregate, we know we have a problem with supervision, we know we have a problem

with bitumen, we know we have these problems — I trust that when we make the adjustments, we will get value for our money because all of us want all the roads in Barbados to be in the best condition.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: There is no politics in it. You should learn a lesson. In St. Thomas you tried to make an issue over Hopewell Road and we waterlined you in Hopewell. The people know in Barbados that every Government wants to bring all the amenities. Thank God, nearly everybody has electricity, nearly everybody has water and everybody knows that the next thing is roads, and we are coming up. There are 50 in this financial year and 250 over the course of the last 5 to 10 years. That is a record that you all cannot beat.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Chairman, all of us realise that this is that time, a strange time, when a discussion that should be of a serious nature suddenly becomes something very political, and I believe that we have had it all from the Honourable Prime Minister.

The first statement the Honourable Prime Minister made was that he believes that roads should be a non-partisan business. We also believe that, and we have said it, but I would just like to mention some of the things I have been seeing recently which seem to contradict what the Honourable Prime Minister said about the roads being non-partisan.

About two months ago the Honourable Minister of Transport, I think, and his Permanent Secretary and a few other senior personnel in the Ministry of Transport and Works, took it upon themselves to go into St. Philip North in Clifden. They also decided that the candidate who is running against the incumbent in St. Philip North should be there to have his picture taken. This is the candidate of the Barbados Labour Party. I am just trying to get at the point that the Honourable Prime Minister made, that roads are a non-partisan business.

I go further. Recently in St. Michael North the same Minister of Transport journeyed to St. Michael North with senior personnel in the Ministry and took along — well, he did not take him along, I do not think he took him — the candidate who is running against the incumbent. He was there and his picture was taken in a tractor.

I am only saying, Mr. Speaker, that those two persons, and I am only giving examples of two persons,....

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I am sure the honourable Member in his enthusiasm does not want to mislead the Honourable

Chamber, but I have not made any official site visits — me nor my officials in the Ministry of Transport and Works — to St. Michael North.
1.25 p.m.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, a Minister who is not Minister of Transport, or Works, or has nothing to do with roads, was there at the opening of that road — that is what I am getting at — driving a tractor. And it was published as well!

I am getting at the point that the Prime Minister said that roads should be non-partisan. I am saying that justice demands that if roads are to be non-partisan, you either invite the person who is the representative for the area, or you do not invite any. That is what I am saying. So you cannot tell me that you are being non-partisan. Do not invite any! I am not going to dwell on that any further.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am just going to leave it to the honourable Members in here to decide whether or not that sort of position taken by the Barbados Labour Party Government is a non-partisan position.

I go on, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I would be very grateful....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: An honourable Member is on a point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I would hope that Your Honour would really ask the honourable Member to stick to the Resolution because he is really complaining so far about pictures taken one place and another place. He has said nothing about the Resolution. If you are dealing with roads, talk about the roads, but you are complaining about a man having a picture taken. All that is going on is that the man was alert. He heard that somebody was going to take a picture and he got himself there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member has said...

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, on both sides of the House.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: We can all do with a little joke every now and again, and we just had a little joke from the honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. Chairman, in any debate in this House of Assembly of anywhere, it is only normal and natural

that in debating you respond to what is said. Otherwise, it is useless, you could stay outside. If the speaker before me said that the building of roads should be non-partisan, I should respond to what he said. But I am not speaking on that any further, Mr. Chairman, I am going on.

The Honourable Prime Minister stated..... Before I get to the Prime Minister, I will tell you what the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, the Minister of Transport said. He stated that there were 50 tenantry roads built since 1981. That is what he stated. The Honourable Prime Minister stated that.....

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: An honourable Member is on a point of order.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: The honourable Member should go to Confession, because he is repeatedly misleading this House. I said in this financial year 50 tenantry roads were done.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Correction noted. Please continue.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am so glad that the Honourable Minister said that, and I am going to use what he has said now. He has just said that 50 tenantry roads were built this financial year. The Honourable Prime Minister said, and he repeated it twice, that 250 tenantry roads were built since 1976, which means that between 1976 and this financial year, 200 roads were built, and within one year 50 were built. Now, I would like some explanation, because what I am getting at is this — you see what I am getting at, Mr. Chairman? — 250 since 1976, but 50 in the last financial year!

I go on, Mr. Chairman. I want to know what are the criteria used.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The honourable Member continue. An honourable Member must be heard in silence.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what are the criteria used to make certain roads in Barbados a priority, and I am talking about tenantry roads. I would like to know how the Ministry goes about deciding which subsidiary roads should be fixed, which should not be fixed and which are priorities.

You see, Mr. Chairman, I want to tell you something, that for about five years, persons in my parish sent in requests to the Ministry of Transport and Works about certain roads in St. Philip. They were given a

solemn promise by the Ministry of Transport and Works that the roads would be fixed in the next road building programme. Some of these letters they received from the Ministry of Transport and Works over three years ago, and, in fact, in one instance, the persons who took it upon themselves to sign the first letter to the Ministry of Transport and Works decided to sign another one and send to them, just to remind them that they had promised three years ago that the roads would be fixed in the next road building programme. Since then there have been about 10 new road building programmes. Nothing has been done.

Let me tell you something. Two roads have been fixed — I am speaking about St. Philip South — that I know of in the five years, in the four and a half years that I have been in here. I will tell you the two; Berlin Road in Woodbourne — that was fixed under the former Minister, the Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. Blackman) — and Burkes Road, which was fixed about four years ago. Not another subsidiary road in St. Philip was fixed in the past four years, not another one!

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: How about Train Road?)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I would invite the Minister to come and have a look at the Train Road, and I will advise the Minister that it is better if he allows me to speak in silence — I want him to keep quiet — than to warm me up, because the Minister has to understand that he has done nothing in his term of office to enhance his reputation. Nothing! Whether the Government is non-partisan or not, people believe that that Honourable Minister is concentrating heavily on certain areas to the detriment of other areas. I am not saying it is true, but people believe that.

I am saying this, Mr. Chairman. There are subsidiary roads in St. Philip — and I am not talking about back roads, I am talking about roads that are used heavily — that are almost impassable. When there is rain, people cannot go to church. What I am telling you is true, because the Train Road, Nursery No. 2, Harlington, Gemswick are roads that, when rain falls on Sundays, people cannot go to church, and not a single thing is being done about them.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: That is not true.)

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I am saying this. I listened when the Honourable Minister was speaking. I took up my pen, because when he first mentioned that 50 tenantry roads were done in this financial year, I put a note to ask him where were the tenantry roads done because I wanted him to call them out. In his speech he got around to calling out the roads and I took up my pen to write

down any one that would have been in St. Philip. I still have my pen in my hand at this present time. I have not written down a single one, so when I am speaking about St. Philip, I know what I am speaking about.
1.35 p.m.

I go further now, Mr. Chairman, because I believe that subsidiary roads and maintenance are not the only aspects about roads. I believe the trenches have a very important part to play, and what has been happening recently, Mr. Chairman, is that the trenches are not being cleaned, and those few trenches that are being cleaned, when they are cleaned, the stuff is being left at the side of the road only to be washed back in the trenches. When the rain falls — this is the problem, and this is one of the main problems we had in St. Philip recently with the rains — because the trenches were not cleaned, the water could not run through the trenches, it backed up on the road and went out into people's houses. I will have a lot to say about this part of it, this flooding in St. Philip, at another time in this House of Assembly when an appropriate Resolution is brought in here.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Chairman, I heard a lot of talk on the floor this morning about political partisanship in respect of the tenantry road programme, and I can speak to this. In 15 years, between 1961 and 1976, not one road was ever done in the City of Bridgetown until May 1976 — I remember it clearly — the evening before the election day, the 12th May, Tom Adams and I were in a mini moke and drove on the roads in the New Orleans when the Barber Greene was still smoking. It was so hot it was still smoking, so I can speak to this. Mr. Chairman, in all those years — and I am not talking about Broad Street, Swan Street and Roebuck Street, because that is not where my constituents live — there were parts of the City of Bridgetown which never ever in the history of Barbados had roads, like Greenfields, like Cats Castle. They have roads today, and I want to appeal to the Minister of Transport and Works to continue his programme for tenantry roads in the City of Bridgetown.

First Avenue and 2nd Avenue Chapman Lane never saw roads. Now the people are walking on roads with slipper drains and proper drainage. Last Saturday evening a man said to me, standing on the said road in Chapman Lane: "My lady, way back in Mottley time they said it could not happen, that the land out here belonged to too many different people, that it could not be done. I never thought that I would live with my grey hairs to see road out here." That is what he told me. I took the greatest possible pleasure to drive all through Greenfields — drive! — Cats Castle, Chapman Lane and all like Man Gap in Passage Road that is waiting now to be designated a

tenantry by the Ministry of Housing and Lands. They, too, will get roads for the first time in the history of Bridgetown.

So I know about political partisanship when it comes to tenantry roads, Mr. Chairman, and it falls ill from the mouth of the honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman) to be saying that in St. Philip they have suffered for lack of roads. I have driven in St. Philip in this year, 1985, and marvelled at the number of roads that I saw under repair in the parish of St. Philip. Yes, Mr. Chairman, it is not my fault if he does not know where to go in his constituency and find that roads have been under extensive repair. It was so bad, Mr. Chairman, that it caused me to come back to town and approach the Minister of Transport and Works and ask him, 'How is it that it has taken me nearly nine years in the City of Bridgetown to get this road programme underway?' And I have a file this thick, from 1976 I have been struggling with this, and all through St. Philip the people were in the road. I was not driving through at night. This was the middle of the day when workmen were on the road actually doing the road works.

I am pleased and I would want this programme to continue, and it is my business to submit a further list for the City of Bridgetown to the Minister of Transport and Works in respect of tenantry roads, because it is not only now a fact of the tenantry roads themselves that people are looking at. The banjo strings have gone; proper four inch and eight inch mains have been laid. You see, Mr. Chairman, there is something that people in urban Barbados — and the most urban of all, of course, are the people of the City of Bridgetown — clearly understand. They understand that that momentous piece of social legislation, the tenancies legislation, does not only apply to the rural tenancies. The Government started off with the rural tenancies. People are glad to hear that they can buy the land and that the landlords cannot sell it to them for more than ten cents a square foot, and the people in urban Barbados now fully understand that this tenancies legislation applies to them as well.

The City of Bridgetown is composed of many tenancies in the uptown area, south of the bridge here. It is almost exclusively tenancies in what we call Uptown. Downtown there are many tenancies, and the people are very glad to hear that they, too, are going to get a chance to be able to buy the land that they and their ancestors have lived on for years, to hear that the plots are going to be properly surveyed and aligned by surveyors, to hear that monies are going to be available, to hear that ten cents a square foot applies to them as well, and to hear that part of that whole operation means that tenantry roads have to be properly laid, and where they already exist, have to be upgraded.

Mr. Chairman, I give my fullest support to this.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member who just sat down made a very loud speech, Sir, and I think that she is entitled to shout for the City, because she represents the City, and for the rest of the short time she has in that capacity, I think she should shout for the City. But I will say this: there are some words which she uttered which I hope she and the rest of the Government will wish to apply in other parts of urban Barbados. Since she utters the words for the City, I will use those words.

I first wish to look at the policy with regard to roads which this \$6 million we are voting will deal with. You will recall, Mr. Chairman — I know you will vividly recall — that I have said on more than one occasion that I believe the programme for road building should be made public in advance so that various people in various areas will have some kind of schedule, some kind of idea of when their roads may be fixed. I have said that over and over again in here.

Furthermore, I believe that it is well remembered that I have put on record in this House a letter which I wrote to the Minister responsible for Communications and Works. I wrote a letter in 1981 to the then Minister responsible for Communications in which I outlined that, for 40 years, the people living in the area which I have the honour to represent, embracing Hindsbury Road all the way around to Bridge Gap in Black Rock, that entire area, had not seen a single, solitary road built in the area which I outlined. I outlined all of those areas, and it is on the Record of this Chamber that the then Minister of Communications and Works, the honourable Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. Blackman) accompanied me on a trip throughout the constituency in 1981 and he committed himself to repairing and building some of the roads in the constituency. I well recall his saying that he thought that he had bad roads in his constituency, in Licorish Village, but the roads which I took him through in the constituency in what is now St. Michael West were the worst roads he had seen in his existence in public life. The honourable Member for St. Michael East said that. He soon ceased to be a Minister of Transport and Works, but before he did, he caused a road in a place called Prescod Bottom to be fixed, I say without fear of contradiction that the way in which we got that road fixed was to let an error that perpetrated itself in the decision-making process, that that area fell within the ambit of the honourable Member for St. Michael Central, to continue, and so Prescod Bottom got fixed. Prescod Bottom was the only road in the outline of that constituency that was fixed until a few weeks ago.

1.45 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Prime Minister is now able to get up and throw in Hanschell Land. He used the name "Hanschell Land" and threw it in kind of casually, because a few weeks ago, Sir, some trucks turned up and started dropping some marl on the road that constitutes Hanschell Land.

Now, Sir, the honourable Member for the City said, as she discussed the roads in her constituency, that they can look forward to knowing that the lands will be, "properly surveyed and aligned." She said that they would have "slipper drains and proper drainage." Those are her words, and the impression I got from her is that the Government, when it is doing the tenantry roads, will ensure that these basics are completed before or during the time they are fixing the roads.

In Hanschell Land, Sir.....

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: You opposed it.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: a few weeks ago they came and they started dropping some marl in the same way, Sir, that I have caused 28 loads of marl to be dropped in the constituency during the last year. I have been instrumental in dropping 28 loads of marl in the constituency in the last year, and now the Government comes and starts dropping marl! They have not aligned a single one of the roads! They have not in any way surveyed a single one of the lots!

Hanschell Land is the largest tenantry of its kind anywhere in the urban area. I wrote to the Minister about a week before they dropped the marl, drawing to his attention the letter that I had written to the previous Minister, because the rains were falling in Barbados and people living in the various areas of my constituency, which are too numerous for me to call in the 15 minutes, were suffering not only from bad drainage, not only from water, not only from mud, but were suffering from the indecency of having large pools and rivers of water long after the rain stopped — so they suffered from health problems. Only Friday of last week we had to try again to get the Ministry of Transport and Works to come and pump off water from under the house of a woman who lives in the road which is now becoming famous, where there is a baker shop. It is called Taylor's Gap to some. We got the water pumped off on Monday. This is a continuous thing.

But in Hanschell Land, they are dropping the marl, they are spreading it out, like how the people come and spread it out when I drop it down, now they have the rock crusher rolling over it, and I am told that when that is finished, they would put some tar over it. Well, Sir, to be honest, anything they do in Hanschell Land would be an improvement, so I cannot be heard to be saying that

they should not do what they are doing, because a half a loaf is better than no loaf at all. I would say this, however. I do not understand how the Minister can feel that the beloved people of Fairfield would need slipper drains, sidewalks, Barber-greened road; the people in Spooner's Hill would need the same things, slipper drains, well-lined up roads, curbs; the people in St. Stephen's would have the same thing, all of these are beloved people, Sir — I do not understand why the Minister would feel that those people would need those kinds of facilities but the people in Hanschell Land would be alright with some marl and the rock crusher rolling over it. I have no doubt, Sir that that is not an expression of partisanship. I have no doubt that it is merely an oversight on the part of some low level official, who clearly could not have understood the Minister's direction when the Minister said, "Fix the road in Hanschell Land."

(*Aside:* Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Do not curse the low level official.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Now I am told by the honourable Member for St. Andrew that I should come back up to the Minister and, therefore, that it is the Minister. He is saying that it is the Minister who I should deal with. Well, I will deal with the Minister.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I believe that the Minister's intentions are honourable. How could I not believe that, Sir? He is an honourable man. We are in an honourable place.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But I know, and the people of that constituency know, that when Steptoe and Son come through and tell them that they are fixing the road out of their own pocket.....

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Who are Steptoe and Son.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Steptoe and Son — the two ignorant people you have walking about the constituency both of whom were discarded from the Democratic Labour Party. Two rejects from the Democratic Labour Party going through the constituency telling the people that they are fixing the road out of their own pocket! Such a stupid lie! They pass and see the road being fixed, run up behind them and then tell the people that he is fixing the road out of his own pocket. Such a stupid and puerile lie! But that is in keeping with the nature of the man.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, please. Let us get ahead with the debate.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am continuing and.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes more.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: naturally, Sir in so doing, I categorically deny I had any photograph of anybody, including Sir Grantley, from the Labour Party in my house, Sir.....

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: A national hero!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, those asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: and I do not appreciate the honourable Member saying so,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, those asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: and I categorically deny it. You can strike that from the Record, too. Categorically deny it!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Anyhow, Sir, I was saying.....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: that the honourable Members on that side, when they are talking about roads in the constituencies, when they are talking about how they treat the people, they seem to believe that the people of this country are beggars, who, on certain occasions, like near an election, they can go around to and drop little bits and pieces into their palms. They seem to feel that all they have to do, Mr. Chairman, is to bludgeon the people for four years and then, subsequently go around and offer them droplets, and then the people would be so grateful — they have been hitting their heads against the wall because they like the way it feels when they are struck!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member for St. Andrew... I am winding up, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I do not challenge your ruling, Sir, but I started after a quarter to two, so my time could not be up. I will sit down. I just draw to your attention that I started when the honourable Member stopped talking.

Asides.

1.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member knows his rights in this Honourable Chamber. The honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I have sat here for the past 15 minutes and heard the most vapid speech ever delivered in this Chamber since I came in here in 1976. The honourable Member for St. Michael West believes in histrionics — anything you want to say — believes in sensationalising — you want to correct that, too? — and believes in saying things about people in their presence, and your party as well, which you do not say when they are absent.

You mentioned a letter which you wrote to a Minister in 1981. That Minister must be, unless I am wrong, the honourable Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. Blackman), who was praised by every single member of the Opposition on the last occasion we met, that he sought to do everything that was right during his period as Minister of Transport and Works, and that everything was done to inhibit the style and approach which he brought to his Ministry. Now, in his absence, you take the opportunity, and I refer to the honourable Member for St. Michael West, to say that you wrote him a letter and nothing was done.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: The honourable Member is misrepresenting the House. Sir, you heard my speech. I said that I wrote the honourable Member a letter, and that the honourable Member accompanied me on a trip, that he promised to do something and soon thereafter he ceased to be Minister. Now, please!

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I do not know what the honourable Member is trying to prove. It is not a point of order. It is no point at all.

What you tried to convey is that nothing was done for you and that you had written that honourable Member. You are just trying to be smart, as you have always been. You are trying to convey the impression that something was wrongly done to you, that the honourable Member, who is not now in his place, insisted on doing wrongs to you. But when he was in his place he was holier than thou.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: The Chairman has to determine what is a point of order.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member in on a point of order. Let the Chairman get a chance to get some sort of procedural matters straightened out. You may now continue.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: There is a rule in this House that no Member should consistently misrepresent the speech of another Member. I submit that the honourable Member for St. Andrew, either because he was not here when I spoke, or, out of a sense of what I cannot describe, is continuously misrepresenting what I said, and I ask Your Honour to get the record, if necessary, to satisfy that point, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member must know that he can speak for 15 minutes again. You will have another chance to speak and you can bring all these matters to the Committee.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, but I have a duty to the House when an honourable Member

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are explaining your situation, and it is not a point of order. Please sit down.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member is a fussy and confused thinker whose mind is never clear. That is his problem. He has a feeling that he can come in here Tuesday after Tuesday and pontificate and nobody must tell him that he is wrong. You are totally wrong. What you sought to do on your side last Tuesday was to cause the honourable Member for St. Michael East to feel that you regard him as a paragon of virtue and all that he did in that Ministry was right, and everybody else was wrong, and in his absence you seek to portray that, even though he walked with you, he was not necessarily with you. That is a fact, and you cannot dispute it as much as you would like.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: And what is your point of order? You are confusing the House. You are a pure nuisance. That is what you are.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have two honourable Members on their feet. Both honourable Members will

sit when I rule. An honourable Member has called for a point of order. An honourable Member wants to be heard on a point of order. Let us have your point of order, please.

Is the honourable Member on a point of order? Do you want to continue?

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) and the honourable Member for St. Andrew (Hon. L. B. Brathwaite) were ordered by Mr. Chairman to be expunged from the Record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister may continue.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member said that the only road he got done in his constituency was at Prescod Bottom, until he heard something about Hanschell Land. You should be glad you got something. There are people who got nothing. I can recall very vividly, as the first Minister of Communications and Works who was appointed on this side in 1976, that I undertook a survey of your constituency, along with officials, and gave instructions that work should be done. If work was not done — and I left in a very short time, Mr. Chairman — nobody can blame me.

There is one thing I want to tell you. I listened with great interest to the speech made by the honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman), and do you know what surprised me? There were people in St. Philip who, because they were hostile to the then representative, Mr. Reynold Weekes, found it extremely difficult to get a road which was starting to go through, and that road was somewhere around Rices. I have mentioned this before. Mr. Weekes felt that because a man who lived in that area was not sympathetic to the cause of his party, and I mean the Democratic Labour Party, the road should not go through.

When I came in, the honourable Member for Christ Church West — he is not in his seat, but if he were here, he could confirm what I am saying — that not a single road was done in his constituency by the representative. Further, Mr. Chairman, where the honourable Member who sits opposite now has the honour to represent, nothing whatsoever was done in that area until I came in and this Government came in, and during my time, for that constituency alone seven roads were put in.

I do hate to say it, and I hope that my constituents would not read or even hear what I say, but I did very little for myself in my own constituency. I had faith in them. I felt that they would harken to my call at the time when I called and that they would return me, and they was no problem with my return. Some people are

too concerned about their electoral fortunes. They behave as though life would come to an end if they lose a seat. I do not see a seat in those terms. I see a seat in terms of serving people and doing what I can during my time.
2.05 p.m.

Wilkinson Road in Richmond Gap; do you know that road? You seem to be so dazed and confused

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: What has happened to it?)

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: You are so confused! I do not know if a Nassar or Mohammad Nassar is confusing you. I am hearing today all kinds of strange things. The Prime Minister did not tell you, I will tell you more about Richmond the next time I speak. I am speaking after you, I am shadowing you on these matters. Somebody is shadowing me and I am shadowing you. I will speak when you come back again. The Prime Minister did not tell you and I can tell you for your own benefit now, because you would not know this, since you are not in the seat of power parading on the television and on the radio and monopolising all areas of activity in this country when you were the Minister, and doing nothing, that the World Bank has a project for that constituency, which will come into being very shortly, which will totally transform the landscape of that constituency.

You are not going to thank me for it now. You are not capable of thanking anybody for anything that is good, and therefore I am not expecting you to thank me for anything, or this Government. At least you would be foolish to thank this Government or foolish to thank me, and therefore I am not going to quarrel with you for that. But there is one thing I want to tell you, do not let us get too mixed up and too confused with these problems. We are in a fighting mood. You do not understand that. You think that we are like you who are in disarray and do not know where you are going, but we know. I will tell you that we have always been a very united force. If you study our history, you will see even in defeat we are a united force.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Why do you have to say it?)

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Do you mean I should not say that? Mr. Chairman, the folks are begging and I want to ease them up and give them an opportunity to feel that we do not want to press them more than is necessary.

We have heard a lot of talk here as to what this Government has done and what it has not done, but nobody is questioning the record. All you are saying is, it might not have done something some place or the other. I am not entirely pleased with what is being done in my

constituency. The Honourable Minister of Transport and Works will tell you that I am constantly at his throat as far as my constituency is concerned, but it does not prevent me from recognising the tremendous work which he is doing in the country overall. The type of parish pump politics that I have been seeing here even from the Right Honourable Leader of the Opposition, coming in here with a few "nay nay" questions on roads in his constituency, I have never seen him do that before — tells you that something is wrong somewhere and that there is a fear, advertisements and all. We are not accustomed to that, Mr. Chairman, we are accustomed to putting forward things in a very positive and straightforward way. The Democratic Labour Party at the moment cannot even understand that the public does not know what they are doing or what road they are taking. In other words, the road they are taking is a road of confusion and misunderstanding of the total facts as presented.

This is not a question of building roads on the basis of any politics. I do not believe in my time, and I have not seen it done in this time either. The Prime Minister quite rightly adverted to the fact of the historical imbalance. During the Democratic Labour Party's time nobody had a say, you could not raise your voice. You talk about people in fear? The country was in fear. It was the advent of the Barbados Labour Party that brought a form of tranquility to this country and politics, such that people were able to come out. Mr. Chairman, do you think that under the Democratic Labour Party, the type of freedom you get in CBC today you would get during the reign of the Democratic Labour Party in CBC? No way!

Aside.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: We are dealing with roads and therefore roads have a relationship to what is being said and what is being advertised.

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: is a worthy Resolution, and while the Democratic Labour Party, the Opposition, will see it necessary to criticise at every stage, they will not stop this party from moving forward.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
2.15 p.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I indicated that I would give notice of some Resolutions. I have the Notice Paper and I would like to give notice of the following:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$11 624 243 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1985–86, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1985–86, No. 17, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$519 513 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1985–86, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1985–86, No. 18 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour, until 3.20 p.m. today for lunch.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 3.20 p.m. for lunch was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
2.20 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House reverted to Committee of Supply, Mr. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Resumed)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Does any other honourable Member wish to speak to this Head?

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: What is the Head, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 84 — Ministry of Transport and Works. Private Tenantry and Subsidiary Roads.

The honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, this is a Head that I am sure probably affects every single Member in this House, and every Member is going to feel quite passionately about matters pertaining to his particular constituency.

Sir, I have listened carefully to the honourable Members on the other side who have spoken. I paid particular attention to what the Prime Minister had to say, the Minister of Transport and Works and all Members who spoke. It would appear to me, Sir, as one observing the development of events in Barbados, that the strategy of the Barbados Labour Party has been to allow the roads in this country to run down. It appears to be a deliberate strategy to allow the roads in this country to run down so that at a particular time they will be seen to be very busy and very active, and the time which I am referring to is the time close to General Elections. This is nothing new with them. They did it before. It was done with the economy in the earlier stages of this Government in 1976, and so on, and now an identical strategy seems to be employed by the Minister of Transport and Works.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order: I really do not think that it is in keeping with the Standing Orders of this Chamber for honourable Members to come in here and impute improper motives. I think it is quite serious for a Member to say that a Minister of Transport, the Government, as a deliberate policy, allowed the deterioration of roads in Barbados for the purpose of doing them on the eve of an election. I think that is grossly improper, and I would like to hear Your Honour's ruling on the matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is a matter of opinion. I do not feel it is a breach of the Standing Orders.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: It is a matter of opinion. That is my analysis of what is taking place. It is only an analysis on my part, and maybe the analysis of other people, but if it is not so, he has an opportunity to come and refute what I am saying. He has spoken before and he is able to speak several times on this Resolution. But that is what I believe. I honestly believe it.

Another point in relation to road repair. I have noticed that in recent times — now, they have blamed it on the *Advocate*, it is blamed on the picture — that when road patching is done, even with the work that has been put in to repair those roads, those roads no longer hold up. They hardly last more than a few weeks, and it cannot always be blamed on the rain or the heavy traffic.

The system employed nowadays in the patching of roads is completely different from the system employed 10 years ago. Ten years ago road patching would involve digging around the hole a bit more to remove what loose material is there, then filling it in, rolling it and applying the oil. Today, Sir, what is being done is that a liquid is being taken and poured into a hole. Nothing is being done about the loose material that was in there before. When road patching is done in this way, it is my opinion — and I believe that the events would bear out what I

am saying and corroborate it — that those holes reappear after a few weeks, so that the final state is worse than the first and deterioration of the road continues. I have seen that carried on in several places.

Of course, road weeding is something of the past. No more road weeding is done. I am not making any sport. The Ministry is making sport about that. They are making sport about it. Anyone driving around the roads of this country where you do not have slipper drains will observe that weeds and shrubs not only have filled up the gutters, but are now beginning to grow into the roads and are making the roads of this country smaller. There are already narrow roads in this country, but now those roads are being made narrower by the fact that no road weeding is done anymore and the shrubs are now overgrowing the roadways.

3.25 p.m.

Sir, the honourable Member mentioned St. Davids. What is happening in St. Davids is that the gutters are now being eliminated completely, and what was a gutter before is now becoming part of the road. So where the water used to flow in the gutters, that same water is now flowing in the roads, so in fact the road has now become one giant gutter creating all kinds of problems in terms of flooding for people, because the gutters used to lead to some well somewhere or something like this. But this is not happening now any more. This is between St. Davids leading towards Bannatyne. This is what is happening with that road over there. I live in that direction and I have seen what is going on. The gutters are being taken away. The equipment is cutting into what one used to call the plantation hedgerow and all that is taken away and the gutters filled in, and gutters are now becoming part of the roads. So these are some of the problems I think the Ministry would have to look into.

Now, Sir, there is also another problem, and it is a problem, I believe, to do with co-ordination between the respective departments, whether it be within the same Ministry or co-ordination between that Ministry and a department outside that Ministry. I am going to give an example in my own constituency, at Lodge Terrace, where the roads have been broken up there now for months for the purpose of laying some gas mains. A little in-filling has been done with the stuff that has been taken out. That has now sunk, so that in some parts of the road where that drain has been dug in order to accommodate the gas pipe, that drain, I call it, is a good 4 or 5 inches lower than the rest of the road.

I believe that there should be greater co-ordination between the respective departments, so that when one work is complete, the Ministry of Transport and Works, if that is its responsibility, and I believe it is, ... I believe that is the Ministry that is responsible for road repair,

road maintenance and road building in this country. I believe it used to be the case, and I assume it still is, that those departments that dug up or caused roads to be dug up pay an estimated sum into the Ministry to have those road redone. If it is not now the case, I think the Ministry should in fact again have a good look to see if they should not continue that policy.

I know that in the Lodge Hill area there is some work going on. There was a crying need for that road to be widened for some time. As a matter of fact, there is a dangerous bend, what I call an "S" bend, somewhere in that road. But not far away from that road and just off West Road, in the same constituency of St. Michael North, there is a road best described as leading to where the Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Barbados lives, Mr. Harley Moseley. That road is one giant pothole. The whole of that road is one pothole!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I take it the honourable Member has won the prize.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Do you mean Mr. Moseley? Mr. Moseley won a prize?

On that road that leads to West Road, Mr. Chairman, right to the end of that road is a pothole. Very seldom can one see just glimpses of what used to be called a tar road there previously.

(*Aside:* Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: That is Clermont.)

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The Minister calls it Clermont. It is where people live and people pay taxes. I do not care what you call it, it is road. I see the roads in Regency Park, Elizabeth Park and so on repaired, and people pay taxes where these people live. That road is ridiculous, that road is bad, and I am inviting the Honourable Minister to have a good look at that road.

They say some of this is for subsidiary roads, but there are no roads that lead to these places where people live, so roads will have to be put in. I am referring to the old settlement off Hinds Hill. I think a golden opportunity may have passed, I am not yet sure, Sir, when the new Husbands/Hinds Hill Development was put in to continue that road so that persons who live up there, and there are lots of persons who live up there, could be facilitated, but a golden opportunity was passed, or allowed to pass, when the opportunity could have been taken to do something for the people living in that area. When it rains, Sir, I do not know how those people get out of their homes. The same applies to people living off Well Road or Well Gap, whatever you care to call it. They need some road on which they can walk because, frankly, they are just paths, not even lanes, and paths of mud when it rains, and they certainly need something to assist them.

I am very glad to hear the Honourable Prime Minister say that the approach to these matters should be non-partisan. I am not so sure if the Prime Minister's own feeling on this particular matter has been communicated to the Minister. Mark you, Sir, I myself cannot complain, because there is some work going on in my area at this very moment.

Aside

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I said I am not complaining. I am stating a fact. Let us carry this non-partisan approach to its logical conclusion.

Aside

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I am not disagreeing with any other honourable Member on this side who has spoken. I am saying that the Prime Minister has not indicated his own feeling on that matter to the Minister. I am also saying that there is work going on in my area, and I am further saying that that approach should be taken to its logical conclusion, and when those roads are being opened, I would expect that if a road in St. Lucy, for example, is being opened, that if the Minister himself cannot open the road or some official from the Ministry of Transport and Works, the representative for the area would do it, not just a candidate for the area. That is not what I would consider a non-partisan approach. So that non-partisan approach should be taken to its logical conclusion, so that, when these roads are open, no interloper should come in and be seen to be driving tractors and that kind of thing opening the roads. Of course, I am glad that proper levels of employment are found for certain people. I am very happy about that, but the point I am making, Sir, is that these matters should be attended to.

Before I take my seat, I want to invite the Minister to have a good look at Airlie Tenantry Road. I sat here in my place sometime ago and I understood the late Prime Minister to say that Airlie Tenantry Road would become part of the Airport to West Coast development. But that is not the position, that is not the route that that road is going to take, and since that is not the route that it is going to take — it is going to pass through Airlie but not where the tenantry road is — I want to invite the Minister to have a look at that road, because that road is in dire need of repair. Here again, Sir, the potholes are not as bad in terms of volume as the road off the West Road I referred to earlier, but that particular pothole, Sir, is probably as big as any that has been advertised, the one in Airlie Tenantry Road.
3.45 p.m.

I believe, Sir, that what we are doing today in terms of providing \$6 million for the Ministry can only scratch the surface for what is required to carry out the tremendous repair work that is required in this country.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I think the classic statement in this debate came from the mouth of the Prime Minister when he made a plea that we should take partisanship out of this debate on the roads. There was nothing classic about that statement in itself, but in the fullness of his statement when he went on to say, "And that is why we have increased the vote this year." I could see him speaking with tongue-in-cheek as he uttered those words, as we approach the election.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: He has a lot of cheek!)

Mr. M. A. KING: I think the point had been made by my colleague from St. Michael North West (Mr. P. M. Greaves) about the monies which have been spent by the Ministry of Transport and Works in relation to the repair of tenantry and subsidiary roads over the years. He did not want to quote the figures, but when one looks at the figures, it makes interesting reading. For instance, in 1980-81, the amount spent under this Head was \$1.8 million; 1981-82, \$1 million; 1982-83, I do not have the actual amount spent but the amount approved was \$1 million. Significantly, in 1983-84 a token vote of \$10 000 was approved, and, in fact, nothing was spent on subsidiary and tenantry roads in 1983-84. In 1984-85, approved was \$1.5 million, and in 1985-86, the last Estimates approved \$1.2 million for this year, plus this supplementary now of \$6.4 million. So that in the year just prior to the election - we are running into the election - we have an amount of \$7.6 million altogether allocated for tenantry and subsidiary roads. So that the Prime Minister's statement that that is why we have increased the vote this year

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No Sir! I am glad the honourable Member gave way, because I have to rise on a point of elucidation, Sir. I really have to rise on a point of elucidation. It was also pointed out, Sir, very early, on many occasions, that it was also because of the fact that the major road programme had been delayed, so we had more money to spend. So we brought forward this one while the other one was delayed.

Aside.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: The figure for the Estimates.)

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. M. A. KING: The fact that more money has been spent on roads and capital works is no point when

we are considering the issue of tenantry and subsidiary roads, because - do not mind that that programme was delayed - the Prime Minister himself made the point that in this debate we were dealing with the issue of tenantry and subsidiary roads and rapped the Minister, his own Minister, for taking us down the wrong path, so to speak, in dealing with the overall capital roadworks programme generally. In fact, the Minister was clever in his attempt to do this, because what he was trying to do in talking about all the capital works which the Government had done, and seeking to impress on us the quality and the quantity of those works, was to divert attention from the chaotic and very depressing state in which the tenantry and subsidiary roads had fallen, and the lack of attention of which this Government had been guilty in relation to the tenantry and subsidiary roads.

The point has been made that not only has there been neglect of the tenantry roads, but there has been neglect of the roads in Barbados altogether. I am not going to spend any time at all dealing with the major highways, because we are dealing with tenantry and subsidiary roads

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We neglected them?)

Mr. M. A. KING: but just imagine that all sectors of opinion in this country from time to time have to comment on the state of the roads in Barbados, including the private, tenantry and subsidiary roads! And we have reached even the ridiculous state of affairs where we get the Minister himself calling in on a programme to report a pothole in his constituency. Can anything be more absurd than that? The Minister of Transport and Works calling in on a call-in programme.....

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Shame!)

Mr. M. A. KING: to report a pothole in his own constituency! That is absurd!

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Shameful!)

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You said he is taking all for himself.)

Mr. M. A. KING: Now the fact is, Mr.....

(Aside: For you and the nation.)

Mr. M. A. KING: We do not worry about the pothole competitions, whoever wins, that is a matter for them. Look in the Nation and you would see who wins pothole competitions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member must address the Chair, please. No cross talk.

Mr. M. A. KING: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that it is clear that a lot of attention needs to be given not only to the repair but to the construction of private tenantry roads, because as the tenantry programme develops..... and this Government has a habit of talking about this dramatic bit of legislation which they have passed in providing for tenants to own plantation tenancies, but yet we find that, although the legislation is in place, the facilities are not in place and are not being given attention to enable the tenants to enjoy access to the lands of which they boast they have given them the opportunity to own.

(*Aside*: Mr. B. M. TAITT: Shameful!)

Mr. M. A. KING: Now in the constituency, Mr. Chairman, which I have the honour to represent, I have a large number of tenancies which need roads, and I hope that the Minister of Transport and Works, with the funds now available to him as a result of this vote in this House today, will find time to pay some little attention to some of the tenantry roads in my own constituency, among others, because it is in the tenancies that the heart and soul of the people of Barbados reside. I would invite the Minister to pay some attention, for instance, to Seales Land in Sargeants Village. In respect of that area, the Minister would recall that I had done a petition for the residents in that area and sent to the Ministry of Transport and Works some years ago. The letter was acknowledged. I believe some officers from the Ministry of Transport and Works went and looked at the area, but that is as far as they have got. In Browne's Gap, Sargeants Village as well, the roads in that area are in a terrible state. Briar Hall near Kendall Hill in Christ Church, in the older part of Silver Hill, particularly near west of Wiegand's Furniture Factory, in Boarded Hall, in Lower Greys, Dayrells Hill and Frere Pilgrim, these are all areas where plantation tenancies have developed and people have the right to buy their lands, but the people are very loath to exercise the option to purchase in view of the fact that the roads and the other infrastructural facilities have not been provided for them. So when the honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, the Minister of Transport and Works, talks about people waiting long for relief and that relief is now at hand, I hope those words of the Minister can bear some fruit in relation to the people of the tenancies of Christ Church West Central who are desperately in need of a proper means of access to and from their homes.

3.45 p.m.

So that altogether, Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Minister of Transport and Works and the Government are at last paying some attention to this vital aspect of the development of the road system in Barbados, because they have been wont to pay too much attention to the development of the super highways, to the neglect of the areas where the people of Barbados really live. It is about time that some attention, and proper attention, should be

given to them in the provision of proper private tenantry and subsidiary roads.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I too welcome the assurance from the Prime Minister that the whole idea of roads should not be treated as a parochial matter but as a national one. And this is even more important with the introduction of the Transport Levy, because all of us, whenever we approach the people that we have the privilege to represent, the first thing they always say is that they are paying their Transport Levy and yet they are having so many problems with the roads.

I want to start my contribution to this debate by inviting the appropriate Minister to comment on a matter which is very close to me. I have noticed in the papers over the last 7 days or so that some 11 tenancies have been declared, under the Tenancies Development Act, 1980-54, as designated tenancies under a particular Order. Some 2 years ago, after having a meeting with the residents of Lynch's, I, on behalf of the residents of Lynch's, under Section 3 of that Act — where the Minister acts on his own initiative or at the request of the majority of the tenants in the tenantry — invited the appropriate Minister to consider having Lynch's designated as a tenantry under the Tenancies Development Act 1980-54. I spoke on this matter a year ago. The Minister on that occasion brought to my attention that he had not seen it and I promised the Minister that I would send an additional copy. I sent another copy and I followed it up with numerous calls to the officers in the Ministry. At that time I dealt with a Mrs. Brathwaite and a Mrs. Shepherd. More recently I called again, after I saw the notices, and I have been dealing with a Mr. Wilson — I think that is his name — and to my horror Mr. Wilson tells me that they cannot find anywhere on record in the Ministry this petition on behalf of the people of Lynch's.

Aside

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: The appropriate Ministry, the Ministry of Housing and Lands, which is responsible for the designation of the tenancies under the Act.

I will invite the Minister — I know he is not in his place — I have promised once again to provide an additional copy of the correspondence to the Ministry — to have Lynch's designated under the Tenancies Development Act 1980-54 as a tenantry for development on the grounds that the roads in that tenantry are inadequate. There are some, speaking from memory now, 45 to 50 tenants. The water is not adequate. We have lights but not in all the places. I will move on from that. Now that you have started the process, I invite your attention to this particular one.

Mr. Chairman, on the matter of roads, all of us have said our piece on roads, but, really, there are some roads in St. Philip that I must make special pleading for. Only this week I spoke to the Chief Technical Officer about a road that leads from St. Catherine's Church towards the old St. Catherine's playing field and my conversation with the CTO was as follows. He said that there is not a lot he can do now, and I told him that if he would only take a bulldozer and re-design the road so that the people could find it, that is all I ask. Just take the bulldozer and scrape the road so that the people can see where the road used to be, and I am very serious. If there is no money, and he could even oblige the people of St. Philip, particularly the people of St. Catherine, by just putting down the bulldozer blade, scraping it so that we can see where it is, and travel on it once again, we would have to be contented with that, if that is the way that they are going to dispense the road maintenance programme.

I heard the representative of the City — I was not in my place — but it was reported that she quite rightly said that the roads are being aligned and slipper drains and curbs are being put in, etc. Well, some day we in St. Philip will look forward to that.

I have already made a special pleading for Vineyard, and I want to repeat it. The problem with Vineyard, as I have said before, is not only the road is extremely bad, but there are no street lights. I want the Minister to understand what it means to get off a bus to walk and try to get to your home a dark night when rain has fallen, on a road that is below the level of the adjoining fields, with some 2 feet of water in some places, and you cannot even see how to pick to get in. Please, if there is nothing else, give the people of Vineyard a couple of lights. I do not think that is an unreasonable request on behalf of the people of Vineyard, who are taxpayers and who are paying their Transport Levy. Please, let us have a couple of lights up there if nothing else.

Eastbourne No. 2, on the right hand side, is in an atrocious condition! There is a section of the highway between Bayfield and Merricks that you have just spent some money resurfacing. But there is a section just below the pond that you have not been able to do anything about. The Three Houses water course, when that side used to be kept weeded and the water was able to go through the adjoining trench underneath the culvert into the pond, the road there was in good condition. It has not been properly maintained for a long time. As a result, the water is flowing over and it is continuously on the road, and that is one of the worst pieces of road anywhere in Barbados, because it is almost under water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 30 days a month, and all it needs is the maintenance staff. I have spoken to the depot at Six Roads on numerous occasions asking them to clean the gutters to the left so that the water from the

Three Houses stream can go down the gutters underneath the culvert and into the reception pool over on the right hand side, so that you will not lose that Barber Greene. You had put down a section, but you could not Barber Greene that section because it was too wet all the time. If you ever attempt to Barber Greene it, you will lose it immediately.

It is the same problem with Bayfield. I am asking you just to redesign the road again. At Coles Road we have the same problem. It is a little better, because there is a good out-crop of rock, but it needs a couple loads of marl put in it.

In all this, Mr. Minister, I think it is only reasonable, if the people of St. Philip are paying their taxes and paying their Transport Levy, and we are 1 of 27 constituencies and you have reported that you have done 250 roads from 1976 and 50 since this year, that these are roads, by any yardstick, which would come 1 and 2 compared with roads in any part of Barbados. If you have to do an objective test on roads that should be done, I am certain you will find difficulty to put in any road before that one in Vineyard and the one in St. Catherine. So all I am saying — an impassioned plea — is that if you do that for the people of St. Philip, at least they will feel some ease in their heart that their taxes and their Transport Levy have not been paid in vain.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I have heard quite a bit on this subject. All of last week it was the Transport Board and quite a bit of pothole talk was involved.

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

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

Asides

At this point certain remarks made by the honourable Member for St. James North were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the Record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister, are you replying or are you speaking?

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Replying, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not winding up at this point?

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Winding up, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are fast coming to a close and, if you prefer to give way, soon I will call upon you. The honourable Member for St. James South.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is a Resolution on which each and every Member of this House would want to make a contribution, because the roads in this country are in such a state of disrepair that, if one is representing a constituency, one must of necessity make a plea to the Minister responsible.

If one were to go around this country, one has to be appalled at the state of the roads at this time. The first thing I would like to refer to is the question of maintenance. It seems to me — and that is why I am glad that this Resolution is before the House — that there is no systematic plan for maintaining the roads in this country. For one, roads are built and one does not seem to believe that there is any inspection thereafter. I want to give an example. Take the Pine North-West Road. That was just built. I passed there only Sunday and it is breaking up in the middle already.
3.15 p.m.

Aside

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: The Pine East-West Road. That is by MTW, Waterworks, Pine Housing Estate coming down to Pine Plantation Road, going to St. Barnabas.....

Aside

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: East-West Road.

(Aside: Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Boulevard.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Boulevard. A rose by another name is just as bad, like a marigold.

There is no proper maintenance of the roads. If you look at River Road, as it meets the junction with the traffic lights by Jemmotts Lane and Martindales Road, there are two — not potholes now — big wells developing; again a question of maintenance. If one were to look at the Spring Garden Road, there are potholes on the shoulders on the one instance, and the shoulders are becoming narrower and narrower as the grass encroaches on the roads.

It seems to me it is not only a question of maintenance, but a question of supervision. If one were to look at the question of supervision, I cannot understand how in this day and age one can expect to mend holes by having a truck with material at the back of it, a dump truck, you go along, somebody with a shovel to throw it into the hole and the truck passes along. We have had examples in a newspaper where one day you repair and another day the holes reappear. That is the norm in Barbados today.

Let me give you a personal example, because I feel very aggrieved about this situation. Over the past two

weeks I have had four tyres damaged because of potholes. Last week when I took my car to the repair shop the repair man said to me, "Have a word with the Minister, because your tyre has been fractured. It is the potholes."

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Bring a case against the Government.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I am saying what the professionals are saying, and if anyone in this House were to say that the roads are other than atrocious, then they do not live in Barbados.

So that, what we are asking, Mr. Chairman, is not only that money be voted for the maintenance of roads, but that after the money is voted, some proper supervision, some proper plan, is devised to ensure that when the roads are repaired they are properly repaired. If you were to talk with any person who has worked in roads for a number of years — and I spoke to one person a couple of weeks ago — you could have found out what could be wrong. This old road mender told me in previous years what they did. They had to clean the holes before they put the stuff in there. He likened it unto a bad tooth with a cavity. When you go to the dentist he cleans the cavity and then he puts in the filling and he rams it in. In that way it stays there. In the roads today, you throw a little stuff in it, no cleaning of the hole, no rock crusher goes over it and binds it together, the rain falls and that comes out when your car goes over it. The difficulty is that sometimes when you shun one pothole you go into a bigger pothole, so you do not know where to drive. At present when I drive, I am taking exceptional care, because I am not sure what is happening.

I want to come more specifically to some roads in my own constituency. I am amazed that in three particular areas — Risk Road, Durants Village and Crusher Site — roads were started, marl was put down and all of a sudden work was stopped, over the last six months. People are wondering what is happening. Have they run out of material, money, supervision? What is the problem? After the marl has been put down — and most of these roads are on slopes — the rain comes and the marl is washed away, and you are worse off than you were before.

I am asking the Minister, if possible, if he could look into the areas like Crusher Site, Durants Village and Risk Road. That is Lower Crusher Site, but then there is Upper Crusher Site, which is near to the depot. That is by far the worst road in Barbados. There are stones jutting out from the surface over which people do not take their cars any more, because it means that they just puncture the tyres. That is next to the depot, and we cannot understand how difficult it is for a man to walk, not to drive, from the depot to town, and fill and put in that road so that people can go over it.

About two years ago, after writing the Ministry consistently, they kindly sent a gentleman to me to visit all the roads in St. James.....

Aside

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: You see, this was persistent writing; every day and every week.

(*Aside*: Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: You get treated good, I don't get treated so good.)

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: They got fed up and had to do something.

Mr. Allman — that is the gentleman's name — came on December 30, 1983 — I will never forget — and we toured the whole of St. James South, every conceivable road, from about 9 o'clock the morning to about 3 o'clock the afternoon, and we even decided what were the priorities — Wanstead Gardens, Husbands and other roads — and up to today nothing has been done to the roads. Last week, or week before last, I phoned the Chief Technical Officer — because I realise it is pointless writing now, I am going to see if a little personal contact can do it — and I told him I was embarrassed to go into Husbands. I was embarrassed because Husbands, as I understand it, is a Government development. The potholes are no longer potholes, they are swamps. We have swamps in Wanstead and Husbands. The drainage is unheard of, the water does not go off. There is one lady who accepts it now, that as soon as the rain falls, the water will go through her house. She accepts that. She is prepared. She has her Wellington boots, etcetera, so when the rain falls she is prepared for that and she cleans out. It is pointless now worrying about it, it is part of life for her, so she treats it that way.

Again, I am asking if something could be done for these people. After all, like everybody else they are paying taxes, it is a Government project and they are paying the Transport Levy. They expect much more from their levy.

Asides

4.05 p.m.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I have just said that Durants Village was marled and nothing else has happened. At the end of the new road, when you come from Holders Hill — my friend has not been there lately — it is not my fault — from the top of Holders Hill coming down at the bottom there there is a gully. The road goes into a gully. I do not drive my car down there anymore. I turn back and go the other way and come back, and then go back and come back, because it is so deep.

Asides

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I agree that there is a new road coming down to join up Holders Hill to the crossroad at Durants Village, but where those two roads meet, nothing has happened. That is the road I am talking about that they are filling in on the left, by the new Adventist Church. I believe they will get something done now. We need it for the people going to church on Saturday. It would help us a lot. And they come down that hill too, and cross there.

Asides

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: So that I think there is some hope in Durants Village.

But to be more serious, Mr. Chairman, another matter which gives me great concern in that constituency is the blind corners. I believe that when one comes from Thorpes Terrace turning on to the main road, the residents in Thorpes Terrace themselves have to go on people's property and cut the grass ever so often in order to make sure that no accidents occur there. And while talking about Thorpes Terrace, on the roads in that area as well, drainage is non-existent, and the water backs up — it is a new development — into the new houses.

As far as lighting goes, Mr. Chairman, only last week as I was visiting Wanstead Terrace, Avenues 1, 3 and 5, the people complained bitterly that lighting is insufficient. As a matter of fact, in Avenue No. 1, there is only one light. So that besides upgrading the roads and maintaining them, I believe, one has to look at lighting.

Before taking my seat, I think I had better put a plug in for St. James North.

Asides

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: St. James North is being represented now, Mr. Chairman. I have been representing St. James North and St. James South, and I am just saying, not only for our sakes, that is the locals' sakes, but, to me, it is an embarrassing situation to see our guests walking the roads in Sandy Lane, all down the coast road, and having to dodge from the traffic. Could we please have some sidewalks. The time is not too distant when we will have a very serious accident and it will be fatal.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Minister, please wind up the debate.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT (St. Michael South East): Mr. Chairman, before the Minister winds up, I would like to put in my bit here, Sir.

I have sat and I have listened to the various theories of the Opposition in relation to the potholes, and in relation to what they call the short-sightedness of the Government in dealing with the various problems on the highways of Barbados. I, Sir, would want to make a small contribution to suggest that any country, and particularly any Third World country today, trying to make ends meet, will find itself in such a position as Barbados, only because that we are in a situation in which we are operating with limited finance in order to try to service the country and, invariably, there will be many services that fall behind the standards which we are used to having. And to have representatives of the people, as short-sighted as some of us today, dwelling on these potholes, we are missing the boat, we are missing the point, because there is no country any part of the world, which would not have a similar problem with regard to maintaining and keeping a system of roads that would not at some time fall into disrepair.

The arguments advanced, basically, from the other side are that the funds which are being sought today, are primarily being sought on the eve of a General Election with a view of putting right those areas which have fallen into disrepair, and in view of satisfying the electorate that the Government is doing so much for the country. Mr. Chairman, it is a simple economic fact that all the services which the country desires cannot be given at any one point in time, and hence, some will have, and some will have to do without until we are in a position that all can have. Road repairs are costly and the Government finds it difficult to find the kind of money that is needed to bring total satisfaction to every little area that would want to have the best in that area.

What I would say is that the Ministry of Transport and Works falls down in its engineering in the view of keeping the roads in good order. It seems that the new engineering technology which was brought from England, macadamizing the roads, in which the road is built flush in order to try to get away from having an oval in the centre, as we were used to having many years ago, is the main engineering problem that causes a bed of water at various points on a surface which should be flat, and the impact of heavy vehicles travelling on that over a period of time creates what eventually turns out to be a dent in the surface, and with the gradual wear and tear of that, then it develops a pothole. But, you will remember, Mr. Chairman, that many years ago, when there was the old kind of technology in surfacing, where that oval met in the centre of the road, we never had that problem, when there were culverts for the water to run freely into the culverts and then off the main road. Now, it is a flat surface and invariably the water finds a bed, and with the vehicles, 30 tonnes slashing on to that, it dents and dents, and then these potholes are created.

The Engineering Section falls down again in trying to resurface these potholes. I think something has gone

wrong because they are aware of these serious holes and they try to attend them, and even though they have rectified them, in a very short space of time again they have fallen into the same position. That area needs to be looked at. Indeed, the motorist is concerned, because there is tremendous wear and tear on his vehicle. Pedestrians themselves are at a great disadvantage because not only does the settling of water make it impassable for them, but vehicles travelling at great speeds also create further problems by soaking them as they walk by. These are problems which the country is very dissatisfied about, and I would certainly hope that the Engineering Section of the Ministry of Transport and Works comes up with a solution, looking at the neglect of the drainage which creates potholes in the country.

4.15 p.m.

Another problem. Sir, in which the maintenance section falls down very seriously is the question of removing the debris and all the stuff which has been weeded from the road. For weeks on end it is left there, and when it rains it eventually finds itself blocking the main entrance to some of the major outlets and some of the major wells, and this causes the water to back up causing flooding in low lying areas.

But I do not think it is right for us to get here and criticize the Government unduly, and unnecessarily indeed, on these matters. The Government would like to attend to these because they are important as far as the people of Barbados are concerned, but the Government does not have the means and the wherewithal that these things could be attended to with the frequency that the people of Barbados think they should be done. This is part of the price of development every Third World country has to pay. We must have some inconvenience, we must have some suffering, in order to attain the high level which the country expects. We are living in a real world. It is not the world of the screen or Hollywood. It is the world where money has to be found to make sure that these services are available, and there must be some discomfort. We cannot expect to have at all times the kind of services that we anticipate for ourselves. Because of our development, because of our shortage of resources, because of the shortage of finance to do the things which we long for, the country must expect to have some difficulty in maintaining that level.

I am glad to hear the Minister responsible for Transport and Works mentioning the number of areas which his Ministry is looking into. Certain areas in the constituency which I represent have been neglected for a long while. The people have been very patient and the Ministry's presence there would indeed make them a lot happier.

But basically, Sir, I think the Maintenance Section in the Ministry of Transport and Works is to blame for a

lot of these things, because they do not seem to have a proper system of monitoring on any daily basis the problems which develop along certain areas or most of the areas, because I do not see a Ministry with a Maintenance Section that could allow overgrown sidewalks and certain potholes to continue for so long without them knowing that these things are happening. When people call the radio station, they are calling out of frustration, and that Ministry needs to monitor more closely these particular problems which the people are dissatisfied over.

I am very unhappy with the Maintenance Section. I do not believe it is the Minister to be blamed for this problem. The Ministry employs 7 officials and administrators to look after these interests, and they are the ones whom I would say are responsible for the negligence in these particular cases. I would like to see some swift action taken wherever it is seen in any one of the depots that the administrators or the officials are not functioning, and something be done to make them more responsible to the Heads of the Departments so that a better service could be realised for the people of Barbados.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as the Opposition is saying that the money which is being sought is miniscule to what is required to totally satisfy the repairs needed for the roads of Barbados, I hope that when the Government sees it fit to come for a bigger slice to put right these other areas which would not now be served with this money, the Opposition would indeed give the Government its approval and realise that it is not an election gimmick, as they are thinking, but really the people in the various areas of the country need also better services and that the Government is on top of the situation.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We have just about 10 minutes left in this debate, and I propose asking the Minister to wind up. The honourable Member for St. Lucy will have another chance.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I have listened very carefully to all the contributions made in this debate. At the outset, I emphasised that the Government was engaged in a multi-dimensional programme of road-making, repair and construction. That programme includes an intensified programme in highway construction for the purpose of pressing forward the economic development of Barbados. It concerns itself with a tenantry and subsidiary roads programme which answers the social needs of people who, for many years, have very patiently waited for services which a good many of us, as I said earlier, have taken for granted for many years.

We also mentioned that we are going to do a significant component that is geared towards the improvement of the road, and a very substantial emphasis will be safety by the elimination of dangerous bends and bridges.

A specialised road repair programme, referring now to the potholes programme, has been mounted, using all of the modern technology and techniques available to pothole mending. Whether or not it is applied is a different matter, but the Ministry has undertaken the purchase of additional equipment with the special emphasis on pothole mending. We have taken all of the supervisors into the Ministry, we have shown them slides and given them seminars on the modern methods to be employed in road mending, we have bought new tampers, we have bought all of the new reaming equipment, and we use the aggregate and the colas that are available here in Barbados. We believe that if all those ingredients are put together in the right combination, we would solve the problem that we are now complaining about.

What bothers me, Sir, is that in the face of a programme like this, never before put together in Barbados, it is distressing that it is possible for people's eyes only to be drawn to the fact that there are some potholes in the road. Nobody seems to be hearing the sophisticated programme put forward by the Ministry and carried on over the life of this Government. Up until now, tenantry roads were things we used to hear about, but this Government, under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act — and that, Sir, is the reason why we have such an intensified programme of tenantry road construction in this island — that Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act that the Democratic Labour Party voted against in this House, that programme is responsible for the accelerated construction of tenantry roads in this island. And it is not a question of partisanship. It is not a question of electioneering. It is our concern for the people of Barbados that started way back in 1981, but this is now being brought to fruition because we could not have gone into Mount Gay, Six Mens, Trents, Bromefield and Husbands and all of those 50-odd roads until the mechanism had been all in place, and until the appropriate measures regarding surveying and setting out of lots were completed. That programme is well ahead now, and it is for that reason that so many plantation tenantry roads, which comprise the bulk of the programme in the last couple of years — it is for that reason that that programme is now accelerated.

4.25 p.m.

I sat down in here and I heard the honourable Member for St. Michael North West (Mr. L. A. Weekes) talk about partisanship. Now, Sir, I do not mind criticism. I do not mind people saying things if they can point to evidence to support it. But would you believe, Sir, that in spite of the fact that he knows that two major tenantry programmes have been carried out in his own constituency, which is held by the Democratic Labour

Party, Odle Road, Dodson Land, two major projects completed in the last two years, he can still come in here and talk about partisanship.

The honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman) came in here and spoke about this matter of partisanship and asked to tell what are the criteria for fixing tenantry roads in Barbados, and he asked for a list of roads done in St. Philip. Well, Sir, I am going to give him the list of roads done in St. Philip in our time since 1981: Duncans Village, St. Philip, Padmore Village, St. Philip, Berlin Avenue in Woodbourne No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, Dodds Land, St. Philip,.....

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: Read them out.)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Blades Hill, St. Philip, Hill View and Marley Vale in St. Philip,.....

Aside

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON:.....and Mr. Chairman, Sir, add to that Gemswick and Sea View, in his own constituency, work which is going on at this very moment. And he comes in here and he talks about partisanship! This is the list of tenantry roads being done in Barbados, and I do not believe it is in order for honourable Members to come in here and seek to mislead the House by talking about partisanship.

(Aside: Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: That is foolishness!)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: He talks about the fact that this Government went out and took Mr. George Griffith on a site visit. I was invited by Mr. Bill Miller from the Wildlife Reserve in St. Philip to come and look at his bird reserve. I went. Mr. George Griffith, on his own initiative, read in the Press that I was making that visit and he met me at that place and he took me on a tour of St. Philip. I am not concerned if you do not choose to make yourself available. He used his own resources. I did not tell him I was going to be there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: He found out that I was going to be there, and it was out of his interest in representing the interest of the people in St. Philip that he met me there.....

(Aside: Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Hear, hear!)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: and carried me down into Clifden to point out the problems that those people were having down there with respect to water.

(Aside: Hear, hear!)

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: As a result of those representations, water went in in Chapel, St. Philip. Mr. George Griffith working on his own initiative!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member's time is running out. He just has about half minute. I would like to warn you.....

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, you cannot just give me half of a minute to wind up this debate. How can I wind up in half of a minute?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, take your seat then.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: No, Sir, not yet. I wanted to point out a number of things, and I am going to do that as I close.

I cannot name all the roads, but 65 kilometres of roads are being done under the World Bank programme, and the overlay for Barber Greene. All of these are things that we are doing to answer the road needs of Barbados, and I believe, Sir, that it is important that the people of Barbados be made aware that this Government is carrying on a road programme unprecedented in the history of Barbados.

Applause.

The question that Head 84 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one money Resolution in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Order No. 6, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT)
(No. 3) ORDER, 1985.

Order No. 6 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1985.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an undertaking was given by me earlier this year that review of the temporary jobs in the Public Service and in the Teaching Service would be continued, and that by the end of the year between 800 and 900

jobs would be established. This Order and the Order that forms the next item on the Order Paper are the legal instruments to implement this undertaking. Four hundred posts in the various Ministries and departments would be made permanent by this Order.

The principal area is the Ministry of Health. There are 81 posts of Public Health Inspector (Trainee) in the public health system. We decided that, today, it would be better to integrate all public health personnel into a single service so that the overall, co-ordinating supervision would take place with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the respective inspectorates in their several fields. Members would be familiar with the Aedes Egypti campaign and the fact that that campaign has probably been in existence for 25 to 30 years, manned by separate personnel. I think the original conception was that it would be temporary. Well, it has been temporary for sufficiently long now that I believe that maybe if we made the post permanent, Aedes Egypti would be eliminated, but the personnel would be redeployed in general public health work. There have been some upgradings in that area, also, and a few regradings.

In respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 150 posts of Staff Nurse are being made permanent. It has been the practice over the years to supplement the number of staff nurses by the employment of temporary ward nurses, at the same salary as the staff nurses. It is understood that successive Ministers of Establishment have grappled with this problem. This has been the source of great contention between the union and the Government. We decided that the Government will create 150 of these posts and that we will allow the reduction, from 5 to 4 nights per week, that the nurses may work to take place. The actual number of hours being worked will not be reduced.

4.35 p.m.

I want to say, Sir, that this Government is firmly convinced in its mind that we need to have a reorientation of our ideas about the shift system, the 40-hour week and about overtime. All over the world it is recognised that, given modern technology, given the need for the increase in services in any community, it is necessary and desirable that work should be shared among a greater number of people than paying a smaller number of people overtime. That is the philosophy of this Government, and I say it because I see it as a recurrent decimal in all of the negotiations in a large number of areas. It is the philosophy of this Government that any idea that 40 hours mean 40 hours Monday to Friday is an outmoded concept that has no place in Barbados today.

I am sorry, and I regret if by so saying I shall incur the wrath of some people. The fact of the matter is Barbados, to a large extent, is an economy that depends on services, and if we are to have services at the level, and during the time of delivery, that we need to have to

compete with the rest of the world, we must periodically revise our own ideas about when these services will be delivered and what is the cost of delivery of these services. It is a fact of life and we cannot escape it, we cannot run away from it, however unpopular the proposal to change may appear to be.

The Prison Department, Sir, is also an area which has been engaging the attention of successive Ministers of Establishments. I am satisfied that there is a need for an increase in the number of permanent posts and I have agreed to the establishment of additional posts.

There have been some other regradings in the establishment of a few other posts. The most notable of them is the Customs area, because we have created another Deputy and 2 Assistant Comptrollers of Customs. As I have said before, Customs has been an area where the Government had a long and careful look, and we are satisfied that the re-organisation that is taking place is a re-organisation that will lead to an increase in efficiency. The establishment of the posts at the high level of Deputy and Assistant Comptroller are additions to the existing ones. We are satisfied in our minds that the supervision provided at this level will be necessary in the future and we are taking the opportunity to establish the posts at an early date.

The Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Properties is also an area that the Government feels will have to be made permanent. I personally have always felt that we were operating too cheaply, to say it crudely, by having only one Registrar, of the Supreme Court, and designating by specific Acts, various other powers for the Registrar. I am convinced in my mind that given the number of companies that we have in Barbados today, and given the importance of the corporate structure as a whole, whether by companies or by way of its trade unions, by way of credit unions, or co-operatives, the time has come to have a proper department of Corporate Affairs, and in Barbados we have added on Intellectual Property, in its widest sense, to that area.

I am convinced in my own mind that there is great scope for Barbados to play a great role in the Caribbean as a financial centre, and in the world as an offshore service centre. We know that, if we are successful in this area, it will be necessary for us to have adequate monitoring systems in existence on a day to day basis. London, Singapore, Hong Kong and many other areas of the world today are facing a problem of fraud. We need to ensure that our Registry at least has sufficient staff to police the reporting mechanisms, even if not the investigative mechanisms that are contemplated by the new companies law. We must have people who will ensure that where you are supposed to file documents,

particularly financial statements, and they are not filed, the companies are reminded of their obligations and that consequences follow.

There are some who feel that this is a charge on the Treasury. I do not look at it in that light. I look at it in the light of the fact that these are departments that can be made to pay for themselves. If you wish to take advantage of the machinery of the law dealing with the registration of any of these areas of activity, and you wish the benefits conferred by the law, you must pay the cost of administering the law. I am not talking about the investigative machinery, because the investigative machinery, is a matter that is now engaging the attention of Government, as it is engaging the attention of many Governments in the world. The question of deposit legislation, the question of financial services, the question of self regulation and matters of that kind are matters which have to be canvassed before we come down one way or the other.

In the area of Personnel, I object strenuously to the fact that, after 20-odd years of independence, Barbados does not have not in a single document, or in a single series of documents, all of the regulations relating to the Public Service that can easily be resorted to. I object strenuously to the fact, too, that there seems to be a lot of legal confusion in the minds of many as to the distinction between a post that is established under the Civil Establishment Act under the Constitution, under the old unestablished post, the Casual Employees and the new phenomenon that was created as a result of the Constitutional amendments in 1974.

4.45 p.m.

One of the Deputy Chief Personnel Officer's functions would be to carry out research into all the General Orders relating to the Service, to make recommendations for us with a view to reforming them. We cannot be satisfied with the existing regulations relating to discipline. All these are important matters. I trust that this Deputy Chief Personnel Officer, whoever he is — having established it, it does not matter to me, I cannot have any control over it — I do not have any control over it — his post would be to do an urgent study of the existing regulations in the areas of deficiency and to make recommendations.

That, Sir, highlights the purpose of these regulations. I may say that we have not completed all, but I believe we have made a fair effort. There are still a couple of other areas that will be dealt with. The Government Industrial School and the Community College are two that I know of.

I think that we have settled, as far as the Government is concerned, very clearly our position with respect to the hospital doctors. The final offer, as far as the

Government is concerned, has been made, and that offer has been sent to the doctors in the hospital. I am talking about the hospital doctors, the consultants, the junior staff — our final position after many negotiations — and the Government will be coming with a Civil Establishment Order to implement them.

I would hope that agreement has been reached. If it has not been reached, the Government is still coming with the Civil Establishment Order. Negotiations must come to an end some time! The legal machinery in Barbados for settling these matters is clear. With the concurrence of this House of Assembly, the state of the law is changed. Of course, we do not seek, as we never seek, to deprive anyone from continuing to work under their existing terms and conditions. It is a matter entirely for people. That is how that will be dealt with. It will be dealt with in the same way the judges are dealt with, how everybody is dealt with, but I do not anticipate that there is going to be any great hullabaloo. I know that when the particular period of time comes, the last Monday in the month, we will be able to see whether the choice has been accepted or not. We know that. I am not worried about that at all. I am not making any threats to them, I am just bringing the House up to date on the areas we have not dealt with. There are more posts to be created, which are temporary, in relation to the medical service. We want to establish them. That is why they are not in here.

When I come to deal with the area of the teachers, I will have something more to say, but this Order deals with the General Service, and I commend it to the House.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that in the media of this country tomorrow we are going to see headlines "900 jobs created" and

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Established.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am saying what the papers are going to print, I am not saying what you said.

Mr. SPEAKER: But we are not discussing newspapers, we are discussing an Establishments Order, and I would like the honourable Member to direct his attention to the Establishments Order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is what I am going to do now, Sir, but I am getting that out of the way, because having been Minister in charge of Establishments, I want to cast the minds of Members back about two years prior to the amendment of the Pensions Act, when the former Minister responsible for Establishments admitted in this House that there was a large army of acting public officers, if you can describe them by that name,

and that he did not have them appointed, although there were vacancies, because he wanted to settle the question of the amendment to the Pensions Act.

I just want to get it clear. Every other day we hear of new jobs being created. These people are already employed. I am trying to save them rushing up to Collymore Rock applying for one of these 900 new jobs that the newspapers are going to tell them exist. In truth and in fact, there were about 1400 posts which at the time when we were discussing the Pensions amendment, which is another story, extending the age of retirement to 65 in most cases, it was divulged that there was this large number of persons who held acting appointments for a long time and had not been confirmed.

We had a situation once in which the Customs Department was being staffed by persons who were very competent, but could not, or would not, be appointed by the Public Service Commission because the Public Service Commission ruled that they did not have the necessary entrance requirements into the Public Service. At that time there were 440 posts which had people in them, but these people could not be appointed. It was at that stage that an administrative Order was made that even if you had only one certificate and it was Religious Knowledge or Scripture, or only the Acts of the Apostles, you could be appointed permanently in the Government Service, because as I said when standing on the other side, you do not need Advanced Level Mathematics to sell stamps downstairs here, as it was, in the Post Office.

So we had this situation in which these people had not been appointed because the Government proposed little discussed amendments to the Pensions Act of 1947, as subsequently amended. So the good news is that most of these people who have been acting for such a long time will now find themselves appointed, but the bad news is that the people who failed to eradicate the *Aedes Egypti* mosquito in Barbados for a period of 25 years are now going to be confirmed in their delinquency. That is what concerns me. The Chief Medical Officer in Barbados, who acted for about 10 years after he had reached the age of retirement, and who had done a very good job, was a native of St. Lucia, and because he had done such a magnificent job in eradicating the *Aedes Egypti* mosquito in St. Lucia, which is most difficult terrain, which is a busy country, full of rivers, waters — flowing rivers and stagnant pools, as it were — and here in dry Barbados, with our coral formation, where the water either runs off on the surface or percolates quickly to the subterranean layer of about 268 feet, after all of these years with the same doctor — I cannot call his name, but we all know who he is — who had done such a good job in St. Lucia, he could not get the people in the *Aedes Egypti* campaign who were working with the Government, to go around the houses in Barbados and get them to discard the old tin tots, which are still

causing all of us — especially like the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and I, who live near the sea, with crab holes all around us — to be bitten all night, before he moved to the heights of.....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Two Mile Hill.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Two Mile Hill, the commanding heights of Two Mile Hill.
4.55 p.m.

Twenty-five years I held conference after conference with the supervisors of these gentlemen, and I got all kinds of excuses as to why they could not eradicate the *Aedes Egypti* mosquito in Barbados. Even in Demerara, as it was then called, Guyana — the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, as it is now described — they were able to eliminate the anopheles mosquito by a programme of spraying, under the World Health Organization. The disease which is known as elephantiasis, which is not very common in Barbados but in medical circles is known as "Barbados foot", which is a slight on Barbados — it is really prevalent in Guyana — was eradicated. A country with 86 000 square miles, larger than the United Kingdom — not 86 000 square miles larger, but about 50 square miles or 60 square miles larger than the United Kingdom — again with rivers in which Barbados could be lost, below sea level, swampy, bushy, tropical rain forest, was able to eliminate the anopheles mosquito. But here in Barbados we are now fortifying the members of the staff of the campaign against the *Aedes Egypti* by confirming them in their posts. Well, I suppose, you cannot discriminate.

Asides

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: But we have a longer record than that — the Price Control Inspectors. They were acting for 38 years. I suppose they would have gone home if we did not confirm them in their posts. But it is not fair to people to keep them acting so long.

I would only repeat what a very well known Barbadian, the brother of an international cricketer, told me one day. Way back in the 1950s, we had an office on the wharf which was responsible for something like — let us call it Exchange Control, for want of a better term — we did not have a Central Bank at that time — and I stopped this gentleman on the wharf one day on my way to work, and I asked him whether he thought that the office in which he worked really performed any useful purpose now that the War was over, and his reply to me was typical. He said, "All of we want going home a long time ago." The whole staff of the *Aedes Egypti* should have gone home a long time ago, because I do not think that the mosquito population in Barbados has decreased one iota, and we have been paying these people. But if we have kept them there this long, confirm

them, give them all the benefits, but I suggest you make them terminal benefits and finish with them. Do away with the Aedes Egypti Control Office, because it has been of no benefit to this island whatsoever.

I called in the staff from the Board of Health, as it was then known, I called in the health inspectors from the Local Government, and we had conference after conference. Nobody could come up with a solution of how we could make this thing effective, and had I spoken at that time to the same gentleman I referred to just now, that would have been the solution. They wanted going home. Too much of the taxpayers' money was being spent. There was no kind of supervision because of the peripatetic nature of their employment. When they were supposed to go from house to house inspecting, they would leave home and nobody would see them until pay day. That is a fact. You check with some of the senior officers. You only saw those inspectors at pay day, and after the banking system was extended to lesser mortals, you did not even see them on pay day. They did not have to go in to the Treasury for their money. Their cheques were paid in to their respective local banks.

So I am all for the Resolution, but I am going to suggest to the Minister that after you have confirmed them, so that they would get all of the benefits, loose them and let them go. Let them see if they can find gainful employment in the private sector, if most of them are not superannuated. They are a very amorphous mass of employees because their true identities are unknown, both to the householders, whom they are supposed to visit, and to the people in the Ministries, who are supposed to supervise them.

I would like to see a report of the campaign over the years. It is a disaster. I still cannot understand how in a small island like St. Lucia, with all of the topographical and all of the other disadvantages that it suffers from — St. Lucia, really, apart from cystiomiasis or bilharzia snail is the natural habitat of the mosquito — they could eliminate it, and here in Barbados we could not eliminate it at all. I can only thank Divine Providence that we do not have incidence of cystiomiasis or bilharzia in this country, because half of us would be dead by now if we had to rely on that kind of staff.

So, having said that, I hope that the Prime Minister will look seriously into the problem. I realize that, after you have kept people there for 25 years, you cannot tell them you are only going to get national insurance and you cannot get any of the other benefits that probably public officers enjoy, but the Public Service here really needs a certain amount of pruning. In the Mediterranean, the people in the slopes of the Mediterranean hills say you have to treat vines like they treat a woman. You have to treat them very badly at least once a year. That is what the people in the Mediterranean say. I do not

subscribe to the view. Cut them down! In order for them to produce, they have a theory that you have to take every wine vine and cut it right down to the ground, beat it with a stick and then it would flourish the next year. Well, the Civil Service needs pruning like that. I am not saying they need weeding. It needs a lot of pruning, and the Civil Service can only develop when people have elbow room and they are able to produce more.

Asides

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Not literally, metaphorically. Bring them to Christian understanding.

I am fairly serious about this because we have to look at the structure and see. In a small society like ours where jobs are so scarce, we find it difficult to be efficient when it comes to employment. Because the Government is the employer of the last resort, the Government is always trying to take up the slack in unemployment by creating jobs where vacancies do not really exist, by handing out the employment roles in order to keep people quiet or make them happy, whichever way you like to look at it, and the unfortunate thing is that we are the kind of society that cannot afford the luxury of a lot of redundant people working in the Public Service in this island.

5.05 p.m.

I do not think that the difficulties which were expressed by this side of the House at the time when the Pensions Amendment Bill came to our attention have actually been surmounted. We have, I should not like to say, a disgruntled National Union of Public Workers, not referring to personnel. As a body they are not very happy about the changes in the pensions law. Up to yesterday I was told by one worker, who is on the eve of retirement, that although the person is a member of the civil establishment, the option to go on or not to go on would not apply in their case. My advice to that person was to go back to the Chief Personnel Officer with a piece of paper with one word written on it with a question mark: "Why?" I doubt that the Chief Personnel Officer, when he comes back from leave, will be able even to answer that question, because the amount of confusion prevailing in the Public Service over the ramifications of the amendment and the constitutionality of the amendment really has left everyone in a quandary.

So, Mr. Speaker, we agree that you should not keep people in a state of suspended animation indefinitely. You should make up your mind at periodic intervals of say not more than six months how many people you need to fill vacancies and appoint the people. Do not keep people acting interminably from year to year for 15, 20 and 30 years. It is not fair to them, it is not fair to their families, and if you keep them acting for that length

of time, you either throw aspersions on their ability to fill the jobs or you are throwing aspersions on your own ability to make a decision. So let us put an end to these long acting appointments and let us make up our minds about how many people we need efficiently to run the Public Service of Barbados, and I am sure that once the initial pruning is done, the odium of having had to implement the decisions will not be remembered soon thereafter.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I must confess that I am very happy to hear the Leader of the Opposition, after so many years, agreeing with the Government in its decision to remove this problem of keeping civil servants in suspension over a period of years. I remember when we were on the Opposition benches, Mr. Speaker, we ourselves used to advocate this, because we were always very critical of the Government of the day having people acting in posts for 10 and 12 years, and today the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning and the Government have set out to remove all these problems of keeping, as the Leader of the Opposition quite rightly said, their families in suspense, and the civil servants themselves.

What I do not agree with him on is that I would hate the day will come to see that the Leader of the Opposition ever comes into office again and decides to remove the civil servants, beat them, cut them out, dismiss them, trim down the overpadding of the civil servants — all of these, things which he has laid claim to here this evening, which he said he would do when he gets back into office. It would be a very sad day for the Barbados Civil Service ever to support the Leader of the Opposition. After referring to them some years ago as an army of occupation, now he is coming in the evening of his years, with sheer destruction in his eyes and in his arms. I would hate that day. The reason for that is that I have friends and family, and I believe you have too, who are civil servants.

I am also very happy to hear that he disagrees with anybody padding the Civil Service, putting people into work where there is no work. That should cause the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) some concern, because he was particularly very good at filling areas of the BMC with 10 people, at least, to weigh a pound of salt when he was Minister of Trade. I am sure that he is not comfortable now knowing that that was his practice. You do not agree with it now and, therefore, he surely could not hold a Cabinet seat under your guidance. I am quite sure he is well aware of where he stands with you this evening.

The other area in which I also disagree with the Leader of the Opposition is on the whole idea of the Civil Service approach. I believe, like in any business, there are hardworking civil servants, there are some civil

servants who spend a lot of time trying to telephone Cammie Tudor, to tell him what is going on, rather than doing the Government's work. All of these problems you have. So that is the area that is not really productive. All you have to do if they are not productive is not to give promotion.

So I really do not share all the views of the Leader of the Opposition. What I am happy to hear is that, for once, he has agreed with Government in making these posts established ones in which, for so many years, people have been acting, and I believe that he has lauded the Government this evening in appointing these people to their respective posts.

Those are the only comments I have to make, and I sincerely hope that the civil servants will take to heart all that we have said here this evening. That day, God forbid it!

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few brief comments on the Civil Establishment Order and in particular in matters relating to my Ministry.

First of all, Sir, I wish to deal briefly with the Fire Service. I am grateful that the 24 posts of Fire Officer are now being provided in the Order, because, for a long time, there has been this crying need for an increase in the establishment of the Fire Service. I think on both sides of the House we must agree that the Barbados Fire Service performs a very, very worthwhile and laudable service for this country. They work, or are expected to work, excessively long hours. They are a group of highly dedicated, highly trained, highly fearless men who render outstanding service to this country, and the 24 posts now being created will, in a significant way, reduce the number of hours that they will be expected to work in future.

I just want, for the sake of the record, to give the historical facts briefly. The facts are that between 1970 and 1981, we were able to achieve reductions from the original hours of 96 hours a week to 84 hours. By 1981, and subsequently, a further reduction was achieved down to 72 hours when the establishment was increased by an additional twelve men. The correspondence in the Ministry shows that the Ministry of Legal Affairs has always remained committed to satisfying the ultimate desire of the Fire Service for a reduction to 56 hours a week. I must confess that they are not greedy. Their demands are, in my view, reasonable and legitimate. It was entirely due to an oversight that they were not included in the Civil Establishment Order that came in September, but I am happy to let them know that this Order will have the effect that, after the necessary training that has to be done in respect of these 24, there will be a reduction of hours to 56 as from March.

5.05 p.m.

I am advised by the Chief Fire Officer that it will take about 3 months to have these 24 men properly trained. So from about March, we should find that they are down to 56 hours a week, and I would like to give the House the assurance that the Government will continue to monitor the situation with a view to a further reduction from 56 hours. If this, the one outstanding and burning issue on the part of the Fire Service Association, has now in any way been assuaged by reason of the Civil Establishment Order, then I hope that all fire officers will enjoy a happy Christmas, in the knowledge that help is on its way in the new year.

Sir, in relation to the Registration Department specifically, we are dealing with the Court Process Department, otherwise known as the Marshals of the Supreme Court, I think the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons) and other lawyers engaged in private practice will agree that, for some time now, the functioning of the Chief Marshal's Department has been less than satisfactory. When I went into the Ministry, in June, I found that there was a shortage of personnel in the Marshal's section. I immediately took steps to have the existing vacancies filled, and 5 were filled in September. But that has not in any way significantly impacted in a favourable way on the existing problems in the department. Lawyers and the police are still having difficulty in getting process served expeditiously. We are providing here for an addition of 5 Marshals to the establishment in the Court Process Office, and if they are properly deployed, I would expect that, in the new year, the problems that have plagued the profession in the last year, if they would not go away entirely, will certainly be substantially eased.

Thirdly, Sir, in relation to the Prison, we have 23 posts being established, 3 Principal Prison Officers and 20 Prison Officers. I must repeat something that I said earlier. I am very happy with a lot of the work that is being done in the Prison, especially of a capital nature, by the prisoners. I also realize that the prison officers themselves are working very assiduously to ensure the peace and security of Barbados. The Prison Officers Association, Sir, in my view has a legitimate claim in pressing for the establishment of additional posts, posts additional even to these that we are dealing with today, and I have an assurance that in the new year favourable consideration will be given to the situation, and it will be reviewed in time for the next Civil Establishment amending Orders. So I think also at the prison some help is being given.

I really want to impress upon the Minister responsible for Establishments that, in looking at the prison, close attention must be paid to the situation of the female prison officers. They have duties which have been thrust upon them because of the enhanced security system that we have at the prison now, the closed circuit

television and so on, and it needs a constant monitoring. There is need to reduce the hours being worked by female prison officers, and this can only be done by the creation of a few more posts. Five or 6 would help tremendously. We have asked for 8, but even if we got 6, it would significantly help the female prison officers. So I do make that plea on behalf of my Ministry publicly to the Ministry of Establishments to give favourable consideration to the situation of female prison officers.

In respect of the Government Industrial Schools, Sir, the only comment I wish to make on this — it is not in my Ministry as such — is that in 1980, following the riots, I was chairman of a committee that reported and made a number of recommendations for the better government and management of the Government Industrial Schools. Most of those recommendations have been implemented, and I think we are all aware that in the intervening 5 years, there has been no semblance of disorder at the Government Industrial Schools. But there is one weakness in the establishment of that school, Sir, particularly at Dodds. There are a number of instructors, and it seems to me that there is no career path for the instructors. They are all virtually on the same level, and it is absolutely necessary that we create the post of Senior Instructor. I hope that that would be addressed in the next amending Order so as to give the present instructors at the school the assurance that they will move up in the order of seniority as in other departments.

My one regret in this debate so far, Sir, is that the Leader of the Opposition, who in October, after the weekend retreat, announced a level of unemployment very near to 40% as a result of alleged house to house canvassing by his party colleagues, notwithstanding his criticism of a level of unemployment of nearly 40%, could find it possible today to counsel, advise and encourage the Government to help increase that unemployment. I took a careful note when we were dealing with the Civil Establishment Order and he was dealing with mosquitoes, *Aedes Egypti* mosquitoes and the men who look after them doing the spraying and so on, and his exact words were, "establish the posts, pay them their benefits, loose them and let them go." He is agreeing. You know I would not misquote you: "loose them and let them go."

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Who agrees with you? I am sure the Prime Minister did not agree with you. We are trying hard to create employment. Now we know that it is the function of the Democratic Labour Party to try even harder to create unemployment!

But listening to the speech, full of the usual history and anecdotes and so on, Sir, I did not recognize anything by way of policy from that side that was positive in terms of the future development of the Civil Service. I am sure they are not without ideas, but since they started their campaign on Sunday, one would have thought that, in a debate like this, spanning the whole spectrum of the Civil Service, an opportunity would have been taken to announce to the nation something of a positive nature for the growth and development of the Civil Service.

5.25 p.m.

"Let's do it for Barbados." Do what for Barbados? I now understand the import of the ad. It was not a paid advertisement. It did not have that on it at all. The ad that appeared in the *Sunday Sun* — "Let's do it for Barbados" — I now understand that it means to trim, let go, loose, and all of those other things.

I am obliged to Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat alarmed to hear that a party which has been inflicting the highest unemployment levels on this country since the 1930s now seems to advocate that the solution to those problems would be a minor expansion of the Public Service. I believe that that puts in proper perspective the rather baseless comments made by the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Hon D. A. C. Simmons). The facts are, Sir, that this instrument which is now before the House is not a job creating instrument. It is purely an instrument that seeks to correct injustices which have either been created or persisted during almost 9 years of a Barbados Labour Party Administration. Therefore, it should be clearly understood that all you are doing today is correcting injustices which have been created or have persisted through 9 years of a Barbados Labour Party Administration.

We on this side, Sir, have always felt and have always urged, and have always been urging Government now for many years, to ensure that many of these various categories of staff should be established. Year after year the excuse was given that it could not be done. At first it was said that there was a comprehensive Pensions Act to be brought into existence incorporating National Insurance pensions and Public Service pensions — that was the original excuse — and then in later years an adjustment in the time of retirement. The fact is, Sir, that this particular Resolution is before Parliament because of the persistence of the Democratic Labour Party in insisting that these particular categories of staff, particularly the nurses and other health personnel, be given the benefit of being part of the establishment, with

all the benefits that would accrue to them as a result of their being appointed.

On the floor of this House we have told them again and again that it was wrong. We have told them from time to time that it was wicked. We have told them from time to time that it was political partisanship that stopped them from doing what was just and what was right. Now, of course, in the closing years of the Administration and, as its mandate dies, some element of justice is being brought to bear on the situation in respect of the establishment of these posts.

Sir, we on this side, like the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham).....

Aside

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:.....Yes.... have always felt that there is a time to have a very close and comprehensive look at the total impact of the Public Service on the social and economic development of this country. We believe that the public sector has occupied a rather expanding role in social and economic development of this country and, therefore, it is important to look at the persons who administer that role, and to take a look at that area of activity and take a look into the future and see what the Public Service will be like.

I, for example, Sir, have always taken the view that there should be administrative and technical streams, that there should be two streams in the Public Service, an administrative stream and a technical stream, because of the numerous conflicts that you get in relation to salary negotiations and salary levels when you are dealing with highly paid professionals whom you have to attract in the Public Service, and whose salaries may have to relate to that of a Permanent Secretary or to a Minister of Government. For example, Sir, if it was necessary for Government to recruit an actuary, how on earth would Government be able to attract an actuary, unless he is paid from some external source, within the present scale of salaries? I am sure, Sir, that for the Government to recruit even in its Legal Department certain persons of certain professional standing and specific skills, they may have to pay them salaries far higher than what they are allowed to pay them within the present structure. The same applies across the board, Sir, whether it be architects, whether it be medical specialists or otherwise. Sir, I believe that there should be a separate stream in the Public Service if the Public Service is going to attract and maintain top-class professionals who can compete with those in the private sector. That is my belief, and it has always been my belief. I believe, for example, Sir, that in the Income Tax Department there is a need for top-class chartered accountants capable of examining the complicated books of any company in Barbados, or any

international company, if Government is going to get the best return in terms of corporate taxation. How are you going to attract top-class accountants within the salary scale that you offer accountants within the Public Service? So that I would urge, since the honourable Member for St. Thomas has said that we on this side have not put over any policy option, and I will strongly suggest to them to look very carefully at the whole question of a professional stream within the Public Service if we are to strengthen many aspects of public sector activity. I believe a lot of money will be saved, Sir.

I have been looking, Sir, at the cost of building to Government, whether done by the Government or done by private contractors, and the cost of almost everything that Government puts up is astronomical. That is because the Government does not have available to it the top professional services which should be part and parcel of Government's activity to monitor construction from day one on site until the completion of a contract. If you look at the cost per square foot of various structures built for Government within the past 3 to 5 years, it is in fact shocking to see the price that Government has to pay for constructing anything in Barbados today, which, of course, ultimately means the taxpayers. If you had top class quantity surveyors, top class architects, top class engineers in sufficient numbers, with proper opportunity for vertical mobility in promotion within the Public Service, then these critical areas could be brought to bear on the cost structure within the whole sector of Government building. This applies particularly, I suppose, to the Ministry of Transport and Works, but it also applies to all Ministries which are involved in that sort of activity. 5.35 p.m.

Now, Sir, another area of policy. I believe I heard the Prime Minister say that Barbadians have to take a different attitude towards the 40-hour week, that they have to understand and have a different attitude to shift work, and that a 40-hour week does not mean Monday to Friday. I would say that I differ very sharply with the Prime Minister on this position. I myself have worked 168 hours a week as a Houseman. I have worked week-ends for many years, I have worked early in the morning, I have worked late at night, and there can be no question about it, that, depending on the time of the week you are working, a 40 hour week can be qualitatively different.

Someone who is working 9.00 to 5.00 Monday to Friday is in a much better position than someone who is working 9.00 to 5.00 for 5 days including Saturday and Sunday, because Saturday and Sunday are qualitatively different from the other five days of the week. This is important to bear in mind. There is a whole range of social activity in Barbados, such as going to church in particular, that revolves around Sundays. There is a whole lot of sporting activity that revolves around Saturdays,

and there can be no question that you are encroaching very much into critical areas of people's lives when they are asked to work Saturdays and Sundays. It is a fact that you have to face, that there is a qualitative difference between Saturday and Sunday, Bank Holidays and the rest of the year. I certainly cannot accept that someone who has to work on Christmas Day should be paid the same as someone working two days before Christmas.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: But it is the same thing. If you work a 40 hour week, the fact is there is a qualitative difference between Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. This is important, Sir, and this has led to a lot of confusion down the years. I think the Barbados Workers Union has repeatedly put forward that position.

I know instances where people who have to work Saturdays and Sundays find themselves in a position where they have to hire baby sitters on those days in order to go to work, because on the other days the children would be in school, and, therefore, even at that level it represents an increased cost to them because they have to work on Saturdays and Sundays, and of course they should be compensated as a result of this. I think it is important when you are looking at salary negotiations and you are dealing with a 40-hour week as the basis of your negotiations, to look and see whether those 40 hours would rotate through Saturdays and Sundays, and have a built-in compensation into your scale for those two days, so that people know in advance that they are working a 40-hour week and it includes Saturday and Sunday, but that this section of the remuneration takes into consideration that you are being compensated for working days that are qualitatively different from the normal five working days a week. It would mean, of course, that such persons may have to be paid a higher level of remuneration, taking that into account, and I think it is better to take that position than to take the kind of position which the Prime Minister took earlier in the day by saying that 40 hours are 40 hours.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Did you hear me say that?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is what I heard.

The same thing, Sir, applies to shift work and the same thing applies to work at night. Shift work is a bit different and perhaps our views are a little nearer on the shift work area. We also have to consider the question of night work and remember that night work again is qualitatively different. This has long been recognised, and this is why, for example, nurses on night duty would probably get more time off than those on day duty, because the human biological system works in such a way that it can be a severe disruption if someone is asked to work 3

or 4 nights on a stretch and is not given enough time to order their biological rhythm. There are many people who have to work at night, and it does not follow that if you work at night you can sleep during the day. There are many people who can only sleep when it is dark. There are many people who, when they are on night duty, work at night and remain awake all day during the day. They just cannot reverse that cycle within their biological system. I think that all these things have to be taken into consideration and those responsible for revising salary scales and revising establishment structures must look very carefully and see how you can have built-in rewards for these differences.

Sir, there are one or two other areas I would like to look at. I am a little concerned about the whole administrative structure of the Electoral Office. I notice here that the Electoral Department will share in this process of establishing some personnel, but it must be of some concern to us when we can have a list from which over 30 000 names had to be removed as a result of an enumeration, and 20 000 added, resulting in a net deletion of 10 000 names. It ought to be a matter of grave concern.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that to do with the

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir, I am talking about the administrative potential of the Electoral Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why doesn't the honourable Member let me make my statement?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am answering you, Sir. You asked me a question and I answered it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member must learn to listen to other persons and not hear himself all the time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Maybe I responded too quickly, Sir, but I thought you had finished what you were saying. I thought you asked me whether it dealt with the Resolution and I was responding to that question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the establishment of staff to deal with the removal from or addition to the electoral list?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The addition of staff is to deal with the administration of the Electoral Department, and an integral part of that administration is the supervision of the electoral list. As the honourable Member for St. Thomas, when he spoke, set out clearly the additions to the staff and dealt with the improvements within the Fire Service, within the Prison Service and elsewhere, and I thought quite properly that he spoke within the ambit of the Resolution, all I am trying to do, Sir, is to contain myself within the ambit of the Resolution.

If I may continue, Sir, I believe that in the Electoral Department, particularly now we have the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, the administrative structure needs to be strengthened. I believe that this is only the beginning of a wider exercise. I believe, Sir, that more resources and more personnel need to be made available to the Electoral Department in this country, because it represents the very basis of the democratic process. This is not a partisan matter of which I speak, it is a matter that affects both sides.
5.45 p.m.

It affects the Barbados Labour Party as much as it affects the Democratic Labour Party, and I believe Sir, that it is quite wrong that many candidates, on both sides of the House, should find themselves having to do the leg work in terms of list preparation and list correction which should be done by people who are already paid by Government to carry out those functions and those functions are not carried out. That is a fact, Sir.

On numerous occasions, I have always said and I have always maintained that because of the administrative deficiencies, many of those lists in the constituencies had about 1 000 names that should not be on them. If you look at the final results, you will see whether that was correct or not. I have said that again and again on the floor of this House, and I believe it can be corrected if you look at the administrative machinery. I think you need an increase in the establishment of the Electoral Office. I think that if this is done, then that day-to-day monitoring can take place.

I think this Resolution only provides, as far as I can see, for 1 clerical officer for the Police Department. I do not know what the other one says, but this one says 1 clerical officer. I think Members know how we on this side feel about the need to maintain an adequate establishment of police officers and supporting staff for the police, and we would hope that a situation would not occur again where there is any conflict between the Minister responsible for the Police and the Commissioner of Police as to the appropriate level of establishment, requiring the intervention of the Prime Minister and that we will try from year to year to keep pace with the increasing needs of the Police Force in respect of personnel, staffing and so on.

Another area, Sir, is the area of Immigration. I do not wish to repeat the views that I have often expressed on that particular department and the need for closer liaison with the Police Force, except to say that if we are to deal with, perhaps, what is the biggest social problem facing this country now, apart from unemployment, that is the now admitted serious escalation of drug trafficking in Barbados, there is going to be a need for a serious increase in the establishment of the Immigration Department, the Customs Department and closer liaison

wih the Police Force and the Defence Force in Barbados. It is not only the most serious problem in social terms, but probably the greatest threat to the security in this country. I refer to drug trafficking and related organized gambling and so on, now admitted by the Government for the first time, denied by the Government in here year after year over the past 10 years. But, thank God, good sense has prevailed eventually, and that some effort is being made to deal with the problem, despite the strenuous denials by the Member for Christ Church West (Hon. H. deB. Forde), in particular, and others in this Chamber over the years.

So, we are pleased, Sir, to see that these existing posts are established in these critical areas, and we are looking forward with great anxiety to further increases in these areas that are critical to the security and defence of the social integrity of Barbados, to having this done in the not too distant future.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Sir, I have already stated that I support the position whereby all those hard-working, dear nurses, whom we have had to march with, we have had to fight for over the years in order that justice could be brought to the nursing community of this country. We have been criticized for marching with them.....

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What are you talking about?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: We are talking about when the nurses first demanded that they should be established. Many persons seem to have forgotten the demonstrations that took place, which have now resulted in this here before Parliament today. We supported them at all times. We gave them our full support, and we give the nurses our full support today once again.

The abolition of the two posts of Senior Consultant — I notice that that has been a policy position since 1975.

Asides

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is no problem with me, because I believe I made the recommendation. I believe one of the two posts being abolished was the one that I held, and the other one is probably the one, maybe, that Mr. Leacock held.

Asides

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point I am trying to make is that the rationale behind the abolition of those posts is that they were called senior consultant posts, not in terms of professional status necessarily, but because the persons holding those posts were the *de facto* heads of the sub-

departments within the hospital. I also felt that it was wrong to land someone with that administrative post for a lifetime, when, in fact, he might not necessarily enjoy the confidence of his colleagues, either in terms of his administrative skills or in terms of his professional attainment, and that that position should be best left to an elective process within the various departments within the hospital. That is why the honourable Member for the City accepted the recommendation when she was Minister of Health, although she is now making all sorts of noises under her nose.....

(*Aside:* Hon. B. A. MILLER: What recommendation?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You accepted every recommendation that I made and you are just making a lot of noises in Parliament all the time.

(*Aside:* Hon. B. A. MILLER: You can only speak for your profession.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And you have to do everything I tell you to do!

I believe I have one final point to make. I have tried to indicate that this side has been giving a lot of thought to the current status and the future of the Public Service of this country. We have looked at it from an administrative point of view. We have had to look at it from a financial point of view. We have had to look at it to see what slice of the national cake the next Democratic Labour Party Administration, if the people so determine, would allocate to the Public Service. We have looked very carefully at the extended section of the Public Service which is often not looked at in these Establishment Orders. In fact, they have not necessarily come within the orbit of these Establishment Orders, but it must be remembered that, outside of this sector of the Public Service, there is a massive stream of other employees, and this relates to the rapid growth of statutory corporations. Outside of this, you have that other aspect of the Public Service, and that, too, has to be taken into account when you are taking the global costs of the allocation of resources in this country for the management of Barbados.

Someone recently said, Sir, that the persons who benefitted most as a group from the attainment of independence over a time in most Third World countries have been those in the Public Service. I do not recall who made that statement, but I believe there is an element of truth in that, and therefore the time has come when we have to ensure that these accrued benefits are reflected in an enhanced productive capacity of the Public Service in this country.

5.55 p.m.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, there are a few points to which I really feel I must reply. The first point I want to reply to is the question of the reaction to some things that I have said in relation to the working week in Barbados. I want to make it clear, Sir, that nothing that I said could reasonably be interpreted as saying that special consideration was not to be given for working on days which are not normal working days. Absolutely nothing that I said!

In every country in the world there are certain days which are classified as *dies non* for the purpose of working, so that if you wish people to work on those particular days, you have to pay a premium. But I do not for one moment accept the contention that in a country like Barbados, or in countries where there are large structural changes taking place and in which there is an unacceptable level of unemployment, in those circumstances it is better that those responsible for negotiating wages or giving wages, or agreeing to wages, should adopt the attitude that the money should go to fewer people in the form of overtime rather than have more people employed for the same given amount of wages. That is a fundamental point. That is why I say that if you have to have a service provided to the public over a seven-day period, rather than have a system of overtime for two particular days of the week, it is better to have a shift system, even working less hours for a weekly pay and having more people employed. That is what I said and that is my philosophy, and I will argue that against anybody. I will argue against anybody at any time that, in the context of countries like ours, it is better to share the joy among a greater number of people than to restrict the joy to a fewer number of people and give them more joy. If you doubt that, you put it in your pipe and smoke it, if you doubt that is the attitude that Barbadians are going to adopt. So that is our position. And the more and more I read about it, the more and more I see that that is what trade unions and employers' confederations the world over, particularly in Europe, where they have lost as a result of the structural changes in their economies more jobs than any of us have lost, are doing. They are even reducing the work week to 35 hours so as to be able to get more people employed. So you cannot think that you are going to get an advantage by trying to suggest that we are putting forward a proposition that is unreasonable.

Sir, with respect to the rest of the service, the Aedes Egypti inspectors are a category of workers which successive Governments were never satisfied with. What we have done is — we feel that there was a lack of motivation, there was a lack of supervision and a lack of direction — merged and integrated the posts by the creation of the posts of Aedes Egypti Inspector and a Public Health Assistant. We hope that some retraining

can take place, we hope that the Aedes Egypti mosquito would be eradicated, and that the same personnel can be, subject to training, able to be converted to a public health assistant.

In the public health area in particular, I am told, whether because of the shortage of medical specialists in that particular field or not, that more and more public health people are performing specialised functions which in the past were performed by medical practitioners, as technologists, as para-medicals. They are being more highly trained in certain scientific disciplines and they are working in areas which formerly were left to doctors. The old, traditional public health inspectors in the sense that we knew them are not so much in existence today, but indeed you do need these better trained professionals' assistance. That is what we are doing. Just as the Aedes Egypti people were sub-professional to public health inspectors, so too today you have public health assistants who are sub-professionals to public health inspectors. As you have nurses — you have your highly trained nurses, your SRNs, your enrolled nurses and things of that kind — in Barbados we happen to have public health training facilities to train our people in this sophisticated area. I think that effectively answers the point. The intention is to try and retrain as many of these people as can be retrained to provide general public health duties.

I am also strongly in favour of the integration of the public health work with the environment work. I am strongly of that view, because I came up in a system in which the public health inspector was the reporter of a large number of conditions to his boss. He was a sort of building inspector, he was a sort of person who dealt with traditional public health matters, he was a sort of person who did some environmental work, in debushing and things of that kind. What has happened now is that we have a number of sub-departments dealing with this, and thank God, already the integration between the public health work and the environmental work is taking place, because the Ministry of the Environment, having been created, is now regarded as the general overall co-ordinator of all agencies which are responsible for various aspects of the environment. That is what is taking place. There is great co-operation taking place between public health inspectors and the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of the Environment will look more and more to these assistants and other public health inspectors for information and help within the various specialist areas that impinge upon that.

The last point that I would like to raise is the question of the points made about the Electoral Office. Thank God we live in Barbados, a country that is so wedded to the concept of democracy, that a little later I can make a statement that although the election is at least nine months away constitutionally, we have a list which has been prepared under the supervision of an

Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and is available to every person who is elected in Parliament — it is available for inspection by all of Barbados — and that I know for a fact that even the honourable Member who just spoke, although we are not supposed to hear him, has in fact collected his list, so that he can go around and he can find out whether his supporters are on the list or not. The only problem is that he has an opponent who will get the list and who will be doing the same thing, so that competition will take place to see who can get more people on the list, which is good. Here it is we have people in Barbados who are going to compete in a primary, but the primary is to ensure that all who are registered to vote are going to be on the list. I believe that we ought to be proud of that democratic system. So that when the results are out in the future you cannot cry foul. You would not be able to say that the election was rigged, you would not be able to say that your people were not on the list, because if your people are not on the list, it would be your fault.

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member is an expert on that because the honourable Member knows that people can be on the list but not necessarily in the right area. In 1971, the honourable Member knows that that was done. He was the Minister responsible. And six weeks before the election the honourable Member and his colleagues changed the boundaries. But we are not like that. We are going to beat you fair and square. You are going to have nine months to be able to deal with it.
6.05 p.m.

Applause

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Hear, hear!)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: And you are not going to be able to cry foul. That is the position.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: Drive it in them.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So when you are talking about lists and all of that, you must stop going around the country trying to denigrate your own. You must stop denigrating your own country in the eyes of the world talking about electoral rigging. You have a lot of time to go and check. You have a lot of money. Go and pay people to check the list.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Order please!

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What we have to remember in respect of the Electoral Office is that we are now

having to determine how we are going to deal with a question of an Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the traditional machinery for doing the mechanics of the electoral list. Are we going to give them their own staff, or are we going to second the existing staff to them? We have already agreed at Cabinet level to a request for the Electoral and Boundaries Commission having their own legal adviser. I have no quarrel with that. They can hire Timbuctoo, because the law — I do not care whom they appoint — in relation to elections is a specialty on this side. We have done more election petitions successfully, not only in Barbados but in the other islands.

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: St. Vincent.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: So therefore, the law in relation to elections is an area that we all know about. So we will give the Electoral and Boundaries Commission their own staff. We will allow the Electoral and Boundaries Commission money for advertising what they are doing. We have already told the Government Information Service that they must provide time for whoever from the Electoral and Boundaries Commission wants to go before the camera and appear and tell the public about elections, because, genuinely, Sir, we believe that in this country, we will set the pace for all of the rest of the Caribbean. If they want to know about elections, let them come to Barbados and we will teach them how to carry on elections.....

Applause.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: that when the elections are over, the world will understand that this is a country that understands how to do a proper election. So that is what we are doing. I mean, we are proud of that record.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We must not forget also — when we are dealing with this topic we must go back to history — that it was this political party that fought at the Constitutional Conference in England for the entrenchment of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. He are opposed by the other side, in the form of the Leader of the Opposition. He opposed the concept of having entrenched provisions in our Constitution to ensure the integrity of the election machinery. I am glad, Sir, that he is alive today to see that when the people are ready for you, you win; when they are not ready for you, you do not win.

Aside

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You cannot say that you went out in 2 by-elections and lost)

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: All the polls show differently, so do not worry about that.

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I think that that really covers the areas, Sir.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 6.30 p.m. this evening, when the Right Honourable Member for St. John will do what he has to do.

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

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 6.30 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
6.17 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

It is now 6.30 p.m. The Right Honourable Member for St. John will move his motion.

This debate will be conducted under Standing Order No. 18 and Standing Order No. 30:5. Standing Order No. 30:5 states as follows;

"In a debate following a motion under Standing Order No. 18 for the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance each Member may speak for 20 minutes, but the time allotted in Standing Order No. 18 for the debate shall not be exceeded."

The honourable Member for St. John is, therefore, at liberty to begin speaking if he so desires.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

MOTION RE CLOSURE OF THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL IN ST. PETER

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of

discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, and that definite matter of urgent public importance is the imminent closing of one of our health service facilities in this island, in the northern parish of St. Peter. I am not in a position to state at this juncture at what time the House will go into recess for the Christmas holidays, or at what time business will be resumed in the New Year, and, therefore, I am grateful that this opportunity avails itself because no other opportunity may — and I use "may" advisedly — be available before the threatened closure takes place. I am not in a position to know. Perhaps only the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House would be at this time in a position to know whether that is so or not.

I think it was sometime in 1973, at the time of the so-called fuel crisis, that a motion of this nature was allowed on the question of the fuel crisis. I was not here at that time. I have been doing some research to find out what other occasions we have had motions of this kind, but I cannot remember any other. We have had several applications which did not pass — let me put it this way — the scrutiny of His Honour the Speaker as being on some occasion "not urgent" on others "urgent", but not matters "of public importance", and on third other types of occasions not being "definite." We have satisfied all of the criteria which have been laid down, and since the time allotted, even to the person moving the motion, is restricted to 20 minutes according to the Standing Orders, I will not go any further into the history of the matter — over 34 years it is a very unique occasion — and, therefore I will come straight to the point and be very definite about it.

I have no emotional inputs in this. I speak only as a citizen of Barbados. It was sometime around the 11th of this month, just about a week ago, that it came to the notice of the general public that the closure of the St. Joseph Hospital was contemplated. I opened the St. Joseph Hospital. It coincided with my term of office. I had no particular claim to hospitalization, no particular connection with the church to which it is affiliated, except through my father, who always told me that when he passed the age of 80 he would be converted, which he was. I do not want to go into his reasons for saying so, because I do not want to be invidious. Maybe when I become 80 I may, myself, be persuaded to become of that persuasion. The point is that I opened the hospital so I know something about the nature of their intentions and the work which they performed.

Around about 1974, Mr. Speaker, through the Ministry of Health and the Permanent Secretary, the Government entered into negotiations with the authorities of the St. Joseph Hospital — between 1974 and 1975 — to see what arrangements could be made at that time, because St. Joseph Hospital was not in a state of

collapse at that time but it was in a state of crisis. Various suggestions were put forward for the utilisation of St. Joseph and the integration of the hospital services in the general health services of Barbados.

There is a point which I wish to make clear right here and now. Free health services have existed in Barbados from time immemorial. We have had private health services from about the late 1930s in the form of the Diagnostic Clinic. I remember Dr. Cave's Nursing Home, which was situated in a building now occupied by the Government — I believe Lands and Surveys is there, or some other department, at the corner of Culloden Road and Collymore Rock — and I remember Dr. Dixon and others around the Garrison also having private hospitals, and alongside of those we have also had private maternity hospitals. We had always had a free health service in Barbados, and onto this scene descended the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother between 1965 and 1966. If I am qualified to deliver a blessing, that hospital was opened with my blessings and the blessing of the then Government. I suppose the Member for St. Michael West Central (Hon. V. L. Johnson) would be more qualified to deliver a blessing — before he was read out — on occasions such as that.

(Laughter)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, the hospital was opened, and the Government welcomed the establishment of this institution, because, let us say, even in these days of very rapid mass transportation and private transportation, St. Peter, St. Lucy, and St. Andrew are far from the central parish of St. Michael, and far from emergency treatment for people who need it.

There was a time when we had 12 parochial medical officers, parochial in another sense of the term, because I visited several of them. They had no properly equipped surgery, they had no properly equipped staff to carry out emergency operations, and we had sugar factories in every parish in the island. I remember one fatal accident at Mount Gay Distilleries in St. Lucy, in which men descended in the vat and were overcome by sulphuric fumes. Now we have the Arawak Cement Plant, and it is part of the Government's programme to take industry to the workers, and the industrialization of the northern parishes was a big part of their campaign in the not so distant past. Within the past 2 years great publicity was given to this. Therefore, the exposure to industrial accidents and matters of that kind has greatly increased.

The females in the north have as great a propensity to give birth as people in the south of the island. In this respect, the services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have become rather over-worked, and one service which the St. Joseph Hospital provided, and is still providing, was a certain number of maternity beds, which the poly-

clinics, while well-gearred as they are to deliver ante-natal and post-natal care, are not providing, the actual obstetrics and gynaecological services which females would need at the point of delivery. The average time for someone to be confined is probably from 4 days to a week. Women who are in labour tend not to give notice, no matter what the doctor predicts. They usually are in a state of emergency when they are ready to give birth.

So as far as the north of the island is concerned, there are two cases, despite the existence of the polyclinics, for the survival of the St. Joseph Hospital facility. One is obstetrics and the other is emergency. I look forward to the day when our ambulances will have medically qualified persons going to emergencies. But until we reach that day, I am afraid that we will have to have locations where people who need emergency treatment will be able to get it and not expire on the 40 — minute drive, let us say, to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Then, there is another aspect, and that is that there are certain facilities which do not now exist in the Eastern Caribbean, facilities such as cat-scan machines and stress machines and matters of that kind, which are not necessarily dealing with emergency situations but which are revenue earning, let us put it this way. To get a one-hour catscan in the United States of America would cost anything from Bds. \$1200 up. The catscan machine in Trinidad does not work, they do not have qualified personnel, so therefore it is possible for us to have specialised services where such an institution could be revenue earning to the country. It might surprise honourable Members, Mr. Speaker, to know that there are people who do not need emergency treatment who would be willing to come down to Barbados for such specialised services as I have not enumerated in detail but given an indication of, the type of services we could provide, because hospital treatment in the United States now is about U.S. \$700 a day for a bed. If we charge U.S. \$200 a day, which is what our best hotels will charge, people would be only too glad to come down here for that kind of service. 6.40 p.m.

What we are urging in this Resolution, therefore, is that careful consideration should be given to keeping open the St. Joseph Hospital and integrating that institution into the general health services either as an integral part, full time, or as a part private/part Government undertaking which we were discussing in 1974-75. We did not reach any conclusion. The door was not shut. My impression at that time — and it is only a question of 10 years ago — was that the St. Joseph people were keeping their options open. They did not definitely want to come to any positive conclusion at that time. They were keeping their options open maybe because they were not in the critical situation in which they claim that they now find themselves. I have given you the best of my recollection, my research and my exposure to this problem. It is not a question of damn the Government for

not taking over the hospital, as far as I am concerned, or damn St. Joseph for not coming out and giving a little more positive report. The delivery or health care in this country is much too serious a matter to be treated on that basis.

But what I am saying is this. I have a suspicion. I really do not want to voice this suspicion here at this juncture, but I feel myself constrained to give an indication of what my suspicions are. I have no evidence. I want to make that quite clear. Somehow I feel, and I got the feeling earlier on, that some of the private practitioners like to look on St. Joseph as their special preserve and they do not want any direction from any authorities. I feel that sometimes — when I say I feel that.....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: No, I do not know, I only feel. There is a difference between knowing and feeling. I do not feel about D. Seale, I know, but when it comes to this I can only feel, if you understand what I am saying. It is a different matter altogether.

I get an uncomfortable feeling, even far back, that whereas the overseas element — let us say the people from Rome — the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother wanted to go in one direction, I got an uncomfortable feeling that some of the local practitioners — and they are far from vagabonds, they are honest gentlemen who have their own views — would have preferred, without formulating themselves any concrete plan that would cause the institution to survive, just throwing a — not a spanner — breadfruit in the works, which would gum it up the same way. That is the kind of feeling I got, but I did not have any quarrel with them because I did not have the evidence.

I do not know what the position is today, but what I am concerned about is I understand that there are some local plus overseas groups who are not interested in the Government intervening, because they would like to keep the hospital as their private preserve. I would like some enlightenment on that. I hope the Government is not supporting them in this, but there was a statement from the Prime Minister to the effect that there may be private interests which are interested.

What we have got to do is to look to see what the overall interest of Barbados is in relation to the Barbados health services. The Government is committed, all Governments are committed, to the delivery of health care.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Leader of the House wants me to come out and say nationalise the hospital. I do not know how much it costs, so how can I say that?

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We want you to say something, at least. We have not heard anything yet.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Well, when you get a little wiser you will understand, so do not interfere.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member has 2 minutes more.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: My purpose, Sir, is to try to get some clarification as to where we stand, because there are thousands of people in the north of the island who are genuinely concerned and who are not politically motivated, and I should like to assure Your Honour that I am not politically motivated in this matter. I opened this hospital and I would like to see it remain open on some kind of basis, because I believe it does perform a useful function. With the amount of money we are collecting under the Health Levy, which would approximate now to \$60 million, I do not think that in a matter of this kind, an institution which even had an Intensive Care Unit and had to close it down, where maternity cases are booked right up to January and beyond, we should allow it to fall by the wayside without giving mature consideration to its future integration in some way or the other and utilisation.

I do not have any positive proposals to make other than keep St. Joseph open.

Thank you.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second this motion, and in so doing I wish to confirm the definition which I find the most acceptable as far as health is concerned, that health is a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. In so enunciating this definition, which is the official definition of the World Health Organisation, I would say that it is the bounden duty of Governments, particularly the Government of Barbados, to ensure that the kinds of policies are framed which will ensure that the people of their countries, including the country of Barbados, should be able to enjoy that complete state of physical, mental and social well-being. In other words, we must formulate the correct social policies in order to ensure that the people of Barbados are capable and able to attain the highest possible state of health to which they may be capable. Any threat to that status or to that possibility is a matter of concern, and within that particular framework, it is necessary to have a comprehensive hospital service to meet the needs of the citizens of this country, and those who are our guests, so that they may attain that health status.

6.50 p.m.

I am stating that, for a country like Barbados, we need a sufficient number of beds in an acute hospital in order to provide the health care, the medical care, which our people demand. We have had the St. Joseph Hospital and we have had the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as the two major institutions providing acute care in this country. We know that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is under strain. Its services are taxed and over-taxed, and the St. Joseph Hospital has been providing a service in the north for people, not only of the north but from other parts of Barbados as well. The news that that particular hospital is closing, therefore, presents a threat to the health of the people of this country, and it is from that particular point of view.....

Asides

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am saying that it presents a threat to the health of the people of Barbados to the extent that it is reducing the availability, or it may reduce the quantity and quality, of care in Barbados. It is a threat to the social and health status of the people of this country. I firmly believe so and, therefore, we must do everything in our power in order to ensure that its doors are kept open.

Barbadians have a habit of reacting to a crisis. We have had a situation in which an announcement was made, I believe within the last two weeks, about the closure of those hospital facilities in the north and immediately there is a crisis situation facing the country. Happily, the people of this country know that the Democratic Labour Party has been thinking about the problems of this country and we do not wait until an urgent or emergent situation is upon us to think about the kinds of social policies which should be enunciated for this country, for it was way back in 1981, in the Manifesto for the General Election of 1981, that we considered the question of the role that the St. Joseph Hospital should play in the health services of this country. We made a specific proposal in that particular regard and, with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I will refer to the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party for the General Election, 1981. At page 22, it reads like this:—
“The Democratic Labour Party promises that it will:—

“recognise the wonderful work being done by the religious order of Nuns, the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, through the St. Joseph Hospital. Discussions will be pursued with the Order so that the hospital may be aligned with the national hospital system, and so that full hospital services will be provided for the northern part of Barbados on a twenty-four hour basis, through an input of resources. The next D.L.P. Government will guarantee the continuing independent status for the hospital, and non-interruption of the services being currently provided by it, by the professionals

currently practising there, and/or by other interested groups.”

That is our statement on that particular matter, outlined way back in 1981. If the Government at that time had paid particular attention to the ideas enunciated in this manifesto, we would not be in this particular problem today. We have set out a clear policy to follow when you enunciated no policy in respect of that particular hospital at that particular time.

But this is not a question merely of what we said at that time. We have to point out these things to let you know, and to let the people of this country know, that it calls for foresight and insight to deal with these particular issues and problems. I am saying now that it is not too late for the Government to act urgently to set up the necessary machinery and mechanism to get the discussions going in order to ensure that that hospital remains as a national resource in this country for the provision of adequate health care for the people of this country in the national health service of Barbados. That is a simple call that is being made from this side and we have put it forward because this is a matter of national importance. It is a matter that calls for very incisive thinking and it is a matter that calls for urgent action. We are urging the Government to act swiftly on this matter. Do not drag your feet on it; respond to the kinds of problems, the kinds of issues and the kinds of requests that are being made for the Government to act on this matter and in the interest of the people of this country.

Asides.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not know about Mr. Evelyn Greaves. He is acting as a citizen, as is the right of any citizen in a democratic country when he sees a public need, to go in there and enunciate that particular public need and get public support and to bring pressure to bear where pressure is required. So that there is absolutely nothing wrong with that.
7.00 p.m.

We said something more, it is not only now that we are saying it. We said at that time also that “a Democratic Labour Party Government” and I am quoting “will pay the full cost for medical treatment abroad in cases where it is medically determined that adequate facilities and resources are not available in Barbados.” That is what we are saying. That is what we have said, and if my memory serves me correctly.....

Mr. Speaker, I see you are looking at me very closely, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Am I not entitled to look?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Sir, but I thought you were going to tell me something. So what we are saying

here, Mr. Speaker, is that we have our hospital services, we have the other health and medical services in this country — it is expected to be a national service and a complete service, everything should fall into place — and if our services are efficient in any particular way, whether it is at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the St. Joseph Hospital, as a country we must be able to provide the kinds of assistance so that our people, irrespective of their income levels, should be able to go and get treatment for their ailments. That is a national policy that was enunciated, and all we are saying here is, let the Government say what are the principles that it will be operating from, let it say whether we need more beds for acute care for those who are acutely ill, whether the number of beds currently at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is sufficient for the population of this country or whether we need additional facilities and services; whether these services should be concentrated in St. Michael or whether it is desirable that there should be a second facility elsewhere to deal with the normal pattern of illness that takes place in this country, as well as to deal with any emergencies and special cases which may emerge or occur from time to time. When it has answered these questions, it can then say how it is operating on these particular issues. But from our particular standpoint we say here and we advise the Government that they should look very closely and follow the suggestions clearly set out before in this country in the policy statement that we have made. There is nothing partisan about this. It is a clear statement of principles in the interest of the people of Barbados, and we are urging the Government to act in order to save and protect that national health resource.

Thank you.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to approach this matter in a partisan way. The Government is in no difficulty with respect to the St. Joseph Hospital. The Government does not own St. Joseph Hospital, the Government does not run St. Joseph Hospital, and that percentage of people that St. Joseph Hospital caters to is so small and so inconsequential in relation to the delivery of health care in Barbados that we are convinced that no lobby can be built up upon the basis of a denial of care to the people, or on the basis that the health of Barbadians has been threatened. In my own area in Christ Church we had a maternity hospital that delivered more babies than St. Joseph Hospital used to deliver, and that was closed down 10 years ago, without any detriment to the health of the people in that area.

We need to look at history, and I believe that it would be enlightening to us all to go back to the records. I can conclusively show that the now Leader of the Opposition, then in charge of Cabinet, had doubts about St. Joseph Hospital from the very beginning, for the Cabinet in 1962 refused duty free permission for St.

Joseph Hospital to come here on the ground that they were not sure about it. In 1962 the Cabinet of Barbados refused St. Joseph Hospital....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation...

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two honourable Members on their feet.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what does the honourable Member rise?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I rise on a point of explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Only if the honourable Member gives way.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not giving way. I refuse to give way, because you cannot explain the fact that you refused it. You may have a reason for refusing it, but you cannot deny the fact that you refused it, and I am quoting from a letter which was written, and the reference is 1007/701018, 19th July, 1962:

"I have received your letter of 3 July, 1962 informing me that our request for duty free status on equipment and construction materials for incorporation in our proposed hospital has been disapproved by the Cabinet."

What are you talking about?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two honourable Members on their feet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am on a point of order.

Certain words spoken by the honourable Member for St. John at this stage were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the records.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: "On July 9, 1962, Mr. George Ketridge called upon you on our behalf to make enquiries regarding the disapproval of our request and at the time you requested Mr. Ketridge to send a memorandum to you in which a review of the situation would be presented."

They wrote to Mr. Crawford, the Minister of Trade at that time, begging him to get a review of the decision of the Cabinet, headed by Errol Walton Barrow, who did not want them to come here. That is what they did. So that they are new converts. You must not come forward here and tell the public that you are the one who brought St. Joseph Hospital here and who was always interested in

St. Joseph Hospital. You had your doubts at the very beginning.

If you are going to deal with it on a non-partisan basis, let us deal with it upon the basis of the fact that when they came here, from the very beginning you had doubts in your mind as to whether they could fit into the scheme of the delivery of health care in Barbados. At that time, there was a maternity hospital in the north of the island, St. Andrew, and there was also a parochial medical officer system, and the then Director of Medical Services, Dr. Byer, was very careful to point out that they were coming here with a with-profit institution and that Barbadians would not have enough money to pay for the health services that they were offering because Barbados was a poor country, and in any event Barbados was offering comparable services free at public institutions. In fact, a health centre was opened in that area in St. Peter at that time.

There was a disagreement in the Cabinet, and the Cabinet came to the conclusion that there was a possibility that Barbados could benefit from this hospital because the hospital might prove to be an attraction to wealthy tourists who would come here for medical care. I still believe that that is so. But the honourable Members saw a problem from the very beginning, and the problem still persists, and the problem is that you cannot be sure as to how the decision-makers in charge of the institution will operate from time to time. The Government insisted in 1963, when they changed their mind, and put in a condition that 20% of the beds at the hospital should be made available to the public of Barbados free. That is still a condition. So do not say that the Government is on trial. They are on trial because they have to account to the public of Barbados for the fact that they have a hospital there which was given duty free concessions upon the basis that 20% of the beds would be given free to the public, and periodically, they have never been able to prove that they have done it. So do not let us fool ourselves.

7.10 p.m.

I regard it as highly insulting to the public of Barbados for them to say, via a newspaper report, that they are going to close something and they are going to sell it for \$15 million. They will have to pay taxes if they sell it for \$15 million. A lot, too! So do not let us fool ourselves with this. You are not dealing with any bribes. You are dealing with people who, consistently throughout the history of the hospital, have proved difficult to come to an arrangement with, under your Administration and under our Administration.

The same points that the Right Honourable Member for St. John made about attempting to integrate the St. Joseph Hospital into the health scheme in Barbados, that was started during Dr. Caddle's time, was continued through every Minister of Health in this Administration, and it was continued right up to less than a month ago

and right up to a week ago. Up to a week ago, a communication was sent by me, through the representative in the area, to the administrator saying, do not do anything precipitate because the Government is aware of the fact that there are a number of institutions in Barbados which are selling health insurance policies which provide for hospitalization and which are expanding, and that it is clear to us, within the context of the National Health Service, there will still be an area where there will be people who would have insurance for hospitalization and would have the choice of going to St. Joseph if they want to. We said, do not do anything precipitate!

We also pointed out that the Government had amended the Health Services Levy Act to allow the Health Service Board to contract certain services from private or other companies. We came in here with the amendment. The significance of that amendment, obviously, was lost upon everybody who is dealing with this, because I said when we were amending it that it would be necessary to utilize all of the private sector facilities to ensure that there was no unnecessary waiting list and no unnecessary duplication of equipment and laboratory technology in Barbados. That is another area.

In respect of obstetrics and gynaecology, I am going to deal with this, and I am going to deal with it in my usual manner, frankly. Many attempts were made to use 20 beds for obstetrics and gynaecology. They all foundered on two facts, (1) the cost and, (2), the fact that the Sisters insisted that if there was a case there in which any question of medical termination arose, they would have to leave and go somewhere else, that it was contrary to their moral principles. Every time the question was raised that emergency situations would develop, they said, "Well, you would have to take them out and take them to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital."

Here is a third point. The hospital had no medical staff to provide continuous supervision, and the discussions always foundered on the fact that the small group of doctors who provided medical services at the hospital insisted that the Sisters were competent to negotiate hospital costs with the Government, but nobody was competent to negotiate medical costs with the Government but they themselves.

As recently as a month or so ago, the now Minister of Health requested that a re-examination be held on the question of using the hospital for gynaecological and obstetric cases, and so sharp was the tone of the note that went to the doctors, to reply and to help, that the Head of the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital replied as follows:

"This letter was discussed at a meeting of five consultants in the department and the following points were made:"

This is the 19/11/1985:

"In paragraph 2 there seems to be a suggestion that there might be a lack of co-operation on the part of the Queen Elizabeth consultants. This has us rather puzzled, as nowhere in our correspondence has this been implied and we certainly are prepared to co-operate with the Ministry's decision.

"We were asked for comments and recommendations in the SJH proposals."

That means proposals from the St. Joseph Hospital, proposals sent in as a result of a specific request by the Ministry again — 'Put in your proposals, we are anxious to help!'

"We pointed out"

and this is the point:

"....that the benefit to QEH would be marginal at present. It would, of course, disappear when the new block is completed. We do not feel that we should be involved in the financial negotiation and simply observe that \$600 000 seems a large sum to pay for a service which will not provide much benefit to QEH. It is, of course, the Ministry's decision as to how much money they wish to pay for this service if it is decided to institute it."

I must say that this doctor can write.

That is the position, the 19/11/1985. Whom do you expect us to be advised by? If you are going to have an obstetrics and gynaecological unit at that area, are we not to get the opinions of the people whom we pay handsomely to head the department? That is their opinion. That is why I can so confidently say that I challenge any honourable Member from the other side to demonstrate and to prove that there is any area of activity at the St. Joseph Hospital which this community will be deprived of, and that this community's health would be at stake.

"The very important concern was also raised at this meeting, and I believe was raised last year, as to whether it is appropriate to transfer patients from Queen Elizabeth Hospital to a maternity unit with no medical staff physically present at all times."

Again, that is one of the bottlenecks from the very beginning. These people had no money to hire any staff.

"As I pointed out to you last year, the Obstetrics Department of the QEH cannot simply supply junior staff to the St. Joseph Hospital from our present allocation. We think all the Ministry should consider this very carefully."

7.20 p.m.

"It is also suggested that it should be ascertained beforehand if there will be a sufficient number of patients from the area involved to warrant instituting this service."

This is the masterpiece of diplomacy telling you to tell the people to get lost, it is not worth it. A masterpiece of diplomacy! That is the view — I am not calling anybody's name — of the Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. So therefore my suggestion that the Government should take up \$600 000 or \$1.2 million for obstetrics and gynaecology must be viewed against that considered opinion. We were anxious in the administration to get them to give us the green light, but the people came back and said that is the position.

Sir, as far as a Casualty is concerned, the bottom of the suggestion got knocked out the day the polyclinics were expanded to deal with the clinical medical office service.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister has 4 minutes more to conclude his spending.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: With the expansion of the polyclinics underneath the hill, all of the opportunity that there was to provide this service was removed, because down the road the very services which they would be performing above at St. Joseph, namely the walk-in service as opposed to emergency service, was being provided.

Sir, I just want to say this. Far from being against the hospital, I sent a message. I repeat the message. Booz Allan Hamilton has said, "Barbados has a golden opportunity to provide services to sick people from the United States of America." I believe in that. I also believe this. We have a fantastic reservoir of medical talent in Barbados. Some of it can relocate from opposite the hospital, from the clinics in Belleville to St. Joseph. I know, I am confident, that their concept of charging will redound to the benefit of Barbados' foreign exchange. I know that. They have already got duty free privileges. We will give them Tourist Board money to promote it. We will give them anything that is reasonable. We shall treat them as an international business company. I say this. We agree also that they can go out and promote it as an area for a medical school for the delivery of preclinical medical education. We say that. All of this has been told to them. All I say is this. If the Barbadian taxpayers' money is going to go to support anything down there, the Barbados Government must have full say in the management. We shall not pick our pockets and put money into the hands of people who have shown nothing but contempt for Barbados and its institutions, and I am going to finish by demonstrating that contempt.

A letter was written to me by one Rubinski telling me that she was enclosing a letter from the Sisters abroad. She did not enclose it. I do not know whether her secretary thought that it would be an insult to the

Prime Minister of Barbados to enclose it, but I got a copy of the letter, and this is the letter. I am making it a document of the House to show you how they deal with us, and it reads as follows:

*Casa Generalizia della Congregazione
delle Suore della S.S. Madre Addolorata*

00105 ROMA - VIA PAOLO III, 9

TELEF. 06. 82. 04

December 6th, 1985

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that we the Owners of St. Joseph Hospital, The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, have decided to cease operations of the hospital effective January 19th, 1986.

This has been a painful decision for us, who have served at St. Joseph since its inception January 6th, 1966. This decision was arrived at after extensive deliberation, prayer and reflection upon those circumstances affecting the hospital.

Years of prolonged economic losses, spiralling wages, increasing cost of supplies, coupled with limited number of Sisters, declining census and revenues, dictated this irreversible course of action. In the last five years alone we have supported the hospital's payroll and operations in excess of 1.5 million US Dollars, BDS. \$2,970,000.00. Since we can no longer sustain the losses, decision to close is inevitable."

I do not deny them freehold title, God bless them.

Sir, I make this a document of the House. That is how they feel about it. If they say it is irreversible, who am I to query the authority of the owners of the hospital? But I say this. There is one thing, they cannot move the building and take it anywhere. Many a time in this country one industry has closed only to be replaced by another industry of a similar kind with different owners providing more for the economy. That is my position.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for the City catches the eye.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Members on the other benches who have spoken so far have demonstrated to this Honourable House beyond any doubt or peradventure that there is nothing urgent, public or important about this issue. I should have thought that they who were bringing the motion would have sought at the beginning to establish the urgency, the connection which would make it of public importance, and they have failed to do this.

As the honourable Minister stated, and I wish to reiterate it, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother is a Roman Catholic Order, one of the wealthiest Orders in the world, but they are governed by the principle that all of their institutions must be

self-sufficient. The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother came to Barbados in the 1960s not fully understanding quite how socialized the delivery of health care was, and was going to become. So what has happened from the very beginning is that we had an organization which came here, profit-oriented in its motivation, not at all philanthropic, which discovered that their style of delivery of health care was not compatible with ours. And so, from day one they have faltered, and they have gone deeper and deeper and deeper until we have come to today's situation.

Too soon after the hospital was founded, and continually thereafter, they have been expecting the Government of Barbados both under the Democratic Labour Party and under the Barbados Labour Party, to subsidize their operation in St. Peter, and now they are expecting us to buy the property. You see, Mr. Speaker, Sir, they never really came to minister to the poor. Using the words of the Reverend Mother Superior herself, she said in a letter that they "have come to minister to the poor since that is their apostolic commitment." That is what she said. That has not been borne out by the practice and the kind of service which has been offered by the St. Joseph Hospital. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a part of the history of the hospital.

The body of this motion talks about the need for health care services in the north of this island. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that over the past 7 years the St. Joseph Hospital has not achieved anything as high as a 40% occupancy. The occupancy during the course of the last year was 38.4%, for the benefit of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central - 38.4%, occupancy. They cannot fill the beds. Even though they have import duty concessions, even though, as we have heard, 20% of the beds have to be designated for the free use of the people of this country, they cannot fill the beds.

I do not understand why, if the Democratic Labour Party feels so strongly about the St. Joseph Hospital, when they were the Government, they did not acquire it and then integrate it into the health care services of this country, which were in the early 1970s in a not too happy situation? It would have been cheaper, there would have more of an argument then, because the health profile of this country was not in as good a condition as it is today, and there might have been an argument for the then Government to purchase it in the early Seventies. This hospital opened its doors in 1966. By 1970-71 it was in dire trouble.

7.30 p.m.

But, Mr. Speaker, the question has to be, in December of 1985, where is the present need? We have a National Health Service which is in the process of being implemented. We have a network of polyclinics, the first of which is located yards away from the site of the

St. Joseph Hospital. The St. Joseph Hospital set out to deliver — to use their words — primary and secondary care. As soon as the Maurice Byer Polyclinic was put on the ground, that was the end of any primary care that the St. Joseph Hospital offered to what they described as the poor people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, over the years the St. Joseph Hospital has put many, many proposals to successive Governments of Barbados. There was a proposal about the establishment of a Casualty Department and an Intensive Care Unit down at the St. Joseph Hospital. They do have an Intensive Care Unit — three beds, closed, empty! Cannot fill them! Then there was another proposal about Government's assistance with the payment of nurses' salaries. Then there was another proposal about collaboration between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in caring for patients in obstetrics and gynaecology; and there were many other proposals.

In my time as the Minister of Health proposals were put to me as well. I am now reading from a file. In 1983, in the month of May, May 11, there was a meeting between representatives of the St. Joseph Hospital and a representative from an organisation known as the Order of Malta, another very wealthy organisation, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and officials of the Ministry of Health. In May of 1983 the note says that apparently the Vatican, which we know is the richest city in the entire world, requested assistance for St. Joseph's from the Order of Malta. The Vatican was not prepared to bail out the St. Joseph Hospital in May of 1983 and asked the Order of Malta to provide assistance. The purpose of the meeting was to update the Order of Malta's representative with the reasons for the precarious financial position of the St. Joseph Hospital.

At page 2 of the Minutes of that meeting it says this — very instructive, Mr. Speaker — “The Order of Malta representative took us by surprise” — ‘us’ meaning the Ministry of Health personnel — “..... when, on going through the door, he stated that he would now be able to return to Rome and assure them that Barbados was not introducing a communist system.” The point at issue is that without Government's assistance, there is a distinct possibility that St. Joseph will have to close its doors just like its sister hospital was forced to do a few years ago in Port-of-Spain. The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, you see, Mr. Speaker, do not only operate in Barbados, they operate in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, or used to, St. Lucia and many other countries in this part of the world. I found that very instructive, Mr. Speaker, so I read on, and I read on to you.

I have the notes of another meeting, and divers meetings were held. This one was held in June of 1983 between the Minister of Health, Dr. Blackman, and the Chief of Staff at the St. Joseph Hospital. This was a

meeting where the Minister of Health in Barbados took himself down to the St. Joseph Hospital to accommodate them in discussions. At this meeting, at which a Mr. Edghill, Chief of Staff, Dr. Edghill, starred brilliantly, it was established that the hospital was facing a problem of gross under-utilisation of its services, and this had resulted in a worsening of its financial position. A geriatric and a medical floor had to be closed with a consequent lay off of staff. That was in June of 1983.

This file will go on and on to show you the serious position which had to do with the fact that they could not attract people into the beds of the St. Joseph Hospital. As services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital became more sophisticated, more comprehensive, so did services which the St. Joseph Hospital seek to offer become less and less attractive, because there was a cost factor, and that came through in all of the negotiations with Ministers of Health, one after the other. As soon as a Minister of Health went into office, one of the first letters he would get would be from the Mother Superior of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother about all sorts of things. They have their own cemetery and all down there. All of that you will find in these files, and it went on and on, Mr. Speaker, until it comes to the point of today.

A lot has been said about a maternity hospital. There has been a lot of argument that the Government might use it as a maternity hospital. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that in this country 96% — and I am quoting, this is not a figure off the top of my head, I am quoting from the Chief Medical Officer — 96% of the women in this country choose — and I use that word deliberately — to have their babies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. As we heard the Honourable Prime Minister say, when the St. Joseph Hospital put that proposal to us about a maternity unit down there, they had to admit that the high risk cases, that is, pregnant women with the rising Rh factor, pregnant women who are serious diabetics, pregnant women who have a number of other diseases such as hypertension, and who for many other reasons would have been recorded as high risk patients; could not be entertained at the St. Joseph Hospital. They themselves said that if an emergency arose where a child had to be taken — and their interpretation was that it was a medical termination of pregnancy — in the middle of the operation, the mother, with the child half extruded from her body, would have to leave their premises, because it was against their religious principles. For that and many other reasons the maternity hospital proposal was not feasible. It turned out that in 1983 it would have cost the taxpayers of this country \$600 000 for the St. Joseph Hospital to accommodate the non-high risk cases.

Now, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should say something about the new wing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That new wing is going to provide 70 beds. Forty eight of the 70 beds will go to obstetrics and gynaecology. Bear in

mind that in this country we have a birth rate of 17, we have a fertility rate of 2.1, which is comparable with that of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, that we are at replacement levels, and that the 48 beds, together with other beds dedicated to obstetrics and gynaecology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, will more than meet the needs of this country in that specialty for many, many, many years to come. Six of those beds will go to Surgical, Intensive Care and Burns Unit and 16 beds will go to orthopaedics. In addition, that new wing is going to house a large demonstration and lecture theatre for the medical students, bearing in mind that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is a teaching hospital of the University of the West Indies and the most acclaimed teaching hospital of that university today. It is the hospital to which most students wish to come. Also provided will be a decent lounge and library for doctors and workshops. 7.40 p.m.

Included in the U.S. \$11.7 million, for which agreement will be signed in Washington, D.C. tomorrow, will be the upgrading of the Casualty, the Paediatrics Unit, the ENT — Ear, Nose and Throat Unit — the Laboratory, Operating Theatres and many more. In that, too, is Bds \$5 million for equipment, and there is a component for training as well. So the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as a general hospital, will be able to service the needs of this country as it was designed to do in 1960, and will continue to do so. When we are all dead and rotting, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will continue to serve this country as it was meant to do. So there can be no argument then on need or any other business for general hospital services other than I have just described in this country.

The maternity proposal, I have shown, Mr. Speaker, why it was not feasible, and, even in the end, the St. Joseph Hospital team had to admit it themselves.

The Honourable Prime Minister has rightly said that this Government does not own the St. Joseph Hospital. We have no obligation to it. It is true, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that it is an excellent piece of real property, and there is no reason why public sector interests, and the Government, too, might not look at it for all sorts of uses, maybe medical uses, maybe allied medical uses, maybe non-medical uses. But I reject entirely that there is any specialized need in the north of this country, because the truth is, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that it was not the poor people, or the working people from the north of this country who filled up — or failed to fill up — beds at the St. Joseph Hospital, and that is not an open secret. Everybody knows that. It is a terrible indictment on the management of the St. Joseph Hospital that, over the years, they have failed to collect fees, because the people who go to St. Joseph Hospital are people who can afford to pay fees, and I would not want to be part of any agreement between this Government and the St. Joseph

Hospital under the present management it has in any joint venture, where the management operates in the style that has brought the hospital to its present impasse.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member has only two minutes more to conclude her speech.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. What I need to say then is that there are now currently 38 beds being occupied at the St. Joseph Hospital, and they are being occupied by geriatrics. Perhaps, that is an indication, that is a clue that somebody, perhaps the Government or the private sector, might look at the St. Joseph Hospital side with geriatric care in mind, bearing in mind, Mr. Speaker, that we are an aging population and that by the year 2000, the population period of Barbados would be such that we will have more people over the age of 65 than in any other age group.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is my contribution.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, sometimes we allow political considerations to blind us in any objective evaluation of important problems before us. It would seem to me, Sir, that the burden of the argument of the Member for the City (Hon. B. A. Miller) was that the occupancy rate of the hospital was 38 per cent or thereabouts. That may well be true, but it is 38 per cent because it is performing the role of a private hospital and not specifically designed to serve the role of a public institution in the North. If that were the case, then I could assure you that that occupancy rate would be over 100 per cent overnight. It would not be a problem.

I think it is important to look back. I have worked at the St. Joseph Hospital myself, in the 1960s, and beyond, sometime in the 1970s, and, perhaps, I can bring some balance to this debate. That hospital was built by one of the institutions of the Catholic Church, that is, one of the arms of the Catholic Church. Part of the objective was, of course, to promote the Catholic faith in Barbados through health care as one of the facets of that operation. There can be no doubt that, as a private, commercial venture, a fundamental error was made when the hospital was placed in the north, which meant that it was always at a disadvantage in the terms of attracting people, largely because of the distance. I need not get into the reasons why that mistake was made, but it has always been a mistake.

I have no difficulty in believing that there was an element of intransigence between the Government and the administrators over the role which either one might play in relation to the further development of the institution. However, it is important for us to look and see what we have now. What we have now is an excellent capital investment in Barbados. Make no mistake about it.

The St. Joseph Hospital is a good capital investment. It is not worth any \$15 million, and I would oppose very much any proposal to purchase the hospital for \$15 million, because you have to bear in mind that the object of the institution was to break even and provide an element of care for those who could pay and, hopefully, to those who could not pay. That was the basic objective behind it. It was never established as a commercial profit-making organization and, therefore, such things as loss and profits and so on cannot be taken into consideration, and I believe that any Government involvement, whether on lease basis or acquisition, should take in mind simply the historic cost of building the hospital over the years.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Those who own the institution are interested in health care and they wish to allow it to continue as their contribution to health care in Barbados. So whatever that price works out to, I do not know, but I know, that it would only be a fraction of \$15 million. So I think it would be a waste of time even considering paying any \$15 million for any hospital of that kind.

But the point is, Sir, that I think it is wrong to denigrate the efforts made by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother in Barbados over the years. I will tell you something. They have made an important contribution in nursing care in Barbados. They have also in the area of obstetrics, in particular, done a tremendous job at that hospital. It is not known, but a considerable amount of eye surgery, particularly cataract surgery and the newer form of cataract surgery, is done at that hospital, for a price because it is a private hospital. A lot of ear, nose and throat surgery has been done at that hospital. It provides a service for geriatrics at a reasonable price and, also, some very good medicine has been practised over the years. So that you have an infrastructure, basically, which has catered to medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, ear, nose and throat surgery and ophthalmology over the years. The infrastructure is there. The limitation of use is due to the fact that it is a private hospital.

7.50 p.m.

I would like to suggest to the Government that they should look and see what is going on at the hospital today, the particular disciplines that it has catered to, and catered to well, and see whether or not there cannot be a further development in those particular areas. I will tell you, there would be a waiting list of years for people requiring cataract surgery at the QEH. A lot of cataract surgery can be done there and specialised services can be provided there in cataract surgery. There are persons now who are doing cataract surgery without anaesthesia, a new technique, at the St. Joseph Hospital. A lot of minor and intermediate surgery, like hernias and so on, can be done

at the St. Joseph Hospital where now you have a long waiting list at the QEH, and a lot of obstetrics.

The reason why 4 per cent of all deliveries was taking place at the St. Joseph Hospital is because, again, it is a private service. I would say it could probably cope with a substantial increase in the number of babies delivered up there, particularly from the north, if it had some public base. Those statistics are only relevant to the private sector of medicine; it has nothing to do with the potential use of the hospital, and I would put it to you that many persons would feel much more comfortable — and I am talking now about normal deliveries, deliveries without the complications requiring a duplication of the infrastructure at the QEH for the small percentage of difficult cases — the vast majority of mothers who have babies have normal deliveries, and I would suspect that it would be quite easy, and the screening process is such now that it would eliminate all those cases that might run into trouble and allow ordinary deliveries to be done up there.

A lot of routine gynaecological surgery is done up there, so let us make no mistake. If it is a desire of the Government to provide a facility for the north, there is a demand in the north apart from the private demand for the use of the hospital. Basically the questions boil down to these: Does the Government believe that there is a demand for an in-patient facility in the north? Does the Government believe that such a facility can be complementary to what is done at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? Does the Government believe that such a facility will also be complementary to the out-patient facility which you have there in the form of the Maurice Byer Clinic? I believe that the two can form an integrated service and can enhance the health care delivery.

I will tell you something. I am looking down the road now. There has always been a tremendous need in Barbados for a convalescent service, and I am talking about a convalescent service in the sense that you might need it. A patient might go into the hospital and have an amputation, and that patient might need to be in hospital for two to three months in the QEH. Now if you had 20 or 30 beds at the St. Joseph Hospital allocated for that purpose, that bed at the QEH could be used, for example, to do probably 25 hernias in the same period. There may be a case where a patient may go into hospital and may have acute pneumonia. Once the acute phase is over and the patient is from the north, the patient can be transferred for the next week up there, and the bed could come into further use. I am just giving another possible public use, that is, in the area of integration with convalescent services to reduce the unit cost of services at the QEH, and increase the turnover in that area.

So you have many areas. You have ophthalmology where the demand is there, where the backlog is there,

where the infrastructure is there. You have ENT there; you have all these things. I think that there is a case, where, if the price is right — and the price, I think, is the historic cost of the St. Joseph Hospital taking all other matters into consideration — for Government intervention and integration in the public services.

On the other area relating to Government supporting a private sector venture in health that is partially tourist related, all I can say is this. I have repeatedly pointed out in this country that one of the most lucrative sources of tourism is in the health related area. I have pointed out before in a Budget reply that in Italy, in one city alone, \$1 billion a year are earned through purely one single minor sector of health, namely, an integrated renal dialysis service with the East or West coast of the United States. It is all possible. It is my basic belief that the Government has an opportunity, if they can negotiate with the Sisters, to try to acquire the property at a reasonable price, and I believe it can be used to the advantage of Barbadians as a public institution, as a priority.

It is important not to be guided by the kind of suggestions which the honourable Member for the City produced because those statistics simply relate to the institution as a private institution. They have nothing to do with the potential use of the institution for the north or for Barbados as a whole. Let me tell you something else. There are many persons in Barbados who actually prefer to go to the St. Joseph Hospital, and the reason for that is that a lot of their rooms are either private or semi-private, and it forms an attraction for some people, particularly maternity cases and so on. So I would make a plea on the floor of this House for moderation in dealing with the matter.

I think the St. Joseph Hospital administrators really have nothing to sell, because the project has gone bust and I do not see it being economically viable. It was never economically viable, from the very beginning. At the same time, they have provided a service over the years, and I believe that the Government, once it takes a decision, which I would support — and it would be the right decision — that it can be complementary to existing hospital services, should seek to negotiate, either on a lease or lease purchase basis or something of that kind, depending on the state of Government finances. So that I very much support the position taken by the
 • Leader of the Opposition on the Resolution.

I will tell you this. There are hundreds of females who have been booked to deliver in the St. Joseph Hospital who are stranded now and worrying where their babies will be delivered — I do not practise obstetrics, I get these calls — because many of the doctors who would have booked them in there do not have admitting privileges at the QEH, and the mothers

may wish their babies to be delivered by the obstetricians of their choice. That is another factor that you have.

I do not see any problem. The hospital can be a public institution, it can be a mixed public and private institution, provided the price is right. There is plenty of scope to make full use of the institution, and I have only highlighted a few areas. Briefly, Sir, I would recap by saying that there is a major area down the road, the area of convalescent medicine. There could be a major area in geriatric medicine. I would like to say that in eye surgery it has certainly made a major contribution in ENT surgery, and also in obstetrics and gynaecology, and I would hope that the Government would not allow the obvious bitterness that has developed in the negotiations so far, or lack of negotiations, to blind them to the potential use of the institution.

In the judgment, Sir, having practised medicine in this country for almost 20 years now and having worked at both institutions, the QEH and the St. Joseph Hospital, I believe, Sir, that there is a role for both of them in this country, just as I firmly believe that there is and always will be a role for private and public sector medicine in Barbados.

Thank you very much.

Hon. D.A.C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, I must compliment the last honourable speaker on what was a very restrained and constructive speech in part, but I am puzzled by a number of things in this whole business of the St. Joseph Hospital. The honourable Member who just sat down began by saying it was a mistake in the very first place to build the hospital in the north. I wonder, therefore.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, if the honourable Member would give way: I said it was a mistake as a commercial venture, which it was conceived as, if you may recall.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That qualification was not present in my ear or my hand-writing at the time, Sir. There was no mention of commercial venture. If he is saying that now, commercial then. I cannot understand, if it was a mistake to site it in the north, even as a commercial venture, how, all of a sudden, the proponents of this motion and the party on the other side are saying what a wonderful service it has provided for the people of the north and why, at all costs, it must be retained.
 8.00 p.m.

The *Sunday Sun*, in Mr. Tudor's "Mixed Bag" that was burst, Sir, made a great plea for that. The Senator from the Other Place who is collecting signatures also

made a great song and dance about the relevance of this hospital to the north. I do not think that we should look at it purely as a matter of geography. I think the question is whether the facility can be integrated in the general hospital services of the island and upon what terms.

I want to make it clear that the Government, as I understand it, is not opposed to the use of the St. Joseph Hospital in the future for such purposes.....

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS:.....as Government's advisers may suggest as being complementary to existing services. Clearly, there is a need, for example — to add to some of the points made by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central — for an extension of the services presently rendered by the Psychiatric Hospital. Clearly there is a need, such as exists in Miami, for a centre for rehabilitation of persons affected by the use of drugs. That site is an ideal place for use as a drug rehabilitation centre. Government, clearly, thinks — and I think this was mentioned on Friday by the honourable Member for St. Peter — that while the extension to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital gets underway in January and will continue for 2 years, there will be need for a facility to take up the slack, as it were, and to fill in in those 2 years. And the St. Joseph Hospital might well have the basic facilities and services to assist the Government in those 2 years, when there will be some dislocation by reason of the extension of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I made a note to mention the point — I did not know like technical phrase — overseas convalescent patient — that, as I am informed, Government is looking very closely and actively at encouraging overseas insurance companies that have patients who are in need of recuperative treatment in a climate such as Barbados, to come here, and, as I am informed, it is a billion dollar business in Italy.

So that I do not think that anyone should get the impression that Government does not see a future use for the hospital or that Government is unwilling to negotiate. But Government's present position has to be judged against a background of a number of questions that I wish to raise. I am not going to make them as positive statements, I am going to ask some questions, because the other side has to answer them. First of all, Sir, — I am going to ask about 11 or 12 — is it a fact that after Sister Ann Marie resigned, there was a sharp decline in the level of subventions from the private sector of Barbados to the hospital, and if so, why? (2) To what extent do doctors practising at that hospital contribute to the upkeep of the hospital?

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: None!)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not a cent! One doctor who was doing eye work, when it was checked and found

that he did about 200 operations, decided to give the hospital a little thing out of what that person was getting, I would not say he or she, because that would be too identifiable.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask, over the years has it been the practise to run the hospital from Rome rather than from Barbados, through the Board of Directors?.....

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: From Rome!)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Is that related to the letter now made a document of this House? Was that document read by the honourable Prime Minister written to members of the Board as a *fait accompli* by the owners that they had taken a decision which was irreversible?

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I cannot do anything about it.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: (4) Is it a fact that, in August 1974, a newspaper article alleged that the hospital was having difficulties? (5) I wish to ask, is it a fact that between May 4, 1976 and October 29, 1979, the hospital put absolutely no proposal to the Government for addressing the problems at the hospital? Is it a fact that between October 29, 1979 and January 20, 1982, there was still no contact with the Ministry of Health on the part of the hospital?

For six years, virtually, no proposals came from the hospital to Government as to the future use and operation of the hospital. But on June 8, 1983, there was a meeting between the Minister of Health and representatives of the hospital, and it was agreed at that meeting in June 1983 that the Sister-in-Charge would submit proposals to Government. As late as April 9, 1984 no proposals came from the Sister-in-Charge!

(6) I wish to ask, is it a fact that the first time any proposals of substance came to the Ministry of Health was May 1, 1984, from a Mr. Nugent, acting on behalf of the hospital? (7) I go further, Sir. I ask the Members on the other side, is it a fact that they still oppose the use of an unused building at the St. Joseph Hospital by the St. George's Medical School? The offshore medical school wanted to use the facilities down there and pay something in the vicinity of \$150 000 a year.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Who?

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. They were saying that they opposed the St. George's Medical School making

even a contribution of \$150 000 to the St. Joseph Hospital, or to any other place in Barbados.
8.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, those questions that I have put, in particular those relating to the management of the hospital, suggest that the management of the hospital has been less than satisfactory. The management of the hospital seems only to wish to deal with the last Government and this Government only at times of crisis, or what they perceive to be times of crisis, and you had long gaps in the correspondence where there was no activity and no movement from the side of the hospital — 3 years between 1976 and 1979, 3 years between 1979 and 1982 when there was no action — and all of a sudden, now you have from Rome a decision taken by the owners that they are closing and it is irreversible, after that decision is made, you are now asking the Government to start to negotiate. They never told you before the letter of December 6, or whatever date it was, that the Prime Minister read. There was no urgency communicated to Government, let us say, 2 months ago that, 'we are in a desperate situation, we will have to close, and we want to talk.' But Government is expected to be railroaded and stampeded into taking a decision to pay \$15 million by January 19. What kind of madness is this? There is no Government in the world, which is conscious of its own sovereignty, its own self-respect and its own independence, that would bend and buckle to that kind of directive and demand.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If they want to go to Dominica, they can go to Dominica. They can go to Dominica and set up there.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no! The buildings will remain.

I just wish to say that I am satisfied that Government is prepared to enter into negotiations with the people, but they must know how to behave to a Government, too. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, if he were Prime Minister, would not have sat down and allowed them to insult his office. I do not believe that, as Barbadians, we should allow this Prime Minister to have his office insulted and to have correspondence through the Press, rather than through the proper channels. He is the Minister of Finance, after all. I think that on this matter we must be clear. If their behaviour has been less than satisfactory, we must let them know. At the same time, we recognize that the place has a use, and I am sure that, in the interest of all Barbadians, Government will do its best to ensure that the health services of this Island are well protected.

There is no case made out that the health services are in total collapse. What we are trying to do is to listen to a plea *ad misericordiam* on behalf of the hospital, that is all, help them out. I think that the Government will be willing to look at reasonable proposals.

I regret that, except for the last speaker on the Opposition benches, nothing else came from the Opposition of a nature and quality to inform Government's decision making. We have had some suggestions from the last honourable Member, at least, Sir.

I am obliged to Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, in joining in this debate which, thanks to the Leader of the Opposition, has been allowed to be aired in the forum, I think perhaps, I am in a unique position of having been a patient in the St. Joseph Hospital.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member on her way out asks if for gynaecology and obstetrics. Sir, the obvious response to that honourable Member is not going to come from my lips. She and I are in the same boat. Neither of us has availed ourselves of those facilities.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am probably in the unique position of having been a patient in the St. Joseph Hospital. In 1975, when I had hepatitis, I spent 3 weeks in that institution, because the doctor who was looking after me at the time was practising in that institution, and this is one of the advantages of the St. Joseph Hospital which has perhaps not been looked at by those who have spoken on the other side.

The reason for this debate has to do with the hospital closure. In many large countries the closing of hospitals is a fairly ongoing routine thing, where hospitals, for one reason or another, either because of population shifts or because of failure to make a profit, find themselves having to close. Even municipal hospitals, when, in the opinion of those who provide the funds, the institution is not providing the service commensurate with the amount of funds being provided, have been known to close. Whenever there is closure of a hospital, there is bound to be a psychological wrenching on the part of those who anticipated, or who have used, or who may use the services of that particular hospital. I do not think that the Prime Minister's statement that only a small percentage of persons use the hospital — and, therefore, the implication that it is not important whether it closes or it remains open — is the basis on which a decision to save the St. Joseph Hospital should rest.

I do not believe that, in the delivery of certain services, the bottom line of how many people are being served, or whether that service could be made available somewhere else, will always be the criteria, and the only set of criteria, used to make a decision. A number of people in the northern part of this country believe that the St. Joseph Hospital is useful and will be useful to them. There is no doubt that the sudden removal of the St. Joseph Hospital from operation in the northern part of Barbados will result in a psychological trauma for a large number of people who live in the northern part of Barbados. It will provide trauma for those who work in the institution. It will provide trauma for those who have gone to the institution. It will provide trauma for those persons who still perceive the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to be a place where you go for long periods to receive whatever services one receives there.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke about having been in the institution. I can say that in that institution I received loving care. I can say that my own family who have stayed in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital received loving care. But I can also say that I know of persons who have been to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who cannot boast of having received loving care. Therefore, Sir, the alternative of the availability of another hospital is an alternative which, if it is possible to provide it in Barbados, should be provided.

8.20 p.m.

Sir, let me make it clear that if it is the Government's contention that the people in the St. Joseph Hospital who have to deal with the Government have been insulting to the Government, and if it can be demonstrated that they did not show the proper understanding of their relationship with the Government and therefore were insulting, I, for one, could never assist them in that regard. I would feel bound to support any Government of Barbados that stood firm on the sovereignty of this country, and that is why I am particularly disappointed that the Honourable Attorney General would raise the question of the St. George's Medical School's use of the St. Joseph Hospital as a possible reason for the hospital being opened or closed, or to raise questions about the Opposition's support and/or not support for that particular institution.

Another one bites the dust!

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not know. Why don't you get the Central Bank people to import a chair for you to sit in? Another chair gone!

Mr. Speaker, there is a hymn which says yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our opposition to the St. George's Medical School falls within the same ambit as the Prime Minister's opposition to the letter which he read out. It assaults the sovereignty of this country. The Attorney General, perhaps never having lived in North America, can-

not fully appreciate what is involved and what was involved with the concept of the St. George's Medical School and the extent to which it offends the sovereignty and the dignity of Barbados. The St. George's Medical School should be opposed, and having opposed it, I will oppose it in the same terms today and tomorrow. Those persons who suggest that allowing the St. George's Medical School to rent some rooms at the St. Joseph Hospital would have helped to keep the hospital alive and that the Opposition opposed it ought to be persuaded to understand the dignity which a country like Barbados must have. They ought not, if the letters in the newspapers are any indication, to be allowed to continue this sycophancy which suggests that, because Barbados is a small country, any Tom, Dick or Harry that comes out of the United States with any fly-by-night scheme is someone whom we are automatically to bow down to and worship.

The St. George's Medical School has been exposed in the United States and beyond. Not only that school in particular, but all of the schools that operate like that school operated. Barbados is no place for them, nor is Barbados any place for anybody who writes a letter to the Prime Minister without recognising that they are writing a letter to the Prime Minister of a sovereign country. So they all fall in the same cohoblot, and we as Barbadians must let it be known that we will stand on our dignity.

I do not myself like the idea of the Minister of Finance uttering threats by way of his statement with regard to the lot of taxes which would follow the price that has been set, for as a potential party in a potential negotiation, he should know that he should come to the matter with clean hands. As a Minister of Finance he should utter such words very carefully.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying I do not like it. Did you like it?

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Are you saying that his hands are not clean?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is a technical term, it does not mean you are pushing your hand in the till.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You do not understand the term and you are going to get there and fret yourself to death.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You are just depraved!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Who could be more depraved than you? Of course, you would know who is depraved. You are an expert in the field, so if you say I am depraved it must be true.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please cut it out and get on with the debate.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He does not understand.

As I was saying, Sir, the Prime Minister cannot be heard or even be perceived to be threatening anyone with taxes or about taxes from the floor of this House. I am sure that the Prime Minister would not wish it to be noised abroad that in a debate concerning a matter such as this hospital, he has stated that he would like to get a lot of taxes in such a manner.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. Those are not my words. What I said precisely was that you cannot take the building, that no exemption from the property transfer tax had been given and that it had to be paid.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a point of explanation.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I will not allow my time to be frittered away, but the honourable Member's words were "\$15 million? A lot of taxes!" All I am saying is that the impression must not go abroad that the Minister of Finance would threaten to use the route of taxation in a matter.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the people may have written a letter. They may have said in the letter that the decision was irreversible and they may have said all of the things which the letter put out. But the honourable Members on that side are fully aware that many a letter has been written in final terms which only started a negotiation, and the Honourable Prime Minister himself, on more than one occasion, would have been on one side or the other of a matter that was said to be — by somebody who did not know any better — irreversible. The figure of \$15 million is not even an opening figure, it was a figure for the newspaper. But if I were the owner of a hospital and the Government was interested in discussing the matter with me, I am sure that I would wish to discuss the matter in real terms and not necessarily in terms of figures which I had floated in the newspaper. So, Sir, I believe that there is room for discussion between the owners of the hospital and the Government and other interested parties, with a view to continuing a service which everyone agrees, however large or small it may be, has been a useful service.

I go further. On the question of medical terminations in a Catholic hospital, it is well known that that is a universal policy for all hospitals that bear the stamp of being a Catholic hospital, but it is also known that there are medical terminations at Catholic hospitals and that there have been medical terminations at that hospital. So, therefore, the question of the nun's position is really only the frame position which you would expect them to

take. It would be a strange set of Sorrowful Sisters or Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother who did not articulate their position in such broad schematic terms when it comes to medical terminations of pregnancy. Their position is sufficiently well known across the world that, even if they said that in a negotiation, they would expect the people with whom they negotiated to understand that that, too, is a term of art.

So, Mr. Speaker, what are we down to in the end? We are down to the Prime Minister suggesting that we on this side may not have been interested in the hospital because we were unsure of it. In 1962 a prudent Government would have been unsure of any set of operators who wrote to say "we are about to start a business, we would like some duty free concessions." I think a more appropriate time to question our decision would be 1965, when the hospital actually came in. I know it is correct to say that they were in fact given the duty free concessions. They were given a number of other concessions during the years, and both Governments have been negotiating with them with a view to maintaining the hospital in Barbados. It is, therefore, easy to be non-partisan in the matter and to recognise that the "Save the St. Joseph Hospital" effort is an effort worthy not only of us in this Honourable House, but worthy of all Barbadians.

8.30 p.m.

I will finish as I began, Sir. This hospital has provided a service to people. I know from my personal experience that the particular brand of service which it supplies is different from the brand of service at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The same doctors, the same nurses, but the environment, the atmosphere tends to be different and, therefore, persons who have a preference or persons who have choices might opt for the St. Joseph Hospital.

I know, too, that the system in which they allow other doctors to participate in the practice of medicine with the use of a hospital is not a system that is available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and, therefore, many of the doctors who function in the context of the St. Joseph Hospital could not, and will not be able to, with the closure of this hospital, function at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, because the structure is entirely different. The St. Joseph Hospital operates along the American system and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital operates in what may be called the English System, and the two, with regard to hospitalisation, are like chalk and cheese. They are as far apart in many respects as the two poles. So, Mr. Speaker, the closure of this hospital will not only remove the health services to a small coterie of persons who may have actually used them, but they will remove an alternative from within our system of health care delivery, an alternative which, I submit, is one worthy of continuation and, therefore, worthy of consideration.

No one could expect the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance to dip into the already beleaguered

coffers of the people of this country and pull out \$15 million and drop it in the hands of any operator, far less the operators of a hospital that has not shown any profit. It therefore falls well from his mouth when he says that he will not do it. We will not let him. But what we say to him and the Government is that he must not close the door, and he has apparently agreed with us that the door will not be closed. He is teaching a lesson to those who did not know how to knock on the door, and he is telling them to come back another time, that the door might be open to them.

I understand that on Thursday morning he is going to meet with the delegation that is bringing a petition — in a civilized manner — and discuss with them his own views on the matter. He will receive the petition. I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, that if 1 000, 2 000 or 3 000 Barbadians take the time out to sign a petition, it can only mean that there are at least 3 000 souls in Barbados who have enough interest in the hospital as to wish to see it survive.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the cynicism of some persons in this country, it is still true to say that where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name, there shall I be, and if 1 000 or 100 persons sign a petition saying to the Government that they wish a service to continue, it behoves the Government to listen carefully. It has been said that the voice of the people is the voice of God. If the honourable Members are saying that we, in the Opposition, or the 3 000 or the 10 000 people in Barbados who say save the St. Joseph Hospital are not worthy of listening to, then I say that the Government itself is not hearing well and, therefore, may not be worth listening to in the final analysis.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this Resolution was brought to this Honourable Chamber. I am glad that we have had the opportunity to discuss the matter, and I am glad that I was able to articulate some of the views which I hold, and, finally, to make the point that every effort should be made by the Government and by all Barbadians to try to save the hospital and the services which it provides.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Peter, who will be the last speaker for this evening.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must confess that I am pleased with the tone and the temper which have been observed in this debate. The closing of the St. Joseph Hospital is obviously an issue which, of necessity, would arouse much emotion, largely because of the involvement of a church in the matter, and, also, because of the social importance that one attaches to medical care. This debate, to my mind, has been pursued in a very constructive manner and has stripped this

emotive issue of a lot of the emotionalism which is out there on the street.

I am also pleased, Sir, with the tone and temper of the debate because it has, perhaps, served to dispel the impression that an indifferent Government has been sitting on the issue without due regard for the lot of the people who are employed at the St. Joseph Hospital, and without due regard for the provision of an adequate facility in the north.

My contribution to this debate will be brief, because, in a sense, the House is really moving towards a consensus, a consensus which says that whatever may be the worth in continuing to have a facility operated at the St. Joseph Hospital, we have to approach its future in a measured way, we have to approach its future by reference to the economies that may be involved, and we also have to approach its future by the deadlines that we, ourselves, set, and not necessarily by the arbitrary deadlines which might or might not have come from Rome. In my brief presentation, Sir, I should like to put the issues as I see them, and, particularly, to reflect on the question as to whether this issue is a northern issue or not.

It has been recognized in this House that this hospital has been plagued with problems from its very inception. It has also been recognized that a part of that general problem it has faced is that the hospital has never had a clearly defined role in our national health system beyond the role defined for it by the private interest to which it belongs. I want to submit to the House that the issue which must concern us at this stage is of a three-fold nature. The issue simply is whether, after 20 years of problems, we can work out a sensible and permanent role for the St. Joseph Hospital in our national health system; secondly, whether that role will be in the private domain or in the public domain; and, thirdly, whether we can satisfactorily arrive at a definition of that role, which may involve the expenditure of considerable sums of public monies, in accordance with the schedule which has been set by the private owners.

To my mind, Sir, the issue of the St. Joseph Hospital is not a northern issue, it really is a national issue. It is very easy to exaggerate the role it has played from a health care delivery point of view in the northern parishes in the past. To the people of the north, in general, and to the people of St. Peter in particular, the St. Joseph Hospital has really functioned as a place where certain doctors find it convenient to refer their wealthy clients for treatment. The full-cost service which the hospital has provided has generally served to put the facility beyond the reach of the persons who live in St. Peter and the persons who live in the northern parishes of the country. So that in so far as the role of the hospital has been national in character in the past, I

would want to submit to the House that any future role of the hospital ought not to be confused by questions of geographical location and should be seen within the context of the national framework.

8.40 p.m.

I want to subscribe to the point of view which I sense has started to emerge, that the proper role for the facility, St. Joseph, in future perhaps may be to develop it in a manner that is complementary to the facilities which now exist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and if we see the role for it in the future as involving a complementary relationship to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, then I fail to see how the hospital of the future can be narrowly defined in a narrow sense as a hospital which merely is designed to serve the North. Indeed, I would want to suggest that there are many parts of the North which may find it easier to use the facilities of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital than to make the trek down to St. Peter. Parts of your constituency, Sir, in St. Joseph have been lumped as being part of the North, and the residents of those parts of your constituency may find that if they have an urgent medical problem, it would be far easier to go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital than to St. Peter, and the same argument will hold true in the case of some residents from St. Thomas. So that, to my mind, the case which has been put on this side from the very beginning, and which has been seconded by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes), seems to me to be worthy of support, that any future development of the facility at St. Joseph in St. Peter, should be conceived of from a national point of view to provide services which may be complementary to those being provided at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital rather than from a narrow point of view to merely providing a service for the north, because there has not been a sufficient argument in support of the view that there is a special need for a separate hospital in the northern parishes of this country.

Secondly, Sir, I support the position taken by the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to the effect that any consideration of purchasing the hospital at this stage for \$15 million should be ruled out, but that we should see it as a valuable asset, the acquisition of which could give us certain latitude in planning a long-term development of health care facilities in this country whether on a public basis or on a private basis.

I also feel, Sir, that we should keep open the option of linking the development of these facilities with the operation of our tourist facility in Barbados. I do feel that if we were to free ourselves of the arbitrary deadline which the hospital has set for the taking of a decision, the matter of linkage with tourism as one option, the proper acquisition of the hospital as another option and its full integration into our national health system in a manner complementary with the role of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, would get the kind of systematic study

which would eventually lead to a happy solution being arrived at in the situation.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are still 10 minutes left in this debate. If the honourable Member for St. Michael North West wishes to speak, he may do so.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, it is clear as the debate settles down that much of what probably was envisaged as a controversial matter seems to be now a consensus on both sides as to the importance of this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt in my mind as to the usefulness of such an institution in the health services of Barbados, and this is further substantiated by the fact that the honourable Member for St. Lucy (Mr. R. E. Brathwaite) sometime ago aired his concern about the closing of the St. Lucy District Hospital, and that performed a role far more limited than what the St. Joseph Hospital has been performing. The truth is that if we are looking for health for all by the year 2 000, then we must use all the facilities at our disposal in an effort to give this objective a clear meaning.

Geographically speaking, Sir, the number of institutions that can give the kind of comprehensive health care in Barbados has been limited only to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and that hospital within years outstretched its initial projection, and so it is clear that the need for complementary services, on which I agree with the honourable Member for St. Peter, would be necessary in the future, and we ought not to lose an opportunity, even though it may not appear to be as feasible as we may want it to be, to seize the physical facilities there available so that we can utilise them as the need arises.

What I think has clouded part of the issue is that the intended health care system has not been clearly enunciated for one to understand why it is necessary to have a complementary service like the St. Joseph Hospital. A polyclinic cannot. In short, it only provides a primary approach to health care, but when you listen to the other members on both sides of the House, clearly the projection for the St. Joseph Hospital has demonstrated that it goes beyond primary care. It can develop secondary health care and tertiary health care. It need not be a teaching hospital as such, but certainly it can provide the needs that are so essential in a hospitalised situation. One complaint generally is the short time span that one has to remain at the hospital, and this is dealing with the convalescent aspect of it. Even with maternity cases you have heard people mention how they have to leave the hospital because they have

to make room for others to come in, which suggests that the inflow sometimes outmatches the supply of beds.

I am sure that the whole idea of maintaining the St. Joseph Hospital is not only for the people in the North, but it would serve to a large extent a number of people who would be in a position to accept it if it were in some way supported by Government. One simple thing could demonstrate this. Emergency services in terms of ambulance services are not always available to provide the speed to get one from St. Lucy to St. Michael, and you can clearly see that if there were some kind of complementary service in terms of the emergency section, the ambulance service would not be so hard pressed, and as a result, you would save much more expense at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and so relieve some of the suffering problems that the patients may have on the way.

8.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that we have been able to overcome the whole idea of negotiations. I am glad to hear that we are always willing to do the best we can for the country. I take the Prime Minister's words to heart, that he is always an open person and he is willing to look into the matters as they affect the country. He, too, like myself, would like to see an efficient health service. Inasmuch as we have not been able to develop the systems that we want, I am sure, Sir, that with a little bit more thought and a bit more imagination, we can improve. In many cases, we sometimes have to make decisions on our own judgement. That need not mean that we have to discard technical advice, but in some cases, your policy demands that you go sometimes with your own judgement. I respect those people who are professionally trained to give advice, but very often, because of what you want to achieve, you have sometimes, to rub a little closer to the people who will benefit.

So, Sir, I do not think that I need to drive home the importance of the Resolution, nor the importance of the St. Joseph Hospital as an institution that has potential, and I would wish whatever can be done in respect of this particular institution be done and that we give it every opportunity to survive and at some future time to help in providing a better health service for the country.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

(Hon. L. S. CRAIG: What are you going to say now at all?)

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: I am glad that I have the opportunity for at least five minutes to speak on this Resolution for the simple reason that, in the past, I have had to visit this hospital on two occasions when someone very close to me was hospitalized there, namely my father, and I found in that hospital two things were very outstanding: (1) the setting of the hospital was extremely peaceful and relaxing, and removed the fear that you usually have when you go to a general hospital; (2) it provided those who at that time could afford it the opportunity of a choice, whether or not they want to go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the St. Joseph Hospital.

We have before us a motion to look at objectively. What are the facts? The facts are:

1. that there is an institution called the St. Joseph Hospital that has been designed and built for the purpose it now serves and should continue to serve,
2. that it is located in the North of Barbados, and
3. that in any planning of a comprehensive health service, it could be incorporated in the plans of the Government.

I am saying that, as we continue to improve the health services to all Barbadians, which is obviously and has been the objective of the past Government, and is or should be the objective of this Government, in any planning of the health care, tertiary and otherwise, into the 21st Century, you could easily accommodate the existing structure of the St. Joseph Hospital into those plans. You need not have a lot of fear about the price quoted or supposed to have been quoted in the papers, because, like anything else, that is just an open-ended situation. I am positive that when the Administration of the day sit down and in a cool, objective way discuss with the owners of this institution the future of this institution, they would arrive at a sensible working price that would allow the Government to incorporate it into their health plans for Barbados and the North.

There have been a lot of suggestions coming from both sides on how this could be done, suggestions for a convalescent home, psychiatric use, drug rehabilitation programme, recuperation from serious surgery et cetera, and there could be numerous other reasons for which it could be used. I am sure that when your health planners sit down and look at it objectively, they could find that, at the correct price, this institution could easily be used to complement the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and further improve the health facilities in Barbados and allow Barbados to continue to have a lead and be looked up to as the Caribbean country that has been taking the lead. For argument's sake, take brain surgery. I have heard a very good case put that Barbados could be established as

one of the centres for brain surgery in the Caribbean. There are trained neurosurgeons — I know of one from St. Philip — who would be happy to return to Barbados, and on one or two occasions when I listened to debate I was told that the facilities for neurosurgery are far cheaper than those for heart surgery and that type of stuff, and we have Barbadians who would be happy to return home to offer this type of service to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. This is an area to look at. All of these are specialities that our Barbadian scholars have gone out and have acquired, which are now beyond the financial reach of a lot of people, so much so that the Government now has to consider in certain cases, at tremendous expense to themselves and the taxpayers, sending Barbadians overseas for this specialist treatment. I am sure that you can have a few of these specialist areas considered for the St. Joseph Hospital, not only for Barbados but for the Eastern Caribbean, and therefore have an additional use for this institution.

The amount of things that it could be used for is unbelievable, as long as you have taken the point that it can be incorporated into the health planning of Barbados. Give the planners the go ahead, open sensible negotiations with the owners, arrive at an appropriate price and let us not fail to grasp an opportunity to provide for Barbadians and our neighbours in the Eastern Caribbean an institution that will allow us to advance health care for all of us. I only hope that, in this light, the Government would approach any negotiations with the owners of the hospital.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 9.00 o'clock. This brings us to the end of this session. There being no motion or Resolution before this Chamber, the Chamber now reverts to its matter which it kept from 6.30 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I rise to suspend the sitting until 9.30 p.m. for dinner. I beg to move that the sitting of the House be so suspended.

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

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 9.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
9.00 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice, Sir, of 2 money Resolutions earlier today. I have talked with the Leader of the Opposition, and he has indicated that

if we can get through with these Resolutions, as long as they are not controversial, he would have no objection to doing them. I propose to do them in all of their stages sometime this evening, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that agreed on the Opposition benches? There is no objection. Leave is therefore granted.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1985-86 No. 18 — \$519 513

HEAD 50 — POST OFFICE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, in relation to this Head 50, I have to amend the figure from \$519 513 to \$619 513, and the sum Sir, of \$248 000 should therefore be \$348 000.

With that amendment, Sir, I beg to move that Head 50 stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, this is the time of the year when we all look forward to an effective postal service. Under normal circumstances, Sir, we would not even be speaking to a Resolution of this kind, we would allow it to go through, but there are some serious charges I have to make against my friend and colleague, who under attack, readily becomes your former friend and colleague, the honourable Member for St. James North who, after the next elections, will no longer be a Member of this Honourable Chamber.

I am charging that the honourable Member has come to this House for this additional money because, for the first time in the history of Barbados, he has taken the most unusual step of employing a large number of temporary staff, all from St. Michael South, particularly from the Bay Land. It has been reported to me that there are scores of people working in the post office, doing absolutely no work, with no training whatsoever, and receiving a welfare grant for electoral purposes from the honourable Member for St. James North

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a very serious thing to say.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A very serious thing! It is a very serious charge I am making.

What I am saying, Sir, is that these people are being employed for political purposes, and that while we have no objections to the employment of temporary staff to assist in the handling of mail at Christmas time, I think the honourable Member has gone too far. But, Sir, his action is no less reprehensible, which is an acceptable Parliamentary term, than the overall policy position of the Government. The Minister of Finance has clearly taken the decision that he can only win the election by buying the electorate out, and hence the overall capital programme. At the individual level, we find that those who control votes of this kind, who can use it for employing people in their constituency on a temporary basis, are now using it in that way.

I know, Sir, that in my case I have to deal with the macro-dollars of the CIA, but that is not a problem. The macro-dollars of the CIA! I have no problem. Even that, they are prepared to associate with! They are prepared to invite the CIA into a potential Cabinet of Barbados, and they know that perfectly well. They know that if their wicked deed should succeed, what happened in Grenada will be readily translated, the intelligence work done in Grenada could easily be done on a potential Government of Barbados. I warn you.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Has your head gone off?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It has not gone off. I warn you. I am warning you now.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Not me! Warn the electorate!)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am warning you that you might find yourself in a very awkward position, where every word you mention might well be reported to the CIA in a very short period of time. Just take my simple advice.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair.

(*Asides.*)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You check out who did your CIA work in Grenada before, during, and after, and how much they were paid. I know. You find out. The electorate will know in due course. You may know now what I am talking about, because there are other people who you know well, and whom I know well, who know what I am talking about. Just remember that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Post Office.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Back to the post office. We have built a post office, Sir, at a considerable amount of money, and one would have thought that, having made that major capital expenditure, systems would have been established, and that, with new technologies in place, the capital costs would have been reflected in a reduced current expenditure. I understand, Sir, that in the financing of telecommunications nowadays, at all levels, from earthly plant to satellite, the key to the whole process has been that when you make a heavy capital expenditure, it is done in such a way with the technology that applies to communications that your recurrent expenditure is reduced to a level to justify the high current expenditure.

This is my understanding, and my understanding from the present presentations to the Public Utilities Board

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am going to be objecting there too. I know what is going on so far. I am going to be an objector, and I am going to win this time is that those current expenditures should be substantially reduced. I cannot understand why in those circumstances we should be asked to be voting more money today. I am telling you, Sir, it has nothing to do with the mail service of Barbados. What it has to do with is the electoral chances of the honourable Member for St. James North, who will be defeated in the next election by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Not with your help, though. You are not going to help him one bit).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Going all out! All out! I noticed who you are making JPs in that area, too. I know two on the border. I do not know what the fellows are doing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Post Office.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Back to the post office, Sir.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: How do you mean? A JP, too! Oh my God!

Sir, I started off. I am really occupying the crease until the heavy roller from St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) deals with this matter. I believe I have made my contribution. I have made a charge, and I challenge the honourable Member for St. James North to deny that, having made representations to the Barbados Workers

Union, they would not need any increase in staff this year, all of a sudden large numbers of persons from St. Michael South, particularly from the Bay Land, on the side which the honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford) usually wins, are now employed at the Post Office. I challenge you to deny it!

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now I am going to call their names, so please do not deny it unless you are prepared to justify your statements to this House of Assembly.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Sir, my colleague has dealt with some of the matters which I intended to deal with under this Head. I think that the Minister, in fact, I am surprised at the Minister of Finance, I am surprised that the Minister of Finance has allowed what is going on in the post office to go on. I am really surprised that the Minister of Finance has abdicated his responsibility in respect of what is happening at the post office.

I would like to know if it is true that you now intend to transform that into the Ministry of Information and to take down the sign saying "Post Office" and to force the post office out. The people in the post office do not like what is going on, and the Postmaster General is not functioning. He is not being allowed to function in the way he is accustomed to functioning in the past. I do not know if you know about it, but I think you should check it. Check it, because the postal services are not things to play around with, and there are a number of people of high repute — the level of safety in this building is dangerous and we have to watch that — either that or put the Clerk in a different position — Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of people of very high repute who are concerned at the intervention of the Minister in the administrative services of the Post Office. The Minister responsible for Information is now vetting people going to work in the post office. What behaviour is this? It is not right!

9.40 p.m.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, when the post office was being built, we were given certain assurances. Now, the post office has no training room. Why is the training room being used for other purposes? Five floors! It says here that you need money to maintain five floors. I do not understand how the Minister responsible for Information suddenly perceives himself as some guru. He is the guru of the post office — that is g-u-r-u, Sir, a perfectly good useful word in the English language, adapted from the Himalayas. He is the guru now, everything connected with the post office you have to go and pay obeisance to him first. It never used to be like that. This was one of

the services in this country where it was felt that you could have impartiality. I have never in all my life heard of any partisanship in the post office. Postmen are Bs and Ds without any problem. They are the only people in this country who drink together, Bs and Ds, and you never hear anybody quarrelling. All of a sudden now...

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: What about the civil servants you sent home? I saw all the correspondence on the file.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I never sent home any. You must stop the propaganda.

Seriously, Mr. Chairman, I think that the Ministers on that side must feel some modicum of concern. They must be concerned. I do not hold it against the Minister of Information. If he can get away with it, he should, although I do not like what he is doing. The Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister is the one who must take the blame. If this is happening, he is the one who is allowing it.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What is happening? I cannot find out yet.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: My colleague pointed out that a large number of people.....

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: How many?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Hundreds! He asked me, "How many?" Hundreds!

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, not so many. No, he has a conscience. Three hundred and twenty is the amount you would put in at Transport.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know why I am standing on my feet making this speech, because all of them know. They wish that they were in my shoes so they could discuss this matter.

(Aside: Hon. B. A. MILLER: You have not completed one sentence since you got up. Make an effort.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You wish me to complete a sentence? I think the Minister of Education is not bad when she is in that condition, Sir. You see? A full sentence!

Mr. Chairman, I am really concerned about the training room. The Postmaster General used to have an office. When the post office was being built, there was an office that was going to be for him. The post office was designed for a particular use. The Baron of St. Jude's,

when he was Minister of Information, decided that he wanted that as the office, and so it became the office of the Minister. Then he was transferred in this new-fangled approach which we have heard about. Now we have a new Minister of Information who is utilising — he has to go far — the Ministry now as if it is his personal fiefdom. That should not be. The postal services should be kept separate and apart and above the partisan political sphere. The honourable Members over there know that what I am saying is correct, and I think the Cabinet should tell the Minister that they will have none of it.

I would like to ask a question in relation to this Head, Sir. BET made \$15 million on a turnover of \$38 million off the people of Barbados, according to the report, before taxes. There has to be something fundamentally wrong with the cost of the services.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It may be an extraordinary item.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Look, they do not have a capital gain that carried it up like Intel would do, or down as the case may be. This is pure profit. I think that since we have raised rates in certain circumstances, rates should come down.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: They have come down!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, we know about that little movement that happened. We are saying that when they make that kind of profit in this kind of market, with that kind of turnover, you are doing too well. Do you know, Sir, that it is still costing more to telephone from here to the United States than it is to telephone from the United States to here?

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is obvious).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But why is that obvious? It should not be obvious any more.

Aside

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I would not have thought so until I heard of the profits. If they are making that kind of profit, it needs examination to see if it should really be dealt with in a particular way, because that, too, contributes to the total cost of doing business in the community. If what I hear is true — and I think I saw it in the newspaper — my information is — you know I would have some little lingering information from BET — that that is the kind of profit which is being made, in those circumstances, some of that profit should be finding its way into these services, because they are all part and parcel of the same service that is being provided. If in fact they are making that kind of money, since we

would have subsidised them in another direction, some of those funds should be coming toward reducing the cost of postal rates in Barbados, because, Mr. Chairman, they are fairly high, you know, Sir. Seventy-five cents for a letter from here to Europe and 65 cents to the United States is no mean thing to an old lady who is working her way towards one letter or so every week to her children overseas.

I am not saying that I am absolutely correct, because I do not know if my information is accurate. What I am saying is, if it is, it needs to be examined in these terms. A Third World country like ours cannot afford to have BET, no matter who owns it, making those kinds of profits while we are voting this kind of money in here for these kinds of services. If we are going to vote these monies to keep the form right, let us get back some of it from that source. The fact that they may have had a capital gain from the exchange of a piece of land is neither here nor there, if that is so. But I thought that had been dealt with a long time ago, so it cannot be that.

Anyhow, I think I have made the point, and I will wait to hear from the Minister to see if it is necessary to speak any more.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Yes, Sir! One must reply to these things. I will bet any honourable Member that every time the honourable Members out there get up to make a speech between now and September next year, all they will talk about is electioneering. Everybody knows that every year the post office has to take on additional staff to cope with the increase in mail that arises at this particular period of time in the year.

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: How do you know where they came from?
9.50 p.m.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Because we know).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes. I know one is a post-man down there from up by me.

Sir, the basic position is that we must not confuse our minds with this vote and the situation which exists in other countries. The post office in Barbados does not run the services which the post office in Britain used to run. BET is a separate and distinct organization. It is the successor of Cable and Wireless in Barbados. The profits of BET go to the shareholders of BET. The Government is one, the private sector is one, and the balance of shares is owned by Cable and Wireless, which had a monopoly under the administration of the people on the other side.

It is well known, also, that in today's world, fights are going along, arguments are going along, between

external communications companies and internal communications companies where the ownership is different. It goes on in Hong Kong. It goes on in Singapore. It goes on in the rest of the Caribbean and it goes on here in Barbados. Steps are being taken to adjust the relationship of the revenue between the internal and the external telecommunications companies, and that will go on in Barbados, too, because modern technology has bridged the gap of the separation between the internal telephone and the external instrument. That is so, that is what is happening today.

This has had an impact on the post office and this is what we are studying now. The post office has to be studied, and is being studied, with a view to determining its future in a country like Barbados, where it is not the same as in other countries where they actually run the telephone and external communications system, or run part of it, but where most of their revenue is derived from mail and the provision of services along those lines. That is a very serious problem.

Not so long ago, in the same newspapers you would have noticed that there was a lot of talk of making the post office a statutory board. Now, the Enterprises Unit that we have — we have a monitoring unit which is being expanded. It has its new Permanent Secretary and all, now.

(Aside: Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Who is he?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Dr. Reid, with all his World Bank experience and so forth.

(Asides)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We had to adjust over here, too, some of us.

The basic position is that we are looking at this. The staffing of the post office, the cost of operation of the building and things of that kind have to be investigated, because, today, with the rapidity of communication and the change of use of communication, people are telephoning now when before they wrote letters.

When I was a student in the United Kingdom, I used to have to write home regularly. If you did not write home, you did not expect to get the monthly remittance. Today, nobody writes you. They pick up the telephone. It happens. As a matter of fact, the change is so great that people are even losing their ability to write. That has had an impact on the post office.

So it is not true to say that the Government is not studying the post office. The Ministry of Finance, the Government Investment Unit, is studying it very carefully, and we will bring in a management study, if necessary, to

ensure in light of the new role the post offices play now, whether we need the existing staff.

The other point we have to make is that if the volume of your mail is going down in relation to other means of communication, well surely, you will have space available. All these are factors we take into account. The post office was 20 years in planning, 6 or 10 years in execution. Well, obviously you will know that modern technology has reduced the demand for space in some areas. That is why both this Minister and the previous Minister were able to have a ministerial office on a floor.

(Asides).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Not him?

Those are matters we take into account, so do not let us walk about talking about a few jobs at Christmas which we know all had to take place from time immemorial. How many jobs could this create?

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I had one from Carrington's Village I would be happy).

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Oh, that is your problem. But, look, I do not have any!

That is the position, Sir. I think that is an effective answer to this. We are watching all of these things. In the next Estimates they have to justify their revenue and expenditure.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will wind up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: One point I wish to make, Mr. Chairman, is this. I would like to just throw out the idea that, with the changing economics of the assets employed in communications, I believe that it is in the public interest for the Minister of Finance to give serious consideration to those with accounting skills, legal skills and otherwise who, I think, have put forward a very good case for fixing by law, by amendment to the Public Utilities Act, the rate of return on investments in these areas. I think that unless this is done, the public of Barbados would not get the benefit of that curious phenomenon which has developed over the past 5 years or so where you get this disparity, so to speak, between capital investment and current revenue demands, I have a funny feeling that such proposals have been made to the Minister of Finance.

I think it might be useful to put a value on the assets deployed domestically in the communications service, the assets deployed externally, from a public point of view, and, also, look very carefully at the private sector investment in this area, and within the Act itself, bring them all within the ambit of the Public Utilities

Act, and in the Act by law define what is a reasonable rate of return. I say this very advisedly, because that step would oviate a lot of problems which I see looming on the horizon, and it would probably save me a lot of money by not having to go in there as an objector, because you know the cost of legal representation and accounting representation is exceedingly high.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: This is a very interesting thing. I see that the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has now come to the conclusion that the method of determining rates in Barbados is a futile and expensive procedure. The modern tendency is to have your Public Utilities Board as a guardian of standards of operation in the sense of a consumer protector of quality of service. The cost of service in modern terms is usually dealt with in a licence which sets out the composition of the assets upon which a return has to be dealt with, and it fixes a rate of return by reference to inflation in a licence.

10.00 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a new departure for us.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If you have always said so, then you must implicitly admit that the two variables will always be the valuation of the assets and the determination of the percentage of inflation. This is a very interesting exercise that is going on in many countries of the world. British Telecom in privatisation has a licence. British Gas Industry, now being privatised, has a licence. All over the world this is happening, and you only have the Public Utilities Board in there as a guardian of the standards in the sense of the quality service and also to settle the disputes in relation to the valuations of the rate base or the valuations of the inflation, but the percentage is usually 3 percentage points, 2 percentage points or 1½ percentage points over the average in the particular period of time.

But it has its dangers, too, in that you have annual increases or decreases in rates, and you would not get a situation, like what we have had with the Telephone Company for instance, in which we have not had a rate case from 1978, but when you have a rate case the percentage increase will have to be big. That is what happens, because technological advancements overtake you. You have a high capital expenditure and you get a lot of savings, but when that capital expenditure is exhausted, you then have to pay a rate of return.

These are difficulties that we have to face. It cuts both ways. Obviously you will have to have an

amendment to the Public Utilities Act to bring it up to date in light of the fact that everybody wants a licence today. No investor is going to put money in a public utility in the large volume that he has to put it in for expansion unless he is satisfied that there is a licence in existence not in any way precluding the utility from earning a percentage in relation to inflation, but you can have the argument over the valuation of the assets. That is what we are coming to right now.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I just want to put something to the Prime Minister. If you check the record, you will see that in 1975 we started going in this direction when we indicated that the Public Utilities Board ought to have its own staff of experts and ought to go toward a position where it would in fact become a protector, someone in their looking out for the interest of all concerned, but primarily knowing the direction in which the public utility is going.

I think that when the Government took over, they did not perhaps study this as much as they should, and/or did not fully understand what was happening, and as a result the Public Utilities Board took a tack that I think carried us backward. The fact is that in Barbados now the Public Utilities Board only presides over the Telephone Company and Light and Power, and to have the elaborate machinery we have to determine what rate Light and Power or the Telephone Company would charge is unscientific and it may be wasteful. What we can do with the amount of money it costs to have a rate hearing now would be to have the requisite amount of expertise that could provide the information, accurate information, that would allow the kind of licensing system to take hold in Barbados, and all you have to do is to look and see that the groundwork for this was laid as far back as 1972.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this may appear to be esoteric in nature, the current discussion going on here in this House but it is absolutely crucial. I did not wish to mention the Telephone Company, but since the Honourable Prime Minister has mentioned it, all I can say is that, looking at the current situation and what they would probably be asking for in due course, I believe that it is a matter of urgency that Government should bring down the appropriate legislation amending the Public Utilities Act before any matter goes before the Public Utilities Board.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I cannot prejudge the situation. I know that technological advancements have moved at a rapid pace in relation to the telephone between 1978 and now, but all that I have seen and all that I have read suggests to me that the cost savings that have arisen have been greatly reduced because the only thing they have there is the fibre optics now allowing some service, but that the savings are now really taking place in the external communications, and what you

would have to do is to adjust the revenue between the two of these people, and that is a big thing. You remember we got the benefit from 1978 to now.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If the honourable Member would give way, my understanding is that a legal problem has developed whereby there is a limitation by covenant or otherwise, I am not sure, in respect of the money they can borrow, and therefore they have to come under the existing mechanisms for more money.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I agree with that 100 per cent. You cannot ask National Insurance, the insurance companies or anybody to put money in unless they know beforehand what they are going to be allowed. They will argue about valuation, but they want to know that there is a percentage that is to be awarded in relation to inflation. All over the world that is the modern trend, and we cannot escape from it. Our investors here are doing the same thing as anywhere else. I want to know when I invest in something what the rate of return is going to be.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Just briefly, Sir. About the accusations made concerning the post office and the staff, etc., the Prime Minister has adequately answered that. All I would say at this point really is that it is a difficult proposition to satisfy people. Here you are shouting about unemployment in Barbados, and now that a few people have been employed, you are now saying that they should not be employed, that it is immoral to employ them, that the people are from the Bay Land. I wonder if you know the Bay Land touches your constituency and these people have family in there. How can you be so difficult that you do not want even the young people to get a little job at Christmas time, and yet you are crying out about unemployment in Barbados? You have to answer that. That is all I have to say.

As far as the Postmaster General not being able to function, if he cannot function, that is his problem, not mine. He functions with me.

Asides.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You say that I am a gully-boar! Tell the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that.

The question that Head 50, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1985-86
No. 17 - \$11 624 243

HEAD 32 - FIRE SERVICE

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 32 - Fire Service - stand part.

These are additional funds to meet the cost of repairs to crash tenders which were damaged and to pay the cost of insurance on the new turntable ladder.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, I am not quite sure whether this Resolution was seconded, and I do not propose to second it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me just get that matter straight. You are not going to second it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No, I am not going to second it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second the motion.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I see here under Head 42.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing now with Head 32, Fire Service.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Oh, you are taking them Head by Head.
10.10 p.m.

Head 32, Sir, deals with the Fire Service: Subhead 1 Fire Service Department, Object No. 11, Maintenance of Property, Other Expenditure \$223 233 and a supplementary provision for \$30 000. I would say, Sir, that I have almost a natural inclination to support the request by the Fire Service because I feel that they do, and have done, a good job in Barbados over a large number of years and they have not been rewarded by this present Administration in the manner which one would have expected.

What I am concerned about, Sir, is that the Fire Service should have available to it more professional investigative staff

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: because there seems to be a general feeling in Barbados that a lot of the fires that have taken place, particularly in the commercial area, border very much on arson, or that many of those cases have, in fact, been arson, people selling their businesses to the insurance companies when they get into trouble. It is also my understanding, Sir, that there is a lack of laboratory and other support facilities which would normally be available to other fire services to investigate this kind of crime.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You are wasting time. Do you not see that the Press is not here?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, but I do my duty to the public. I do not worry about the Press. Press what! I think it is important because, sooner or

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You can give them a Press release.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: later, somebody is going to get killed in this exercise and there are going to be losses of lives, either people living adjacent to these buildings, people working in them or the loss of lives among the firemen. I think it is important that we should have the potential in Barbados when a fire takes place to.....

Aside

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: at least say whether there has been arson involved.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: St. Lawrence got burned down. Even the church would have burned down!)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, a gentleman offered me a building recently in Swan Street, near the junction of High Street and Swan Street, for three quarters of a million dollars. I understand, Sir, that the owner of that building not only collected the insurance, but paid off what he owed to the National Bank and is now offering it to the public for \$750 000. I understand that negotiations were at a pretty advanced stage and, because of the downturn in business, they wondered whether I would be interested in a real estate investment. But I do not have that kind of money at this point in time,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Fire Service.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: else it would not be a bad purchase.

I will get back to the Fire Service, Sir. I think it is very important that — this is a serious matter, I want to be really serious about it — we cannot allow a situation to develop in Barbados where people feel that, because of the lack of facilities in Barbados, they can just start burning down their buildings and collect insurance money. I understand that it is a fairly difficult technology. I understand a lot of experience is required in determining the origins of these fires, but I also understand that, both in the United Kingdom and in the United States, in a good 75% of cases due to arson, the authorities can actually detect that the cause was arson. I am no expert in this area, I am just getting this kind of information.

We are almost down to zero percentage. We are at the point now where we suspect it is arson but can make

no further inputs. In the United States and in the United Kingdom, you can get 75%. But all the skills used by the arsonists are well known and they can be readily detected, so I would urge that — I hope in next year's Estimates — we will be seeing some kind of money going into this area to try to detect the origins of these suspected cases of arson and the bringing of the criminals to justice, no matter who they are. No matter whether they are present, absent or anywhere else bring them to justice. That is my feeling, Sir.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, I would really support that suggestion, on one condition, that it be retroactive from about 1961 or thereabout, Sir. I would start coming through St. Lawrence Gap near St. Lawrence Church, until I get to wherever the Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) would end up. I would support it. Then I would come from near the Dover Convention Centre. All of that I would do. Then I would have to ask the Public Relations Officer of the Democratic Labour Party if he could assist these people who do the investigations. That is what I would like to do, Sir. That would be interesting to all of us in here. Then the Member for St. Michael South Central can go wherever he likes to go, James Street, High Street, Bay Street, all about, as he said he would do.

I would have to start first in St. Lawrence Gap, because if ever it was a sad thing, it was to see that Anglican Church almost burnt up. That is a serious thing. All of the people were in there worshipping, and there it was that a fire was next door to St. Lawrence Church! People knew how the wind was blowing that particular night. All of these types of things! I would support you on that, Sir, only if you can start from about 1961, all back down in there, and more so, 1970–1972.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 32 stand part.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, no, the Minister will move it. Do not mind he is sitting in the back. He will do it.

Mr. Chairman, before.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, my matter is another matter. I would invite the Minister for the Fire Service to inform me and alleviate my fears on a very serious problem we have, and that is the storage of dangerous chemicals in and around the city. There were two recent fires in which this came to light very forcibly, the fire in the DaCosta building over from us and the building at Geddes Grant.

In the fire at Geddes Grant, you had to fly in a specialist from England overnight, at the earliest possible time, to dispose of very dangerous chemicals being held at Geddes Grant there in Pinfold Street. In the case of the fire at DaCosta, my information is that the chemicals there were so dangerous that if that fire was not stopped at the appropriate time, it could easily have wiped out the whole of Bridgetown. Even the disposal of those chemicals there, which was done some long time after by the members of the Defence Force, was a very hazardous situation.

I would like to know what is the procedure, what warning, what are the protective measures or the regulations governing the storage of these highly dangerous chemical in Barbados, and what protection the Fire Service would have in fighting fires particularly in these areas.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister a question. I would like the Minister to indicate when he is responding under Head 32, what is the amount paid for the insurance of the turntable ladder and which insurance company is it insured by. Presumably, it is insured with the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. I am not sure there is any logic in insuring, I am not sure. I really do not understand why the Government would bother to insure the new turntable ladder, because what we are doing now is passing some money to pass over to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados to pay for the only one of its kind. I wonder if the Minister could advert to that when he is responding. If the amount is a large amount, I would wish to say a few more words. I think I need the information before going on.

10.20 p.m.

The second thing, Sir, is that I want to take up the point made by my colleague about the dangerous chemicals. The disposal of dangerous chemicals is a very serious matter in this country. As a matter of fact, a lot of the chemicals from the Geddes Grant plant fire simply washed down through the gutters. A lot of them simply went through the gutters. This is a very serious matter, Sir.

But there is a corporation in Barbados that is disposing of matter into the environment, and I really wish the Government to examine the system that is used by Intel for the disposal of that very serious chemical into the environment of Barbados, to wit, a large hole in the yard that gets covered up when the inspector comes. Sometimes it eats away in the yard. The hole is so deep that you cannot see the bottom now. This chemical cannot be disposed in the United States in the way it is being disposed in Barbados. It just cannot be! As a matter of fact, according to our regulations, it ought not to be disposed in the way it is being disposed of.

I have never raised it in this House of Assembly, Sir, because I do not wish to get a reputation of being a trouble maker. But whenever anybody feels that by doing my duty they will be able to say that to me, that is a horse of another colour. I am saying that the system for the disposal of that particular, I am going to call it effluent, which was recommended for the building and is the standard that can be found in all such plants that produce chips and other similar material, was not implemented by that company because it felt that nobody in Barbados knew or would know how to test it or to check it.

I am suggesting that it is a matter that concerns the Attorney General in his capacity as Minister responsible for Fire Services, because the chemical is a highly dangerous chemical. I will say no more at this point, Sir. I will let the Minister respond.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I rose to move this Resolution, but had I known, Mr. Chairman, that this Resolution would have gone into this time in debate and so on, I would have really suspended the House until Friday. But the Leader of the Opposition in discussing it with me before dinner, Sir, had assured me that the Resolution, the matter which we have before us, Sir, would have been disposed of, to quote him, "in about 15 minutes."

This is when you are dealing with people you really do not know. I would have suspended the sitting — I could be here all night, but I have some sympathy for the Hansard Reporters — and I would have returned on Friday. But the Leader of the Opposition assured me that there would no debate on these matters and, therefore, we could have it all wrapped up in about 15 minutes. But as far as I am concerned, this is my duty, and I am here until midnight. I have no worry about that.

Asides.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Did you say the Leader of the Opposition has no say where you are concerned? Did you say that he has no say where you are concerned?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I did not say that. I am saying that the Leader of the Opposition could not have been aware of the \$11 million amount, and even if he so said.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No. I showed him the Resolution. He saw the Resolution. He knew about it. But if he cannot contain you, that is another kettle of fish. If you do not care anything about his wishes or his directives, it is a matter entirely for you. I cannot fight that. All I am saying is that, if I had known this, I would have suspended the House and come back Friday.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, suspend it and let us come back Friday.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No! We are not suspending the sitting now.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Suspend it now and let us come back Friday. Come back Friday — that is what we are here for. You can come back Christmas Day. After I go to Church, I will come. I do not have a problem with that. Never mind all this talk about “had I known”. I am going to tell you now, I heard what the Leader of the Opposition told him. He said that if he had his way, according to what the Leader of the House told him, the Leader of the Opposition, he could dispose of the whole thing in 15 minutes. That is what he said. I was here.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Man, we are asking the Attorney General, and the Attorney General is supposed to respond, and we think he should respond. We have not debated yet.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I will respond now. Sir, I am sure that the Minister of the Environment will have additional information on this. But it is not quite right to say that there is no competence in Barbados to advise Government on disposal of hazardous waste.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Will you give way on a point of elucidation? I did not say that there is not competence in Barbados. I am sorry if he understood me that way. I said the people who ought to have installed the design believed that there was no one competent to discover that they have defaulted in their obligation.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: When the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham) was Chairman of the IDC, we received an application from a chemical plant to come to Barbados, to produce caustic soda or something, and we recognised that this was an area in which we needed a special multi-disciplinary committee to be set up, the Town Planner, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry, and with UNIDO's help a hazardous waste disposal task force was set up in Barbados to chart regulations for us as to how to approach these industries when they came. We got very competent assistance from the American Society of Chemical Engineers. Regulations and danger signs were pointed out to us and we have a methodology of dealing with these matters. In any event, as a result of our membership of UNIDO, we have access to a lot of scientific standards which we can use. We are members of UNIDO, an international body charged with the responsibility of protecting and helping countries, large or small, in these areas. So that is the background.

The question of the investigation of fires is one that we are in 100% agreement with. When I broke ground at the Insurance Corporation's new building, we said that we were bringing in an expert to help us try to determine the

cause of some of these fires. Obviously, we need to back up that with the laboratory that does the test for criminal investigations. As far as I am concerned, the insurance companies have an obligation to help us to be able to detect the criminals, too. I want to ferret them out, too, because they are affecting my rates. All over the Caribbean now, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean where there is a sort of insurance union, everybody has given notice that rates are going up from January 1 because of the multiplicity of fires that have taken place, not only in Barbados but through the Caribbean. There is a strong view that the fires have a connection with the recessionary conditions that were in existence, so we should have a laboratory for right through the Eastern Caribbean, paid for by all of the Governments to ensure that we ferret out these people. I am strongly of that view.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just briefly in reply, in answer to the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, it is not true to say that the Fire Service has been badly treated by this Government. During the tenure of his party as Government fire officers worked 96 hours a week; effective March they were working 56 hours a week, Sir.
10.30 p.m.

In relation to professional investigative staff, I repeat what I said at the Fire Services Association meeting on November 20:

“Particularly over the past three years or so there has been a worrying increase in the number of fires, both dwelling houses and business places. We are satisfied in the Ministry that all have not been accidental and we are analysing patterns, trends and circumstances. Legislation has been drafted to update the law of arson and the Ministry is actively pursuing training opportunities for Fire Officers to enable them to cope with arson.”

There is a Criminal Damage Bill that will be circulated to the Bar early in the New Year. It is almost ready.

On the question of arson I would just like to say that we have made one or two charges for arson, and only about two weeks ago Dr. Banfield, who comes under the Ministry of Agriculture, returned from London, having carried out a number of tests on items connected with recent fires where arson was suspected.

I wish to record in Hansard that I was disappointed a few months ago, in relation to a fire that was attempted in the Registry and for which a person from St. George has been charged, that Mr. Cameron Tudor saw fit to say that he was certain that there was to be a third fire in the Registry. I called on him publicly to give the information of his knowledge to the police. He has not yet given it.

I will remind the police again that he has a duty. If he is certain that the Registry will be lit again, he must go and give it.

In relation to storage of dangerous chemicals as raised by the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin), he will recall at the same Fire Services Association meeting the Chief Fire Officer drew public attention to the dangerous situation. In fact, the day when Geddes Grant was burnt — Farm and Garden in Pinfold Street — I saw what the honourable Member for St. Michael West, (Mr. B. M. Taitt) was saying, that is to say, that there was a lot of dangerous matter coming out of the building and running straight down in the drains of Bridgetown. We have set up a committee to look into this matter and to make recommendations of a technical nature to Government.

The fire officers themselves are at great risk apart from anyone else, but the potentiality for widespread destruction in Barbados is very real. We are doing this as a matter of urgency, so we have to await the technical report. By the time we come with Estimates, or before, I should hope we would have more information on that for honourable Members.

The question that Head 32 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 38 — MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether there is any methodology for monitoring the use of this vote. I am very serious. Recently I saw, almost on a continuing basis, Government advertising a fairly large commercial-looking advertisement, for Janitors for various schools. I think it was Janitor but it could have been Cleaner. I saw it for one school and I said it looks like a waste, and then I saw it for another school, and then almost every week for a very long time there were a series of advertisements for, I think it was Janitor, but it could have been Watchman or some such post.

I find it difficult to understand how we can be spending taxpayers' money to put in advertisements from secondary schools for Watchman and/or Janitors and/or people of this level. It seems to me a thorough waste of people's money. Invariably the advertisement runs for 3 or 4 or 5 times and the job is already filled. The bureaucracy operates in such a way that 99% of the time the man or woman identified for the low level job is in place and the advertisement is still running.

I think that the Minister ought to insist on having some details of the use to which this vote is put. I know somebody is going to say that they have to advertise the jobs, because some rule says so. If there is a rule that says so, then that rule needs to be looked at in relation to the level of jobs that have to be advertised from this vote.

That is all I have to say on that, Sir.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): I wonder if the Member for St. Michael West is going to tell the Electoral Office, when the election is called, that the expense of advertising would also be an expense in the election campaign and not to do it again. Do not blow your vote again — 1985! That is a Christmas gift. Do it for Barbados, do not blow your vote again! You have insulted and abused the electorate of Barbados so often, it is not funny.

This, Sir, is basically for a number of the advertisements for acquisitions. The Ministry of Information is responsible for this and a number of these are for a couple of acquisitions which we had over the year. There were quite a number of them, for example, the acquisition for roads along what they call the Airport to West Coast road.

I do not know of any Watchman advertisements, Sir; maybe the Minister of Education may have to answer that, but certainly I have never seen that advertisement. What I have seen is the advertisement in the *Nation* and in the *Advocate* advertising that people should vote for the Democratic Labour Party because for the past 10 years they did the wrong thing. So they have again insulted the electorate of Barbados by condemning them for doing the wrong thing.

Earlier today I heard the Member for St. Michael South Central say that the electorate in Barbados is a big, licorish electorate because they were bought out by being given jobs. If this is how my wife and children and your family, Mr. Chairman, are respected by members of the Opposition and being referred to as licorish and hungry, and only money could make them vote, it is something that I really would like to disassociate myself from, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to say that I never used the words "licorish" or "hungry" at any time during debate in this House today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You said that the electorate has been bought out, so you have to give them corned beef and rum and all these sorts of things. Buy them! You see,

the people of Barbados, you buy their votes. We on this side do not pay for votes. We put a case, put up a Manifesto, they respect what we have to do and they vote accordingly, because we respect their intelligence. But we understand as from today that the electorate of Barbados has been and can be bought. You think in terms of money all the time, buying out anything. We think of people. That is how we operate.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 38 stand part.

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

HEAD 40 — MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 40 stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, who seems to be the only person here competent to answer — I am speaking on General Administration, Subhead 1, what is the Government's policy on rice? I find it very difficult. Mr. Chairman, I eat a lot of rice. This is the time of the year when you eat rice with increase peas, pigeon peas, and so on so I have to put the case for the rice eating community, the poor members of the community, like myself, and I want the cheapest rice, not a bad rice.

My understanding, Sir, is that if a particular high grade rice is brought into Barbados, pre-packaged, it would sell at the highest price. If it is packaged in Barbados, then the same rice, would sell at a lower price. If it is brought in in bulk and packaged in Barbados, it would sell at a lower price than if it was brought in packaged. I understand that that has been the experience in Barbados over the past 3 to 4 years. I also understand now that there is a further step that can be taken where the rice can be brought in, milled and packaged in Barbados with a reduction of 13 cents per pound.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This is a serious matter because if the price of rice can be brought down — we have demonstrated so far that if you brought it in in bulk and you packaged it, you could employ people and reduce the price. It has been demonstrated that if you bring it in, the same rice, mill it and package it, you could employ more people in the milling and packaging process and reduce the price even greater.

It is my understanding that permission for importing the rice and packaging it was delayed until a certain person got his packaging situation in order. It is also my understanding that there is a particular firm which is involved in the importation and distribution of rice and are also engineers, and they used their engineering skills to set up a mill, and they are in a position to provide rice for Barbadians — and generate work — at a lower price than the mere importing and packaging of rice.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You sit down and I am going to tell you.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not know who is involved. I do not have a clue who is involved.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am going to sit down in one minute because the Prime Minister is willing to answer and I must give way. I will pause at this point and come back.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is a very simple matter. Barbados is a signatory to the CARICOM Treaty. The CARICOM Treaty had an Agricultural Marketing Protocol which required a list of agricultural products which were capable of being produced in the Caribbean to be protected by two mechanisms (1) a duty on importation, and (2) a licensing system with an allocation procedure to ensure that licences would be issued to CARICOM imports for monitoring purposes, vis-a-vis external imports, that there would be some degree of quantitative restrictions.

Everything went along very well until Guyana became short of rice about 1980/81. At that period of time, Guyana had a series of fires involving some very expensive processing facilities that they had got with the USAID loan, and although they could produce rice in bulk, they could not produce rice packaged in accordance with the sizes or presentation that the Barbadian consumer had become accustomed to, so we could not get the packaged rice, Indian Girl, or whatever it was, in the supermarket in the same way they had Uncle Ben's and others.

From 1978, the same Mr. Hill applied to the Government.....

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Who is Mr. Hill?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Hill Milling.... applied to the Government for permission to bring in rice from abroad for packaging purposes only, and the agents for Guyana rice objected and it went on and went on. There were three different agents. General Traders was the

agent first of all. Then Plantations Ltd. bought them out. Then K. R. Hunte got the concession and then General Traders got it back. I think General Traders merged with Plantations Ltd. and they got it back.

We had a lot of discussions. It was agreed that the situation with packaging by 1981/1982 was so bad with Guyana that all importers of rice would be given a concession to bring in rice by containers for packaging only. They demonstrated Mr. Hill, Mr. Seale, Interage, the Emptages, K. R. Hunte, all of them, 5 or 6 of them — that they could bring in the rice in bulk, have a continuous packaging with plastic bags and pay the duty on the external rice, and could still deliver it cheaper than if you brought it in packaged. We went along with that. The Government had the benefit of both worlds, because you had the duty, you carried out your CARICOM commitment, which was to allow Guyana to send in, without duty, and you had packaging and everything. Of course, Guyana did not have enough rice to be able to compete.

Then, all of a sudden, because of the Guyana situation persisting, Mr. Ashby, who is Mr. Hill's son, said that he had used his engineering skills and he could have a mill and he could demonstrate that he could import unmilled rice to compete. As a matter of fact, a very serious thing occurred because, under the guise of a licence for importation of rice for packaging purposes only, unmilled rice was imported for the demonstrations. The unmilled rice, of course, was at a much lesser price than the milled rice for packaging. When it was found out — and it took some time to find out, because we have a law in Barbados which says you can import raw material under a Customs Order for the purpose of processing in Barbados — he argued, very strongly, that the raw material was the unmilled rice, the processing was the milling, so he came neatly under the Customs Order, and he convinced the Ministry of Finance that that was so.

10.50 p.m.

It is known that although you may have an order under the Fiscal Incentives Act or under the General Customs Tariff Act for importation duty free, that does not mean that you do not have to have the licence, because licensing is a different thing from the Customs. He had some containers here, and it was agreed that on the ones he had here, no problem would arise. He then started again to try and bring in, but at that point he argued that he must have the duty off, and that is where it broke down. In order for the rice mill to operate to compete with the imported rice ready-milled in the United States of America, he must have the duty off. You are not comparing like with like, you must have the duty off. I said I could not do that, because we are the ones who have been arguing for the utilisation of the agricultural protection that was granted under the replacement of the protocol, and that is the row.

I have letters, I do not want to publish the letters, but I can say that I have letters in the Ministry of Finance in which we are being accused of protecting the Guyanese growers. And when they argue that St. Vincent has a rice mill, Trinidad has a rice mill and Jamaica has a rice mill, it is known that the Taiwanese have discovered a certain rice that can grow in the three of those countries. Trinidad has a place called Carson Fields that grows rice. Caroni now has 2 000 acres devoted to growing rice. So that we have no quarrel with Mr. Hill. He can buy all the unmilled rice from Guyana that he wants, and we have indicated quite clearly from here at the last conference — it was raised with the former President Burnham — that we would like them to sell the rice in whatever condition it is, and if our merchants can package it, can mill it or do anything, we would supplement what deficiencies they have in engineering. It is untrue to say that he cannot get a licence for Guyana rice. He can bring any amount he likes from Guyana and unmilled.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The consumers do not want it.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is a different matter. If he can mill it and package it and present it in such a way that he will be able to sell it in competition with the rice that comes in and pays the duty and is packaged here, good luck to the gentleman. We would finance him to the hilt to be able to do that, because it is to our advantage to deflect trade from the United States to Guyana. The more they sell to us, the more we owe them, the less we have to remit to them under the terms of the bilateral settlement. That is all. So I do not understand how the whole of this thing can get into such a situation.

The point which is not made clear is that he wants the unmilled rice duty free, and we cannot give duty free to that. If we give duty free to that, we are going to run into trouble with CARICOM, and I do not feel it is worth it, because it may be rice today, it may be other products tomorrow. It is as simple as that. That is gospel.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Can you answer one question? Do I understand you to be saying that if he is willing to pay the duty on unmilled rice from extra-regional sources he can also get that?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I did not say that, because the terms of the Cabinet decision are related to finished rice for packaging. I will also say that he wrote to me complaining against the Chief Price Control Officer, and we told him that there is a procedure. If he has a disagreement with the Chief Price Control Officer, he has to appeal to the Import Licensing Review Committee, and we set a date and everything because the Minister of

Commerce gave him permission to continue with what he had in Barbados at the time — don't mind about the little thing of the manipulation with the licence, don't bother about that — and we said that if you want to demonstrate to us that you can bring in the rice and mill it and pay the duty, prove that you will be able to handle that, I would go to Guyana, as we have done with cement. We keep pointing out to them the protection that you have under the CARICOM agreement only exists to the extent that CARICOM is able to supply. If they cannot supply, you can go, and the honourable Member knows this, to the Council and say this duty is unfair to us because we have tried to import, we want permission to suspend it, reduce it or whatever it is. But you have to have the factual evidence to prove it.

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Don't say not, because Mr. Hill is a flexible businessman. I hear he is down in Guyana now trying to get some rice.

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: They are business people. They are to business what you are to medicine. Mr. Hill is to business what you are to medicine.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Chairman, I wonder if under the same subhead, General Administration, the Honourable Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs will explain the situation with the recent increase of duty of 30 percent on beef resulting from the CARICOM arrangement with Belize, and particularly since the Prime Minister has already admitted that the 30 percent has gone on because of the protocol with Belize being involved, but we are not allowed to bring in beef from Belize because of the foot and mouth situation.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg your pardon. The correction was very clear. Belize never had foot and mouth disease. They have brucellosis, and Belize has been cleared by the US Veterinary Association for at least five years.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: So in other words, you are saying that the Veterinary Association would now allow the importation of meat from Belize.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Of course. Belize actually exports meat here already, and we buy meat from America which is Belizean meat imported by a new Orleans broker. That is a fact. Belize has been cleared for some period of time, at least 3 years. At CARIMEX here Belize had the biggest stall demonstrating, right next to the Arrival Hall, how they supply beef.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Belize beef can only be used for soup. People want proper steaks and this kind of thing.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I cannot stop anybody from bringing in steak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And pay the 30 percent?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Perfectly correct. Don't you believe in a little protection for agriculture?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, Sir, really it seems that the Government is having a serious problem here. Now the Minister of Finance in his last Budget spoke in glowing terms of the minor concession that he gave the hotels in relation to wine. Now just before the hotel season starts, after all the menus have been published, after all the rates have been published, all of a sudden they slap on a 30 per cent tax on beef.

Asides

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It was slapped on just before the start of the season when all the menus had been published.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, the Order was laid on the floor of this House and was published on September 15, I think it was, or was laid on September 15, and published. That is not just before the season. Secondly, Sir, the Order implements a decision which was publicly announced for at least 2 years. Thirdly, Sir, one of the proprietors of a supermarket announced that he himself had contemplated the utilisation of beef from CARICOM, and he had made a decision and the investment to put in the cold storage and the hanging rooms. So how could it be slapped on just before the menus were printed?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I may be wrong, but I have been informed by several hoteliers in Barbados that they knew nothing.....

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is not surprising. They do not know anything!)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They knew nothing about the tax, that they had gone ahead and set the rates for the rooms, the rates for their meals, the menus have all been published and now they are faced with this particular problem, and they are very upset with the Government. I am going to make sure because I never saw any Order in September. I never saw anything relating to the increased tax on meat until it appeared in the newspapers.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, you don't read your papers!)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is a possibility. I may have missed that one, and I am surprised at the Minister responsible for Tourism, because I know for a fact that the same views that I am expressing here on the floor of the House have been communicated to him, and that he has expressed a sympathetic view.

11.00 p.m.

(*Aside:* Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is his duty, to express.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A sympathy there, and I support the Minister. I am challenging the Minister of Tourism to get up and express his views on this particular matter now, whether he supports the Ministry of Finance or whether he supports the position of the hoteliers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If you are a man, get up and talk!

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member knows.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: that representations — it is a matter of public record, I went on the radio and said it — have been made to me and we were perfectly willing, if it could be demonstrated that a shipment had been ordered prior to the laying of the Order in the House of Assembly, of course, I would waive the duty on that particular shipment. I could do that very easily.....

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: because it would be goods intransit. It would have had to be shipped. So there is no difficulty about that at all. Absolutely no difficulty! I am going to give you the Statutory Instruments.

In any event, I have discussed this matter with CARICOM, and I will explain to them. If Belize cannot supply.....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Good beef.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Oh, the beef is good beef. The US buy it all the time.

Sir, this just shows you, Sir, I just want to show people how people operate in Barbados. I have before me the Statutory Instruments laid on the table of this House, S.I. 1985 No. 130, corrected copy.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: How do you mean "corrected copy".)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, there were some typographical errors in the first one, that was the one just before it. So you have to lay the corrected copy.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: What is the number?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It happens sometimes here.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Too often this year.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It was the Supplement to the *Official Gazette* dated September 5, 1985.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It was made by me on August 9, 1985.

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: But it was published in the *Official Gazette*.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Something is wrong with that.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is a month after, so much the better. And it has in there 30%. So you had September, notwithstanding the law. You know ignorance of the law is no excuse. I am finished!

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir, no, Sir, no, Sir! We are on Commerce and Industry, Sir. I do not wish to get into this rather mundane discussion on these matters going on over there. The Minister knows very well that his Tourism Minister and none of his front bench Ministers, except possibly the Minister of Agriculture.....

Aside

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I said except you. Are you quarrelling because I excepted you?.....nobody else over there understands these matters.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Why?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not know. For the same reason that the hoteliers do not understand them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, let us get ahead with the debate.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Chairman is getting tired.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I wish to say something, Sir. Subhead 4, Industrial Development Corporation, Grants to Public Institutions, Handicraft — that is not enough money.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is only a supplementary.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, but they are doing this thing too often. The Handicraft Department is being misused. This cannot be enough money to train the 73 persons for three months. They have not trained anybody down there now for months.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: You recently said on the radio you do not want anybody trained out there.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Who said so? You were Minister. Let me talk seriously about the thing.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is \$1.5 million in sales, and I want it.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Precisely, so let us talk seriously about it. I think you understand what I am saying.

You say you are going to train 73 persons and they are asking for \$70 000. It means that they are getting ready to give them stipends that are not useful. And the reason why handicraft continues to be down at the low end of the totem pole — in spite of it having been demonstrated that there is a market in excess of \$10 million waiting there, in spite of the possibility of linkages with the tourist industry, a very vital necessity if we are to utilize some of the raw material in this country that can be useful in the tourist industry — is how we are still going about it. In my view — I have been saying this now for so long it is getting a little monotonous — you have to pay the handicraft people properly. This \$70 000 you see in this Head note here — now somebody will get up and say I do not like the Manager of the IDC — says that they are going to train 73 persons during the period January to March and we are getting \$70 000. Now they do not have any at all. So you could divide the \$70 000 by 73, \$1 000 over 3 months.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is a training grant.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: This is not a training grant, the people start working as soon as they come in. This is the whole point. The good ones soon leave. The honourable Member knows what I am talking about. What you really want to do is to give incentive while you are training so that at the end of the 3 months period you are going to have the highly skilled ones remaining.

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: We are going to send back your man Browne.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He is a Deputy Manager.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: They moved him. They shifted him. They have him now in charge of something else.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He is a Deputy Manager. I confirmed the appointment although my mind said do not do it, he is not one of us.)

Laughter.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But you know that we do not operate that way when it comes to skills. I mean, dealing with management ability and that kind of thing, who they belong to is immaterial, once they are producing.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I do not know that. You have to demonstrate the management skills first.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Because if you go and hire a foolish man because he is one of you, you are going to look bad. At this level you hire the most competent because he makes you look good. So the question of who he belongs to is totally immaterial, unless he is perverse, in which case you have to get rid of him, because if he is perverse he is no use to you nor anybody else. But, be that as it may.....

Aside

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We are *ad idem* on this. We do not have a problem with it. When it comes to the management level, you do not want to go and get one of my people who is perverse to come and work for you. You would be a mad person. Nor will I take one of yours if he was going to be perverse. But if he is competent it does not matter where he came from or who he is.

What we are saying here, seriously, Sir, is that the Handicraft Department has been devoid of proper management for sometime now. It has been devoid of funds. It is making money on the face of it, but when you examine the situation....

Aside

Mr. B. M. TAITT: you are finding that they are not costing in some of the overheads, and then they

are talking about, 'we made \$1 million', and when you look at the people who are actually in Handicraft, they still try to treat them like in the days when two old ladies used to have them down there for social service, welfare services.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Miss Blackman.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Handicraft has to be seen as an industrial enterprise. Do you know what should be happening? The \$1 million that they are alleged to have made should be in the bank and be ploughed back into the handicraft development, instead of our passing this \$70 000 in Parliament. We understand that. They do not have any money. Take it from me. I am the best customer the Handicraft Department has. Every year, for the past 9 years, I give them my post cards, because they make the best post cards. Every year we go through the same process. I am breathing down their necks now trying to get my post cards in time.

(*Aside:* Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Christmas or New Year's?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: They give me some for New Year's every year. Every year. I have to send out the cards and tell the people, well, I posted for Christmas but you know how it is with the post office.

But even so, this \$70 000 will only allow a few people to go down.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I would not like to be a Hansard Reporter to hear all the nonsense.)

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Handicraft Division has been a division that we are trying to improve, and I think that it is now recognized that more investment needs to go into training. It was understood that IDC would have been a designated institution and have access to the training levy money. That is why no money was put into the vote for IDC. But they were a little tardy in their application and some other people went ahead before them, and the training fund allocated more money to the Community College.

11.10 p.m.

Secondly, there were two other projects they were doing. They were doing a project with the Inter-American Development Bank on embroidery and a project with the Chinese on embroidery. So, therefore, those were the three areas. But now the view, which we share and confirm, particularly now the tourist season has picked up again in relation to the cruise ships and so forth, is that they want to do something that they used to do in the past. So this is a stop-gap amount of money to allow

them to train for 3 months. By April, in the new financial year, more money will be paid in and their application for the training levy money would be No. 1 next year. That is what is happening.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I have a suggestion that you do not let them get any training levy money. Let us agree that we are not going to debate Handicraft. Take them out of any funds coming from us from the Parliament at all. Let them handle the money which they are making. Examine it. (If the old gentleman is tired, let you hang on for him). Examine this concept of putting their handicraft on their own.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have to address this very important matter of Export Promotion, and it relates in some way to Subhead 4. So I would like to address my remarks for both Subhead 2 and Subhead 4 in order to save time, as it is getting late in the night.

Sir, earlier this year, mid-year, I was in London and I was talking to a group.....

Aside

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not know Sydney. He is David's friend, not mine. He is David's friend. I do not know him.

Anyhow, the important point I was trying to make, Sir, is that I was discussing the whole question of the marketing of cottage industry production in Barbados, and I was talking specifically of the kind of problems which I identified in my own area in Carrington Village in particular and in Brittons Hill, and where I saw there was a tremendous need for it in certain parts of Christ Church East Central and in St. Peter, particularly in the Road View area in St. Peter, where there are a lot of people who had acquired a lot of skills in producing various items which, if they had the finance available and if they had the export promotion, then they would be able to make a living for themselves without anybody going out and trying to find a job for them.

It has always struck me, Sir, that this form of employment is one that should get the fullest support of Government, because when you look at it very carefully, it allows people to be employed in their own homes, it avoids the cost and burdens of public transport, and there are a whole lot of things that could be done if people are given an opportunity. It also creates a situation where you develop the kind of mini-businessman who knows from the start that he will always be a mini-businessman and his whole outlook is geared towards that, and he could make a living without avoiding all the pitfalls which the so-called small businessman in Barbados has fallen

into over the years. I am suggesting to you, Mr. Chairman, that the skills are here in Barbados. I am further suggesting that the motivation is there in the communities in Barbados. What I am saying is lacking is the finance identified by my colleague and any help from the Government in allowing these people to make a living marketing their products in Barbados and elsewhere.

We do not only have to look at the captive domestic and the captive tourist markets among those who come to our shores. What I am saying is that if you have a situation where you could buy, whether it be embroidery or any other kind of handicraft work being done, and they could be sold in bulk and transported in bulk, I am saying there is a tremendous market overseas. In point of fact, Mr. Chairman, the persons with whom I was talking told me — look, tell the youngsters to send me everything they have, everything that you make. But I realized there was a problem. The problem would be that I would have to buy them, or arrange for somebody to buy them and ship them, and that kind of thing. I did not wish to be a middleman in that kind of operation, even if you are doing it without making a profit, because then all sorts of problems can arise at a political level.

It is in that area that I think the Government could intervene. The Government has no idea of how to deal with the problems of unemployment in Barbados, apart from taxing people and spending more and more money, when, in fact, the skills and motivation are there among the young people to make things.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the honourable Member going to do Export Promotion as he said?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, I am doing Export Promotion and the Industrial Development Corporation, because I feel the Industrial Development Corporation should be spearheading the organisation of the domestic activity, and it should be part of the function of Export Promotion to assist these young people to export to a wider market.

This Government talks not only of CARICOM exports but they talk of extra-regional exports. They also say that, as part of the restructuring of the Barbados economy, they want to move their export base away from CARICOM, from the domestic markets, to extra-regional industrial countries. I am saying that perhaps the quickest market that you can get is, in fact, in your handicraft work.

Sir, I just want to give you a little example. If you were to look at the brassieres and panties made in Barbados which have been sold by 1 or 2 companies.

Aside

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am being specific, brassieres and panties made in Barbados, which have been sold in Europe successfully down the years. I am saying that those skills exist among 600 people who have been fired from Koves firm, that those people could be given the materials, and the Government can buy them and command the markets in Germany and France for those people. I am just showing you ways and means in which you can create work. Instead, you are doing absolutely nothing. You are doing nothing!

Worse than that, the whole export promotion effort, and I am thinking twice whether I should vote for or vote against Subhead 2, because I am not satisfied that this whole business of re-orientation of our exports from CARICOM to the industrialized markets, to the more industrialized countries, is going satisfactorily. I am not satisfied that the Central Bank is performing well in that area either. As a matter of fact, it is my firm belief that the Minister of Finance is afraid of the Central Bank, that he cannot deal with the problems that arise inside there, that he is scared to deal with them.

Aside

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Get on with the debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I say that you are scared, though, because the point I am trying to make is that, despite the advertisements which said, Sir, that weaker chairs were brought in for CARIFESTA than were brought in for the Central Bank without a licence, despite that advertisement, Sir, which was calculated to embarrass the Minister of Finance, despite that advertisement, the fact is.....

Aside

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Look at No. 8 in the advertisement. Not me, I did not put it in there! You should have read it and you would have seen No. 8.

Aside

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Where are we?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I want Johnson here on Friday morning when the Press is here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. Address the Chair!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am getting back to the point, Mr. Chairman. The point I am trying to make, Sir, is that, typical of this Government, they have ignored the little

man in the activities of the Barbados Industrial Corporation and in Export Promotion, two of the Subheads here, and they have failed to recognise that it is the small businessman that constitutes the backbone of most economies. It is the small businessman from Mile and a Quarter who will be making a greater contribution to Barbados in the long run. It is the small businessman from Road View, it is the small businessman from Silver Sands, it is the small businessman from Carringtons Village and Bannister Land who can be helped if the ideas that I am trying to get across in this Parliament tonight are not ridiculed but are put into effect. That is what I am saying, Sir, because all this sort of thing we hear about capital formation in Barbados, when that is translated into employment generation — and look at the cost of capital per head person employed and job satisfaction and returns to the community — when you look at that and when you look at the other side and you see the minimum capital deployed here, largely the skills of the people and opportunity, all I am asking you to do is to try and put up a little money so that you can harness the important capital assets you have — people, skills, motivation and minimal materials — in order to generate jobs in Barbados.

11.20 p.m.

Sir, before I left the United Kingdom — this is going to surprise you now — I think it was around the end of June, the persons I was talking to.....

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Why did you not bring them down with you?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They are coming here on December 24.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I would really like to meet them).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: All right. The point I am trying to make, Sir, is that before I left I got a call, and the gentleman told me, "we can take £25 000 in orders from you in four weeks' time."

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: How come a capitalist like you did not exploit it?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Because my constituents are involved. I cannot exploit my constituents.

What I cannot understand is that the IDC has representation overseas, Export Promotion has representation overseas and they cannot identify these people! Let me tell you something further. There are banking interests in Europe, in the United Kingdom that would finance this kind of thing for select communities. I am telling you that if you would identify a project that was acceptable to the Arab community in the United Kingdom, the Arab banks would finance it. I am telling you that if you

found a product that was acceptable to a businessman dealing with a bank, like BCCI, which is highly involved in trade, even at this level, he would finance it. I am trying to tell you now that there is a new black bank in the Borough of Hackney which, if it gets its licence from the Bank of England, would finance this kind of thing. I go further and tell you this, that if you had used the National Bank correctly in London it would be financing this kind of trade, and there is a tremendous market. The so-called ethnic market in the United Kingdom is just fantastic.

Mr. Chairman, let me tell you something, and sometimes you have to criticise our side, too.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is not theory, it is a fact.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time. Your time is up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A minute or two, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one more point. A close friend of mine, who now has a multi-million dollar business in Toronto dealing with curries and peppers, came to Barbados at one stage trying to establish a small factory in Barbados, a factory which would have spread out the work to several small peasants and so on. He was not taken seriously and he went to St. Lucia, and today he has a multi-million dollar business among the ethnic communities. You know the person I am talking about too from Guyana! He makes the curries in St. Lucia and sells the curries according to the ethnic tastes in Toronto. The market is there. Now you are telling me it is all theory. It is not all theory, you all like spending big money and it is small money that really makes the difference. That has been my experience, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Export Promotion, Sir, Subhead 2. It says here that they want \$100 000. I do not really understand what is happening with Export Promotion. I would like the Minister to explain just what happened. We have had Export Promotion, we had a Committee, then you set up a Board, then you gave them bigger quarters, we can see they had a seminar here and there, what are we exporting? What is the position with the furniture? Do you remember we had a discussion about the furniture and you said it was pervious? They said they were going to get the moisture out of the furniture.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That has been solved).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: So can the Minister please tell us something about the furniture?

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Are we going to suspend now, then? Ten o'clock. It suits us. Get up and move the suspension because we want to continue on this Head.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He has to move it. If I sit down he will put the Head. I do not trust him.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10 o'clock Friday morning, December 20.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of the House for half an hour. I am quite sure that you will appreciate that the traffic is very heavy.

Asides

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You are going to stay? I wish to thank the Leader of the Opposition for indicating that they are going to form a quorum. I only hope that Members on the other side will not walk around and show that they had to form a quorum for us. I sincerely hope so.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, if I could crave the indulgence of the House before the business begins, I should like to pay a tribute, with the permission of the House, to the late Elliott Lisle Ward, who was a Member of this House from 1938 until 1951.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has he passed away?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, Sir, unfortunately.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why not let us do that later in the afternoon, or later in the morning, when we have a full

Assembly, rather than at the beginning. I think this is something which can be agreed upon between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I have no objection to that, because I reckon that we would rather have as full a House as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are other honourable Members who would probably like to make a contribution.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If Your Honour will indicate to me a suitable time, I would be pleased to do so.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: As soon as the Leader of the Opposition and you and I agree, we will indicate, and we can then pay the tributes.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: As Your Honour pleases.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Head 40 — Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs. The debate resumes.

Does any honourable Member wish to speak further on this?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I think I was just about to start on this, Sir. Some questions were asked in respect of these matters. These are only supplementaries to the amounts that have been voted. We do have in respect of export promotion, programmes which are financed by the European Economic Community, and expenditures have to be voted in accordance with our public accounting system as the money goes into the general Treasury, and we have to advance the money and vote it as an expenditure. This \$100 000 is to cover a gap that will arise from the determination of one Lome Convention and another, and the phasing in of the projects.

The project with the Lome Convention is a very interesting project. It relates to the establishment of

garment advisory services. We virtually in Barbados had to have a garment school for our garment manufacturers. Despite all of the years of operation, when the acid test came — the Trinidad market became closed and they had to go abroad — their styling, their purchasing, their marketing and their financing were all in shambles. It was not structured to deal with the overseas markets. There has been a shake out. Some of the incompetents have gone, some of the people who refused to take advice have had to depart, but I am convinced in my own mind, from what I have seen, that the garment school which was established has done great work to help those manufacturers in the garment industry who were capable of taking advice, who wished to take advice and who understood that, notwithstanding that you had been in operation for a long period of time, there was nothing *infra dig* in accepting the fact that you had to change in order to go into new markets.

The skills that were brought were of a wide variety. They related to layout or industrial engineering, purchasing, styling for markets and market research. We also are developing a programme of a design centre, in conjunction with the Polytechnic and the Community College. We have two designers operating out of the old IDC building — because Export Promotion has moved over into part of the old IDC building — and we want to have a comprehensive design centre there relating not only to garments. We want to bring designers together so that they will have the atmosphere and the facilities where you can have a cross fertilisation of ideas and things of that kind. We hope to get the handicraft designers in there, the garment designers in there, and I would like to see the industrial designers, the furniture designers all in there. That is what we are having.

I am very pleased to say that the garment project has demonstrated two things. One is that there is a niche in the market place in Puerto Rico, in the United States, in the United Kingdom for a particular range of garments that Barbados can produce. Our stitching skills are adequate. Secondly, 807 operations of a certain type, we can benefit from.

Barbados cannot be a workshop in the same way that Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic are. We have to face reality. The Jamaica devaluation has put the Jamaican worker in a worse position, monetarily speaking, than the Haitian worker. One of the most remarkable things in what has taken place is that we were fearful, when I first became a Minister in CARICOM, of Haiti's entrance into CARICOM on the ground that, because of the cheapness of their labour, they would swamp the market. But Jamaica labour is cheaper now, so we have had to face that.

We expect that with more help that now we have targeted and identified the manufacturers who are capable of benefitting...and I want to say that every manufacturer

in Barbados was given the opportunity to participate in this programme. It was a two-way programme, one in which the manufacturers came to lectures and also the technicians went into factories. We have now identified people who can benefit. There is no doubt about it, that hiring in the garment industry has started to increase again. If you look in the newspapers you will see that some hiring has started again. I can demonstrate it, I can point you to the firms.

We do need some other things, though. We need some other institutional framework. Selling in the United States of America is different from selling in CARICOM. Our banking system is not attuned to selling in the United States of America. The Export Promotion Corporation has, therefore, had to take the lead and try and point out the gaps in the existing banking arrangements that we have. In the United States of America, if you have a receivable a factor takes it over and he looks after the collection. We have to get some mechanism where we have an approved factor and have the garment people who are selling understand that we will expect that they go through that factor, because a couple of them have been burnt by selling to their own agents, who have disappeared in the vast United States of America. In other words, a proportion of smart men they have encountered, but, luckily, it was only in respect of small amounts of goods, because the Barbadian suspicion did not allow him to place great confidence in his agent until he had performed. Great progress is made in this direction.

This programme will not stop. We are not going to stop the programme of this garment school, so to speak. I call it a garment school; the manufacturers do not like to hear that word. They like to say it is garment advisory services, but when you go through it, it is like teaching old men from the beginning. But do not mind that. That will not stop. The Lome Programme comes to an end at a particular period of time, and the Government has undertaken to bridge the gap while we get the new tranche of Lome money. As far as I am concerned, I am going to expand it. Now this is only the beginning with the Industrial Corporation, as I said last time, of the handicraft. There will be much greater expansion, and this new year's Estimates will include the amount of money there.

10.15 a.m.

I do not think I should conclude without saying that, obviously, Barbados manufacturing faces its greatest challenge now. Not only have we had a devaluation in Jamaica and in Guyana but, also, recently we have had a devaluation in Trinidad and Tobago. Now the Government does not feel that this is a matter that should occasion any degree of panic at all. The Trinidad economy and the Barbados economy are two different

things. The methods and the economic approach in Trinidad are different from Barbados.

As a result of the devaluation, my understanding of the Trinidad budget is that the Trinidad Government will get a windfall of one billion dollars in revenue, because 85% of their revenue is in oil, which is denominated in U. S. currency, so when you translate that into Trinidad currency, they get a windfall of one billion dollars. We do not have that kind of revenue denominated in U. S. dollars in Barbados.

Secondly, one of the great impacts of devaluation, all over the world, is that it has an effect on the cost of living. The chief effect, of course, in the non-oil countries is the import cost of energy. Now, since they supply their own energy, that would be mitigated. In any event, they have a two-tier system of devaluation, and drugs, food and school books are exempt. My own view is that I have never heard of a country in which a two-tier system worked for longer than 6 or 8 months. I do not know where it works.

Our position is that it is a challenge to our manufacturers, but what I will say is that you cannot have a common market in which there have been so many changes in the parity of the currencies and restrictions still remain. Restrictions cannot remain on inter-regional trade by those countries that have devalued to that extent. That would be the beginning of the end of the common market, not the community — I am not talking about the community — and I am very glad to see that this point has been taken, because, in the budget, as I read it, I saw a statement where the Nassau Agreement would be implemented on January 1, 1986.

I also want to say that Barbados will continue to press for the implementation of what I call the 'Port-of-Spain Agreement' on the new agricultural protocol. We have implemented it. St. Kitts has implemented it. St. Vincent has implemented it. Guyana has implemented it. That deals now with the other area, trying to tackle that billion dollars of food that we import.

So that we are not panicking in any way at all. We, obviously, have to watch closely what our friends do and the reality of the situation in the common market is that there are only 2 free markets, the Windwards and Leewards and Barbados. The Windwards and Leewards and Barbados, the OECS countries and Barbados are the countries that have remained faithful to the free trade.

The inflation in Barbados this year will not reach 2%. It is 1.8% at the end of November. Given those circumstances, given the fact that we have been carrying out the adjustment process by trying to get into extra-regional areas, I think the best strategy, at the present moment, for Barbados is for us to continuously watch our competitive position, continue to market abroad,

continue to improve our productive capacity by utilising, in furniture, in garments and in other areas, new technology and new capital equipment. I feel that once we do that, and we understand that the world does not owe us a living, and all costs — wages, utilities, rent, professional and managerial services. When people hear us talk in the context of export promotion and industrial development about costs, people think that we are only talking about wages. The manufacturing study has demonstrated that managerial and professional costs indicate that there is greater scope, that more rip-offs take place than in many other areas and Government is going to institute an examination of professional costs in Barbados, too.

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The position is that I talk from a point of view of data. Before I speak, I like to have a very clear examination of data. I do not like speaking on a hunch or a belief. You never hear me speak like that. I am very cautious in my approach to this.

Barbados cannot expect to pay managers and professionals the same pay that they get in North America, and charges are being made, in the professionals' case, to Government on the same hourly rates as they have in the United States of America, when they do not pay their para-professionals the same rates. They do not pay the same rent or anything like that. Obviously, an examination of the reason for this is taking place. We must look at everything that is taking place in the Caribbean in the context of the fact that since 1983, it was envisaged that adjustments would have to take place. As far as I am concerned, the Government will put more money, will give tax deductions, will give export allowances, will do all of those things, and we will continue to keep our competitive position under a constant watch.

These are only supplementaries, and now that the honourable Member is here, I will tell him about the furniture factory. The honourable Member asked specifically about that.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: All right. I will speak about furniture afterwards.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): I wish to make a brief contribution to this, and I wish to speak on the aspect of training specifically for the garment industry, because I believe that we should have been further along the road, both in terms of the mass production of garments and the quality of the production work that goes in to those garments, as well as into the areas of design.

We have always felt that our educational system must be tied closely to the productive sectors of the economy in order that it can make whatever contribution is necessary from that particular perspective, and that is why we try to keep a close relationship with business and with industry, with those sectors of the specialized areas in which they have a particular mandate. The training for the garment industry was, therefore, established, and there was an advisory committee, including persons from the garment industry, to advise.
10.25 a.m.

We were told that in Barbados we had a good base of a long tradition of needlework, and those workers have made a contribution over the years towards the development of the clothing industry in this country. But then with industrial production, you needed the industrial machines, different types of industrial machines, and a start was made in the provision of these along with advice coming from the particular sector. Now what I am particularly concerned about is that we are now in 1985 but we are still talking about the need for developments in the area of design and related fields.

I recall that in 1975, I believe it was, I made a visit to the Fashion Institute of Technology — I know the Minister of Transport and Works would be aware of that particular institution from his North American experience — which is part of the State University of New York, and it provides training in a wide variety of areas, both in the fine arts as well as in the graphic arts, in these particular arts relating to design and the garment industry generally speaking. Indeed, part of its location is in that area where the garment industry is situated in New York. We visited and spoke with the officials of that institution, and the stage was set for identifying a number of Barbadians to send them into that institution for training. We examined the programme as well as the facilities, and we were going to use the National Development Scholarships, as they were intended to be used, in order to provide the kinds of skills that would be required in this country to help with our economic, social and industrial development. Now we are 10 years down the road and I am hearing that we have to provide this kind of training when the ground work was laid way back in 1975. Ten years later, we are still making the same point.

I suppose these kinds of development result from the discontinuities that occur over changes of Government, but I want to know why it should take this period of time, instead of trying to follow through the kinds of initiatives that have been taken? If we had done that, we would not be in this position today. We would have had people trained and in place in order to assist in this particular area. So we have got to watch the fallout that comes from those kinds of discontinuities in policy and in the implementation of policy.

We all have to start all over again. But that was in 1975, and the Fashion Institute of Technology, the State University of New York, was willing to provide that kind of training. I regret that the delay has occurred, but, hopefully, steps would now be taken in order to try to correct the matter as quickly as possible.

Hon. H. B. St. John and Dr. R. C. Haynes rose.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I must reply, and I got up before you. I want to get one point in.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: With the permission of the Chair and with my permission.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, yes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Fair enough.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Do not let us proceed to argue on fictions.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham: Get the facts.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: When the honourable Member for Christ Church East (Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham) was in charge of IDC, the scholarship programme for training of the designers continued. Two people I can remember personally. One is a Mr. Redman's daughter, the other is a — I do not know the lady's name — she subsequently married a Mr. Browne. One went to Parsons Institute in the United States, a well-known garment school, and the other lady, unfortunately, died. Just after she finished her degree and everything, a Mr. Redman's daughter, she died. Since then, we have sent a Miss Belle to do design in England and she is back here now.

We have been offering scholarships repeatedly for people to go out to do design. We have done our best to promote the Fine Arts Institute as an institution where, even if you could not do it fully, you could at least use that as an institution for the purpose of selecting the best to send them after that for post-graduate courses. But the truth is we have to go down in the schools themselves. We have to have Art at Advanced Level being regarded as a respectable alternative to the normal scholarships.

The other thing is that we have brought expert after expert. Do not threaten me. I will show you that we brought many people here to advise the manufacturers and the manufacturers were so cocky and confident that they refused to take the advice, because the Trinidad market was open — you could sell anything to Trinidad, anything.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: And when the French people came down here and said, 'What you are selling you can sell in Trinidad but you could not sell in any other market,' they would not hear. This is not a communist country, so, therefore, we had to let them profit or lose by their own experience. So do not let us talk on fiction, because if you push me, I am going to give you some more facts.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central) Mr. Chairman, what we are seeing here is a marked difference, the great divergence between talk and action which is so characteristic of the Barbados Labour Party.

We on this side have always felt that in the longer term, whether it be the garment industry, the furniture industry or any other industry in Barbados, the main thrust of activity within those subsectors should be exports, to hard currency markets where

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: To hard currency markets, such as the United States and Europe. We have again and again called upon the Government to recognize that it is not just good enough to tell a manufacturer that you must export to the United States or you must export to the United Kingdom, that that process involved a fundamental restructuring of our entire industrial effort in Barbados. We have again and again brought to their attention that it needs a financial restructuring.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is what we did. You cannot do anything with DaSilva.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This means that your public financial institutions must be prepared to provide the levels of finance on a long term basis to allow that transformation to take place. This is necessary, Sir, because when you are exporting to those large economies, different factors come into play. To start off, the economics of scale becomes absolutely critical. It means that you must have factories that can accommodate orders for say, half a million shirts in three months, or regularly deliver a million shirts every three months, and shirts of a quality to compete with producers from the Far East and elsewhere. So that they have spent two years telling people that they must look towards the North American market and look towards the European market, but they have not gone out there, as a Government and provided the financial institutional support, the quality support through the Export Promotion Corporation and the support that is necessary for the marketing, which can be assisted through the many missions that we have overseas, and it may well require a reorientation of the emphasis of those people employed in the missions overseas in order to assist in this particular effort. A lot of time has been lost, a lot of

businesses have gone under, a lot of people have become unemployed in the process, and yet the infrastructure is not in place for this reorientation of the export sector.

Indeed, Sir, not only on the floor of this House, but elsewhere, this Government has allowed perhaps the only garment factory in Barbados which had the potential of continuing to expand in the European markets and the United States markets in particular, and I am talking — I guess I can mention the firm — about Koves Ltd. That was a firm that employed about 600 people in Barbados.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Who?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This is a fact. It was a firm ... — just one second it was a firm ...

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Why do you not get your facts?)

(Aside: Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You know Koves is a big crook. They had to put him in court.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not concerned about the ownership. What I am saying is that the capital was in place. It does not matter to me who owns it. The point is this, the capital was in place and, as a result of that capital in place, 600 people were employed on the one hand, and also the goods met the quality which could be absorbed by the European and by the United States markets. Now that is a fact. Let us not get into personalities. I am talking about facts. I am not talking about an individual.

(Aside: Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He does not know what he is talking about.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not saying

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ...it went down because of the Government.

(Aside: Hon. L. S. CRAIG: And you are saying Koves went down because of that?)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What I am saying is that what was necessary in that situation was to bring support, and for the financial institutions in this country to keep the particular institution going. I am not talking about who should own it, should be saved, or otherwise. What I am saying is that I know for a fact that with all the designers you are talking about, the high quality goods, that that was one factory that employed 600 people and met the criteria for the large markets, and the fact is that for less than \$3 million that company could have been kept going. Whether a change of ownership was necessary, that is not a matter for me. The point is that it was taking

place here. I hope you all do not get into personalities. I am not talking about Koves or any person. I am talking about a factory that met the criteria which the Prime Minister said that he was looking forward to, and it has collapsed.

Sir, let us look at 1 or 2 other factors. I have repeatedly defended the position of the workers in Barbados, because every time the Government opens its mouth, it talks about wages being the most important factor affecting the competitiveness of Barbados' exports. I say that it is not true. It is not true. It is not wages. It has never been wages. I have always put forward the contention on the floor of this House that it was not wages. What it is is a lot of non-wage costs, principal among them levels of Government's taxation and the way that taxation impacts on the cost process in production in Barbados. Even though you may get duty free concession on raw materials coming in, nevertheless that factory functions within an environment in which there are extremely high levels of indirect taxation, property taxes and all sorts of other impositions. So before you can talk and point a finger at anybody else, what you should do is start looking to see whether you can reduce the impact of taxation on the cost of production in Barbados and thereby enhance our competitiveness.

I am glad to hear the Prime Minister mention the cost of utilities as an important factor. I have repeatedly said that on the floor of this House and I have done everything possible to try to keep the price of electricity and water down in Barbados. I have made every single effort, because I knew that it not only affected the domestic consumer, but it will have an impact on the competitiveness of the industrial sector of Barbados. They, on the other hand, did everything to push up the cost of electricity, water, telephones, everything in Barbados, and now they come telling me there is a study telling him what we were telling them in here year after year. I would say that the high electricity rates and the high water rates in Barbados were things that contributed considerably to the lack of competitiveness of Barbados' export position.

So do not talk about wages any longer. Wages represent only a fraction of the cost, or increases in wages represent only a fraction of the cost. Look, for example, at the taxation on wages. As a matter of fact, as early as 1982, I think it was, the World Bank warned the Government that they should be looking very carefully on their impositions which were increasing the non-wage costs of labour, that that may be a critical factor in influencing the competitive edge of Barbados. There are a whole lot of things, and I am very glad to hear the Prime Minister of this country, for the first time, get up on the floor of this House and send a clear message to those people who, every time they open their mouths, start talking about high wages paid to workers in Barbados. There are many

other factors — Government taxation, high cost of utilities, *inter alia*.

Aside

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ...and the cost of services, in the wider sense. People charge too much for every single service you want in Barbados. If you want a piece of land cleaned up today — a quarter of an acre — you have to pay \$1500 to get it debushed. If you want to get a tree cut down, somebody is going to charge you \$1200, or between \$600 and \$1200 to get a tree cut down. Every single service that you want in Barbados is far, far too expensive, and something has to be done about that.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I said the cost of services and the cost of professional services are too high and — I will tell you something, too — the managers in the Public Service are very much overpaid. The managers in the Public Service are very much overpaid. I say that. I have said before on the floor of this House that we should force the statutory bodies to bring their annual budgets before this Parliament. When you look at the salaries and wages and look at all the perks of travelling and so on, you will see that some of them are better off than most other professionals in Barbados. They are grossly overpaid!

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Like the doctors.)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: One final point, Sir. I do not think that the devaluation in Trinidad should influence Government's policy on the question of devaluation. We on this side will not be supporting any devaluation of the Barbados dollar.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I noticed that the Prime Minister got up and talked a lot about the devaluation in Trinidad. He also gave some indication that the reduction in trade between Barbados and Trinidad will not have the kind of impact which it might have had four years ago. I guess that point was made. I also note that he is seeing a ray of hope in the budgetary statement by the Minister of Finance in Trinidad that the import restrictions would be removed, and he also is hoping, no doubt, that the devaluation in Trinidad would not significantly affect the competitiveness of the Trinidad position, or reduce the competitiveness of our exporters in the Trinidad market. I believe that these are the kinds of things that may have been going through his mind. But having said that, he has a duty now to get up on the floor of this House and assure the business community that there would be no devaluation of the Barbados dollar. I am speaking to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, who is, very rudely, not listening. I am saying that, having raised the

question of devaluation, you have a duty to get up and give a full assurance to this nation that there will be no devaluation. I will tell you why. If you do not, this is going to happen. If you do not give that assurance, having raised the question of devaluation in Trinidad, you can be sure that all businessmen in Bridgetown will be seeking to meet all their external debts as soon as possible.

10.45 a.m.

Asides

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Do you hear what I tell you? Just listen to me carefully, I keep my ears to the ground. You are going to get an accelerated rate of settlement of external debts. The banking system, the commercial banks, will be waiting and listening for a signal from the Minister of Finance in respect of their transactions. You all do not understand what goes on in the financial world of Barbados. Take my word for it.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You have raised the matter. You should not have raised it. If you raise it, you should state Barbados' position. That is what I am saying. That is my advice to you.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You are a panicker, I am not).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is my advice to you. I am not panicking. All I am telling you is that you have a duty, having raised the matter, and having related it to Barbados, to give a firm assurance, which everybody will believe, that there will be no devaluation of the Barbados dollar, and all of us on this side would get up and support you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You have an opportunity to attract our total support.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time, time, time.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Prime Minister commenced this discussion on the Export Promotion Corporation on a very high note, by providing the House with a background of facts and perspectives with respect to the performance of the industrial sector, particularly the garment manufacturing sector. I am afraid that, ever since the honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford) spoke, the debate has fallen somewhat in standard, because we have been proceeding on fictions, not facts any more.

The first fiction we need to correct is that the decline in the performance of the garment manufacturers in the last three years or thereabout in Barbados is directly related or is in any way related to the failure of Government since 1976 to provide a regime of incentives and support for the garment manufacturing sector not only in terms of finance, in terms of marketing opportunities, but also in terms of technical assistance in designs and fashions.

When I was Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation, we managed to get the assistance of a French design and garment expert into Barbados, and he looked at every garment manufacturing operation in Barbados and gave us a report by 1978. The report dealt not only with layout, but it dealt with standards, designs, fashions, appeal and so on of the products produced in the garment manufacturing sector. The rating that some manufacturers got was so poor that we could not distribute the report. We had to call in the manufacturers one by one and show them the sections of the report that related to their establishments. As a result of that report — I will repeat that, Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt), who was not listening — I was saying that the French expert who came to Barbados handed us a report which commented on the layout of each factory in the garment manufacturing sector, the design, the finish, the purchasing policy, the appeal of the garment. The grading that some manufacturers got was so poor that we could not distribute the report, we had to call in each and every manufacturer and discuss the section of the report that related to them privately. As a result, we took several steps, and one was to institute a scholarship programme financed by the Industrial Development Corporation. In the area of handicraft management, I remember that Mr. Villeneuve Greaves and one or two others went off to Israel. The lady who is now married to Mr. Vere Browne was given a scholarship to the Parsons Institute in Design and Fashion, and several other persons — Miss Redman who was trained and who has subsequently perished — a body of Barbadians were trained in these areas and they came back with their expertise. Their training was made available to the garment manufacturing sector.

As the Honourable Prime Minister pointed out, there is a limit to what the Government can do. The Government could not force the garment manufacturers to upgrade and modernise their plants, particularly when they were benefiting from the fact of easy access to an easy and indiscriminating market, namely, the Trinidad market. Very few of them had the wisdom and the good sense to concentrate some of their energies in the extra-regional market, which was more demanding but which in the long term made more sense for the future of their business. The fact that Yankee Garments, that Koves, that Juman at one point and others were able to penetrate the extra-regional market meant that at least some of them were prepared to exert themselves and benefit from the regime of incentives and support which the Barbados Labour Party Administration had put in place, building, too, on the foundations that had been laid by our predecessors. I am not suggesting that history started in 1976 with the Barbados Labour Party, but it is a fact that we built on what we found, and built quite substantially, too.

The credit scheme and the insurance scheme by the Central Bank were put in place. The Export Promotion Corporation was established. Technical assistance in marketing was provided by experts from the Irish Development Authority. The Industrial Development Corporation identified 807 manufacturers in the States who are interested in working with Barbadians. Joint venture opportunities were presented to them; everything was done. Promotion missions were undertaken and financed by the Government. Technical experts were brought in from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation and also under assistance provided by the Lome Convention, mostly from the Irish Development Authority. Everything was done to ensure that assistance was made available — of a financial nature, marketing nature, layout, design and fashion — for the garment manufacturers in Barbados. The fact that some benefited is testimony to the fact that the regime was put in place and was made available to all of them.

I do not want to get into the Koves case, but it is not true to say that Koves, which was one of the premier manufacturing facilities in the garment business at one point, and even succeeded in penetrating the French market, particularly with lingerie, it is not true to say that Koves' business declined and went under — and I am glad to say that the evidence is now that it is on the upswing again — because of any absence of support by the Government.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I never said it went under because of lack of support. What I said was that when it was going under the Government could have identified that as precisely the type of plant which they would like to see in operation in Barbados, and at that point see what could be done. That is what I said. They are two different things.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The plant is still in existence. It did go into receivership, but it is still in existence and, as I say, it is on the upswing again. But substantial sums of money were taken out of the business to settle certain non-business matters, and the Government, in the circumstances, had no responsibility to intervene in that situation in order to give it support. I do not want to say anything more about that matter, but those are the facts as they are known to us on this side.
10.55 a.m.

The position, Mr. Chairman, is that it is not only in the area of garments that the Barbados Labour Party Administration exerted itself, broke new ground and put the regime of assistance, technical and financial, in place, the marketing, layout, design and so on, for manufacturers in Barbados, because, as early as 1977, special courses were organized by the Industrial Development Corporation, along with the Polytechnic at that time, and later on with the Community College, to ensure that we had a body of people who were trained in electronics as it related to the needs of the plants that were then in Barbados. We continue to do that. In fact, we have the

assistance of Intel — Barbados Computer Assembly, as it was called, BCA — and many other of the top electronic companies that were then operating in Barbados. That continues to be the position, even though the Polytechnic and the Community College, both of them, are now offering courses in that area.

The garment manufacturers have benefitted enormously from the technical assistance which the Government has provided and the marketing studies which we have provided, not only here in the English speaking Caribbean, but we have also gone to Puerto Rico and to the Virgin Islands. I am happy to say that, after a false start, the evidence is that we are able to satisfy the North American markets as far as the furniture manufacturers in Barbados are concerned. We have met the standards, even though, as I have said, there was a false start, which we discussed several months ago in this House. It was an unfortunate matter.

There can be no case built on the premise that the Barbados Labour Party Administration in the last 9 years has failed to provide the technical support, the regime of incentives, financial and otherwise, necessary to ensure that the manufacturing sector in Barbados, whether it be in electronics, garments, furniture or otherwise, can meet the high standards required and penetrate the extra-regional markets. In fact, in fairness to the late Prime Minister, he always said that it was wrong, and it would be proven wrong in the long run, to encourage the manufacturers in Barbados to look only to the regional markets. He always made the point to the manufacturers that it was in their interest to concentrate their energies as much on the extra-regional markets as on the regional markets.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: As the Honourable Prime Minister has just said, *sotto voce*, the money was too sweet in the regional market when the going was good and, as a result, a lot of them did not concentrate on the extra-regional markets.

I just want to make one or two comments about the 807 operation, because the 807 operation does have some appeal, particularly in the area of garments. The garments come in pre-cut. The manufacturers overseas have to make the capital outlay to purchase the garments, they tell you what design they want you to manufacture to, and all you do in Barbados is to stitch them and put them back in the container, and they are responsible for the marketing. There is no stability, however, attached to this 807 operation, and the fact that you have a big order for the first three months in Barbados does not mean that the order will either be repeated next year or that you will get the order in the second half of the

year. So that 807 operation cannot be regarded as any viable basis on which you can really build a garment manufacturing industry. That comes and goes. Today, the business goes to Mexico, tomorrow to Haiti, the next day to the Philippines, to Taiwan, and many operators do not feel that they can make the massive investment in specialized machinery from time to time not knowing whether the orders are going to be repeated after three months have expired, or six months as the case may be.

As far as the U.S. market is concerned, it must be said, Mr. Chairman, that it is a market which is, at once, the most discriminating in the world and the most undiscriminating. It is the home of junk, it is also the home of excellence. The problem with the garment manufacturers in Barbados is that they cannot compete with the junk, because the junk goes in there much more cheaply than they can produce it and export it to the U.S. So that if we are to find a place in the United States for our garments, it must be at the level of the medium quality or the high quality, and it is at that point that we have to pay attention to our cost, to our productivity and to our standards, including designs. That is the area where we have to concentrate. We cannot concentrate at the lower end of the market, because our costs are too high.

Now, I am not making any single constant explanation nor advancing any single constant explanation for Barbados' relative uncompetitiveness in the area of garments, but it would be wholly wrong, Mr. Chairman, not to recognize that the relatively high wage costs in Barbados constitute a contributing factor. You do yourself no service — and I am here referring directly to the last honourable member who spoke — to suggest that wages do not constitute a contributing factor. They are one of the many factors relating to the uncompetitive position which Barbados finds itself in in relation to garment manufacturing production and production generally in the manufacturing sector. There are other factors contributing, but it would be wrong to suggest that wages play no part, but that the cost of the water bill, as far as garment operations are concerned, is an important and critical factor.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I wish to conclude this brief contribution and to repeat that the Government's record in the area of services, the advisory, financial and technical support which it has given to the manufacturing sector in Barbados, and particularly to the garment sector, is an excellent one, and one which we on this side of the House happen to be particularly proud of.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, this debate on the subhead for the Industrial Development Corporation, in the amount of \$70 000 for the IDC and \$100 000 for the Export Promotion, has produced very interesting comment, and I note, ending with the last

honourable Member on the Government side, that they have, for some peculiar reason, considered it necessary to trot out a list of services and things which they have given to the manufacturing sector, and he ended by saying that they were very proud of the support services which they have provided. It seems to me, however, that the debate would be useless if, at the end of the day, all we could do is, on their side, they outline what they have done, and we, on our side, outline what we have done. It seems to me that the bottom line still has to be answers to the questions: Where are we now? Why are we where we are? Where do we hope to go? It would seem to me that if, in fact, with all of the excellent services which the honourable Member has just delineated, which he said followed on the excellent services which had been provided by this Administration, at the end of that the garment manufacturing sector in particular and the industrial sector in general is still writhing under what can only be described as a chaotic situation, then we have to wonder if the medicines we have provided have been useful in curing the maladies of the patient. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that what we need to examine now is whether the strategies we have been employing are suited to the circumstances which now afflict the entire international community, and in particular this community in the region.

11.05 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, I have obviously been spending a lot of time examining this area, and I have come to the conclusion which I offer for what it is worth, that we have done almost as much as can be done in one direction, but we have not been doing enough, or anything perhaps, in the other direction. We have been talking about export promotion, and I would say, Mr. Chairman, that one of the fundamental errors that has been made is this constant dichotomy or this constant polarity between the regional market and the extra-regional market. We continue to talk about getting into the extra-regional market as if it is some peculiar state like heaven that you can enter into. The truth is that we have always, since we started this industrial programme in 1965, been in the extra-regional market, because most of the export manufacturers, those who come down to manufacture under the export incentives legislation, the enclave industries, have always been producing for the so-called extra-regional market; so it must mean that we have the capability in Barbados to produce for that market. I do not think this is in question. Playtex is the perfect example, notwithstanding the other good examples that have been quoted. Playtex is a company that came into Barbados I believe twelve years ago or thereabouts, began producing immediately ladies' undergarments for the extra-regional market, and in fact have never sold any in the regional market. They have been successful and in fact that particular factory is considered, in the total Playtex Complex company, to be one of the better companies, one of the more successful factories.

The factors which have been brought together in that particular factory are capital, labour, management, but the most important aspect of that operation is the marketing aspect. The point is, Mr. Chairman, that we in Barbados have continued, and indeed the entire region to a large extent, to produce various products, and then go out and can find some of the poorest quality products being offered suade people that what we have produced is what they should get, when in fact what we ought to be doing, and what is absolutely necessary if we are to move forward, is to utilise the techniques that have been perfected in North America and in Europe, where they have recognised that you must first find out what it is the market wishes, what it is the market requires, and then come back and produce for that market, because if the demand for your product is not there, you can produce at the lowest possible cost or the highest possible cost, at the end of the day you are going to be unsuccessful.

The whole idea of having a company that produces either services or goods is to have someone demand these services or goods and pay a price for them at so rapid a rate that you can make a profit. We in the Caribbean have been accustomed, we were trained that way; we are a community that used to take whatever was given to us because we had no choice, and that is why, even today in Barbados, you can find some of the poorest quality products being offered to people and people still have the attitude that there is no alternative, there is no substitute, so I will have to take it, whereas in the United States, for example, as, Mr. Chairman, you very well know, if someone produces a product that is not up to the required quality, that product does not get sold.

Sir, if we take all these factors into consideration, it would seem that what is required in Barbados is something which is 1975-76, just before we demitted office, we in the Ministry responsible for industrial development at the time attempted, something which sought to put the same factors which were operational at Playtex in train for other Barbadian and other manufacturers. We promoted a concept which we called the 500 factory. We believed then, as I believe now, that there is an optimum size for a garment factory in Barbados which would make a viable proposition. I believe that somewhere in the vicinity of 500 machines would be necessary if you are going to be able to produce the kind of volume which would make sense in a place like the United States. We recognised that there were a number of small manufacturing companies in Barbados that were still at what I chose to call 'the peddling stage' — though they were making some profit from the sale of the product in Barbados and other CARICOM countries, they did not have the capital base that was necessary for the kind of high level and large quantity production that would get into the so-called extra-regional market. So we thought of having a company that would be built by the Industrial Development Corporation, the factory would be built by the IDC as all other factories were being built, that we

would get the manufacturers themselves to participate in the equity for the company, and that we would buy management services. We would go into the United States, and in the same way that Playtex or Intel or any of those giants send their own management team in here to use our labour, we would go out and buy the management and we would come into Barbados, but the difference between our company and the Playtex example would be that the owners would be Barbadian and the product lines would be as a result of a combination of Barbadian input and overseas expertise. The idea was that we would also hire a marketing company, because a marketing company would assist in developing the products, in determining what was feasible to sell from a company producing in Barbados.

Sir, we had gone so far as to get technical assistance for the project, and we did the project and it was reported on. Soon thereafter, I ceased to be responsible for the area of operations and I have never seen the idea come to fruition. Now it may very well be that the Government of the day decided, for whatever reason, that they do not wish to go down that road, but the feasibility of the project had been agreed upon, according to the experts who came in, and we had evidence according to the experts who came in, and we had evidence that we could get the funding to get the project going. Now, today, I hear a number of different voices but in unison which suggests that this is the kind of concept which we require in order to be successful in our industrial development.

Mr. Chairman, I am putting it to you, Sir, and to this Honourable House, that it is that kind of innovative approach to our industrial development that will help to utilise the large number of highly skilled persons in Barbados who are only awaiting an opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of producing at the level of people anywhere else in the world. As I said, Sir, we have done it. The people who produce at Intel are consistently higher producers than those in the same line of work anywhere else in the world, so it would have to be that the native Barbadian has some particular ability which only requires proper management and proper direction in order to reach the height which all of us aspire to reach.

11.15 a.m.

The problem, then, has to be one of strategy, it has to be one of how we are approaching these matters, and I am satisfied that we do not need to have a lot of heat going between the Government and the Opposition as to how we should put a lot of people back to work. If they bend their minds to it, they will see that what we are saying is eminently sensible and they will recognize, as I believe that they must have, that if you hold a pint pot under a pipe for 15 days, at the end of the day all you have is a pint of water. So that if you give incentives to people who are incapable of utilizing the incentives, either because of their structural position or their financial situation, then you are simply wasting

time. You are wasting resources and you are frustrating the body politic. What we need to do, therefore, in my opinion, is to start exploring the areas of additional support services, let me put it that way, Sir. We are not now talking about incentives pure and simple, we are talking about helping people in areas where they do not even know they need help.

We have an Export Promotion Office. I have no doubt, Sir, that if we look at the structure of the office — I do not know the people who work there — we are going to discover that it falls into the same pattern as most offices in Barbados, where you have a head, a deputy and then you have three or four people who are functionaries and then some support people. And when you examine the methodology that is being used, you are going to find that there is not much difference between the Export Promotion Department, the IDC and the Central Bank. All of them have the same approach, a boss and some people and a lot of money to spend, or, conversely, not enough money to spend, as they perceived it. What I am saying is that we need to start training special people to do special things. We need to have, in my opinion, Sir, instead of the structures which we now have for IDC and export promotion, we need to train about 25 really top class marketing people. Those marketing people would be available to us in the field of tourism, they would be available in the field of IDC promotion, they would be available in the field of export promotion. The point is that we do not have in this country, and, indeed, in this region, many marketing people. We have a lot of people who fill jobs, Sir. It is not their fault, but we need to take people and start training them.

(*Aside:* We do.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is no point anybody telling me that somebody from the Central Bank should go out and promote Barbados. With all due respect to the best educated person at the Central Bank, they know nothing whatsoever about marketing. But I look in the literature and I look in the newspapers and I see that the Central Bank goes out to help promote Barbados. That is a lot of foolishness, Sir, but it has nothing to do with the individuals, it has to do with a concept.

We have people in Barbados — we do not even know how talented they are — that have never had an opportunity to demonstrate their talent. The record will show that in the Ministry of Industry, we indicated back in 1973 or thereabout that what was needed in Barbados at that time was a design centre. A design centre is a *sine qua non* for any country which is moving from Third World status to developed status. Check all of the countries that have been successful and you will see that there has been a design centre. Sir, the building which now houses the IDC was identified as a site where the design centre should go, and if the honourable Members check the records, they

will see that we indicated to them that they must have a design centre in this country. Some of the manufacturers in the Manufacturers Association at the time did not understand what we were talking about, and that is fair. Because a person has a talent and opens a small factory in Grazettes that does not automatically make them an expert on industrial development. They are experts in their own field. And there are people in Barbados who believe that if you say something like that, you criticize the whole area of manufacturing. But it is a fact, Sir. You have expertise in areas which I do not know anything about and, presumably, I have expertise in areas which you do not know anything about. And so we have to recognize that in a civilized.....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do you have expertise in any area? We have to recognize, Sir, that in a civilized community we have to have people with differences, and we have to recognize that where we are deficient, let us fill the gaps. A design centre is not only a building, it is a concept. The only way you can explain a design centre to anybody is to carry them to a place where there is one. I am coming to the conclusion now, Sir, that any Government of Barbados should have 50 scholarships every year to do nothing else but to take certain selected people, selected on the basis of need, and carry them out of Barbados and expose them to certain concepts and certain things. I am very serious about that.....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Look Craig! Send Craig on one!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, because, Sir, some of the debates that we have not only in here but outside, some of the things I read in the newspapers about what is happening to us as a country, cause me a lot of pain, if for no other reason than that one knows that Barbados can be a fantastic place to live in and a fantastic example for the rest of the region to follow.

I want to continue this. I recognize my time is up. I will give way, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The fact of the matter is that in respect of this Resolution, we will finish debate in about 20 minutes time. There are other heads, and I think I should draw to the attention of Members in the Committee this fact.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I will wind up now, Sir. We have had a long time on this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is up to the individual himself.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I will wind up.

I just want to say that there is a large measure of agreement on both sides of this House that we have to devise mechanisms to give greater encouragement to

people to be able to make them more competitive. We have said what we have done and I would only like to remind honourable Members that we have buttressed what I have spoken of before, the two measures in the last Budget, one is the extraordinary emphasis that was placed on training and the provision of the wherewithal through the Training Levy Fund and, secondly, you must never forget the great incentives that have been granted to all companies in Barbados by way of the export allowance right up to 80% relief of the Corporation Tax, which gives them, effectively, a 9% Corporation Tax, and when you take into account the RD allowance and the other allowances for marketing, in fact, a corporation which exports would be able to derive greater benefit.

I also agree 100% with what is said.....

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Only the big companies can benefit from that.)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: and we have been dealing with it. We have to bring additional services. You have to teach these people, they have to be taught. I well remember the scheme that the honourable Member talked about, about having a garment factory. It essentially is the same thing for garments as we have done for furniture. But let me tell you what the experience is. The same private sector in the garment industry is going to be the same as you have in the furniture factory. You are going to end up with the fact that the Government has to be the owner.

When I talk a lot of these people, from North America in particular, when they talk about the magic in the marketplace and private enterprise, they ignore one thing — we are now building up our entrepreneurs. They have theirs, they have the best. The cream of Europe went to the United States of America. You went there because you felt you would be able to do better there. We are not having that. We are trying to build up our own people.

Sir, the honourable Member knows the Government's views on Barbados' position in relation to devaluation. The honourable Member knows that very well. The Government's views have not changed. Nothing has happened to suggest to the Government that Barbados cannot be competitive with the present value, parity, of its currency. Nothing has happened, and I said clearly, if you listened to what I said, that we hope and we expect that Trinidad would have now to implement the Nassau Understanding and the Port-of-Spain Understanding, because you cannot have your cake and eat it. You cannot say that you have taken steps to ensure that you will be competitive and at the same time still drop out of the competition. It cannot be done. Just as we have the situation with Jamaica, in which we have told them point blank that they cannot get remittances on a bilateral

settlement basis for their exports to us if our people who export to them cannot get foreign exchange, the same thing will apply. It applies to Guyana and it will apply to Trinidad if we ever come into a deficit position. We are still in a slight surplus position. So do not let us fool or worry ourselves. But that does not mean that we must not continue to have a continuous examination of our own competitive position *vis-a-vis* the rest of the world. We have to do it. We have to have a continuous examination of our competitive position. We must — that is common sense — because if you cannot sell in the Caribbean and you cannot sell in the rest of the world, well, that is the end of you. You must do it, and that is what we will be doing, a continuous examination of our competitive position with a view to seeing....

11.25 a.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If the honourable Member will give way for one minute, Sir. The honourable Member has said that the devaluation in Trinidad would enhance their competitiveness and, therefore, they cannot continue to maintain trade barriers. You said they cannot. I will put it to you that there will be a devaluation and the trade barriers will remain. You know the administrative means of dealing with trade barriers in Trinidad. What I want from you is a simple statement that there will be no devaluation of the Barbados dollar, and you will have my full support on that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Oppositions always try to pin down Governments on matters of this kind, in Britain and all around. The Barbados' Government position is well known. The honourable Member talks about trade barriers in Trinidad. The budget that I have read, Trinidad's, said that from January 1, 1986 Nassau will be implemented. I say that the Barbados Government's position is that that is an international commitment, and I am very glad to see that Trinidad is honouring it at this particular period of time. We honoured it since October, 1984.

I go further and say that a common market, as opposed to the community, cannot survive in which members enter into international agreements, do not carry them into effect, and at the same time take steps to improve their position in trade within the community. It cannot survive. I say that. That is why the pressure was on Jamaica, when they devalued, to exempt CARICOM from exchange control restrictions. That is why the Government of Barbados has made it clear that the Government will not allow, in settlement on a bilateral basis, any remittance of foreign exchange to Jamaica which we owe them in the total settlement, unless our manufacturers are given licenses and given the opportunity to trade. That is why we are building up, consistently trying to build up, trade with Guyana, and that is why we can say to Trinidad or anybody else that if they do not give us licenses, having devalued, they will be subject to the same restrictions as they put on ours.

Do not let us fool ourselves about that. That is fair, and we believe in fairness. We believe in clear fairness. Our position has been made known. Very fair!

I am happy to see that there is an implicit recognition of this. I am happy to see that they recognise it. I want to wait until after January 1 to see how it works administratively. But the spirit is willing, at least in words. I do not think that there is anything else, Sir, that we need to do.

It is really ironic. All I say is that it is really ironic that Barbados and the Windwards and Leewards, the so-called smaller territories in the Caribbean, are the ones that have the freest trade in CARICOM. We will continue in that vein, because we believe that the Nassau Understanding and the Port-of-Spain Understanding, which is the agricultural counterpart to Nassau, is the best way of stimulating inter-regional trade and providing that method of protection that is necessary for your manufacturers within this common wall to become competitive extra-regionally. That is correct. That is our position, Sir.

The question that Head 40 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 – TRANSPORT AND WORKS \$800 000

Head 42 was called.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is

We have just 15 minutes to debate on this entire Resolution. After 15 minutes I will be calling this Head and the next Head, and that will end the debate.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Chairman, a great deal has been said about this particular Head under a different and earlier Resolution seeking to obtain the permission of Parliament for the purchase of buses retroactively, and I do not believe that there is need for a great deal more to be said on my part, except briefly to point out that this Resolution is for \$8 million and is occasioned by the fact that when we were preparing Estimates for this financial year, the Ministry of Transport and Works put forward a request for a subsidy of \$14 million to subsidise the Transport Board for their financial year 1985-1986. During the time of the Estimates our request was trimmed to \$6 million, leaving us with a shortfall of \$8 million. We have now come for the \$8 million, Sir.

I beg to move that Head 42 stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

The honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, the Minister owes the House and the people of Barbados

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. First of all, we are not in the House, we are in Committee. He does not owe this Committee anything. He has introduced the Resolution the way he wished to introduce it and that is the end of the matter. He does not owe King nor the Committee anything.

Mr. M. A. KING: That is no point of order. The Minister owes this Honourable House ...

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We are in Committee. That is where we are speaking, in Committee, Sir.)

Mr. M. A. KING: The Minister owes this House

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee. The honourable Member knows that well.

Mr. M. A. KING: If he wishes through the Committee, it is still the Committee of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is the Committee of the House.

Mr. M. A. KING: You still owe the House, whenever you finish, an obligation to let us know, and to let the public of Barbados know – tell us that he does not owe the public of Barbados anything now! – what is the entire level of direct financial support which the public of Barbados is being asked to contribute to the Transport Board. We have direct grants in the form of subsidies from the Consolidated Fund and we have financial contributions through the Transport Levy. It is a little strange to hear the Minister tell us at this late stage that his Ministry had put forward proposals for \$14 million in subsidies at the Estimates but that that was trimmed to \$6 million.

Aside.

Mr. M. A. KING: That is what he said. Who is he indicting when he makes that comment that he put forward a proposal for \$14 million but that they cut it to \$6 million? Could it not be recognized by the Minister at that time, and by whoever it was he says cut the subsidy to \$6 million, that \$14 million was essential? After all, we have to be reasonable. Who are you trying to mislead, if you are trying to mislead anybody, when you indicated that all you need for the year is \$6 million in subsidies? What you are in essence doing is making a mockery of the annual estimates and of the debate on the annual estimates, because if you felt at that time that you needed the \$14 million, you had an obligation then

at that time also to tell us the full facts of the matter and that you needed the \$14 million in subsidy.
11.35 a.m.

The fact is, when you look at the subsidies which are required by the Transport Board, under Head 42, which is the Ministry of Transport and Works, you see subsidies at the level of \$6 million. Under Head 34, Education, you see subsidies to the level of \$2.5 million. Under Head 39, Labour, Social Security and Sport, you have subsidies to the level of \$1.2 million. My addition makes that \$17.7 million in subsidies to the Transport Board located in various parts of the estimates, and we are being led to believe that all the subsidy needed for the Transport Board is \$6 million. If you research and dig up through various parts of the Estimates you see that the total from the Consolidated Fund, the amount which has been allocated as subsidies to the Transport Board, is approximately \$18 million. That does not make any reference at all to the subsidy in relation to the Police Vote, the level of subsidy which Police Travel, in the final analysis, is required to pay to the Board.

The problem for us is that we do not know the full extent of the public financial support which the Transport Board is being asked to bear, and we have no information from the Transport Levy Fund. We know for a fact that monies from the Transport Levy Fund go toward financing the Transport Board, and yet this House is not treated, and the public of Barbados is not treated, to the courtesy of being informed of the level of public support which we all as taxpayers have to contribute to the Transport Board. I am saying that if the Minister does not let us know the full facts of this matter, he is failing in his public duty and should stand criticised and condemned for not letting us know that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman

It is not 15 minutes yet, it is only 13. There are still 2 minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not asked for any words from the honourable Member, I just ask him to give me one minute. The fact is we have just got seven minutes more to debate this and I propose that some time be given to the Minister to reply. The honourable Member may speak for two minutes and I will give the Minister the remaining time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have two minutes, Mr. Chairman; that is enough.

I am calling on the floor of this House for the resignation of the Minister of Transport on the following grounds:

- (1) He has misled the people of Barbados into believing that the Board had improved the

Transport Board's operations and had reduced the subsidy.

- (2) He has misled this House into believing that there will be a substantial reduction in the subsidy this year, and far from the \$6 million provided, it has now been identified that the subsidy from the Consolidated Fund will be \$18 million, and I have reason to believe, through Capital Expenditure, not less than another \$7 million from the Transport Levy Fund.
- (3) I know for a fact that he has deceived and misled his Cabinet colleagues, all of whom were recently embarrassed, at a recent meeting of the Cabinet, to discover the extent of indebtedness of the Transport Board and the extent to which it would have to be subsidised.

On those three grounds Sir, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And, 4, your time is up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On those 3 grounds I am calling for his resignation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And on the fourth, please take your seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Head 42 stand part, and when you get the opportunity, you will first ask the Leader of the Opposition to resign.

I beg to move that Head 42 stand part.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We have time, Mr. Chairman, we have time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the Honourable Minister wish to wind up? You may do so.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, honourable Members who were in their places, I believe on Tuesday before the last, would have had a whole day of discussions respecting the operations of the Transport Board. I will disregard the intervention of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) because he is by nature an alarmist and he cannot possibly help himself in this regard. In so far as the matter of speaking the truth is concerned, he relies more on impressions than on the truth.

I have indicated, Sir, that the Transport Board is operating at a level of subsidy which is unacceptable to me. I have made that very public long before this matter reached this House. I need say no more. And the matter of deception of Cabinet colleagues and the public cannot

be entertained. It was the Minister of Transport himself that made public statements to the effect that he is dissatisfied with the level of subsidies required for the Transport Board.

We have had a further union agreement of \$3 million which goes on to the wage bill, which will have implications for the subsidy in the future. We have also indicated what we have done of a capital nature to improve the operation of the Transport Board, and I have also indicated that other solutions will have to be taken very carefully if we are not to traumatise people, and I am not going to be stampeded into a situation where I ride roughshod over people. This Government and I will chart a course for the Transport Board carefully recognising that we have a responsibility to the people who are employed in it to make sure that their welfare is looked after at every step of our attempt to streamline and to bring the Transport Board into a modern state with which the public of Barbados can be satisfied. So I am not going to be railroaded. We are going purposefully, dispassionately, objectively and with the best managerial talent available to us, but not insensitive to the political realities, to find a solution to the Transport Board. We have all of the infrastructural requirements in place and the solution will come.

The question that Head 42 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. A. TRUSS rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question will be put, I am sorry. Just move that Head 43 stand part.

Hon. A. TRUSS: I beg to move that Head 43 stand part.

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

The question that Head 43 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
11.45 a.m.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two money Resolutions in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and passed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I have Supplementary Notice Paper, No. 2. I would be happy if I could just give notice of these Resolutions and then we could proceed:—

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Martindale's Road, St. Michael, for the purpose of housing development;

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Sharon, St. Thomas, for the provision of an Access Road to a new Sharon Primary School.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning I indicated with the agreement of the Leader of the Opposition, to go to the item, Congratulatory and/or Obituary Speeches, and it is at this point that I hope the House can revert to this particular measure.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have already passed the item "m" on the Order of Business, which is Congratulatory and/or Obituary Speeches, but we are seeking the leave of the House that this matter be reopened. If there are no objections, leave is therefore granted, and the Right Honourable Member for St. John may proceed.

OBITUARY SPEECHES RE LATE ELLIOTT LISLE WARD

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to report to the House for the House to take note of the passing of Elliott Lisle Ward, C.B.E., who was a Member of this House from 1934–1935 and from 1938–1951, as a Member for the constituency of St. Lucy.

The late Mr. Ward was born 81 years ago. Although he had been associated with the parish of St. Lucy for most of his life and was, from time to time, my neighbour in that parish, he was born in the parish of St. Philip. From a very early age he moved over to St. Lucy, where his father was the owner of Fairfield Plantation, and he, being the senior member of the family, was soon trained to take over the responsibility of running what eventually became the third, if not the second largest, land ownership in the whole island of Barbados, mainly engaged in sugar agriculture. (The other two large ownerships were the Barbados Shipping and Trading, and eventually the Government of Barbados in the 1960s and 1970s, all holdings of over 5 000 acres in an island of 106 000 acres.) This involved management of many sugar estates, and involvement in the distillation of the favourite product of many Barbadians and people overseas at Mount Gay Distilleries.

But in addition to that, his work as a vestryman for St. Lucy, his work as a legislator here and his directorships of many important companies in this island, included companies such as Plantations Ltd. and the Barbados Sugar Producers Federation. He was also a member of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, member of the Board of the Barbados Development Board, and its successor, the Industrial Development Corporation, from 1955 to 1970.

In 1971, Mr. Ward was awarded the distinction of Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the British Empire for his public work, and he served as a member of the Legislative Council from 1960–1964, and as a member of the Senate from 1964–1971. He was a keen member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the local branch, and it can be seen, therefore, that at all levels of Parliament, Mr. Ward made a very important contribution.

I do not think it is well known, and it certainly was not mentioned earlier this week when we were discussing the future of the St. Joseph Hospital, that Mr. Ward was Chairman of the advisory board of the St. Joseph Hospital from the time of its inception between 1965 and 1966, and last year, 1984, when ill health forced him to retire from that duty. It was, indeed, after the debate that we held here on Tuesday that Mr. Ward passed on, about 11 o'clock on Tuesday evening.

I do not think we can guild the lily. Mr. Ward came from a family which has made a mark at many levels in this society. He has produced sons who have distinguished themselves. He is survived by brothers. Most of his sisters have passed on. There are still a few survivors, but, certainly, the ones of his vintage have all pre-deceased him. His younger sisters are still alive and making their contributions at different levels in this society.

I entered the new Parliament after Mr. Ward was defeated by Mr. Lorenzo Williams and Sir Theodore Brancker in 1951, so I did not have any close association with him as a parliamentarian. But, certainly, from the time that I was a school boy I had very close association with Mr. Ward, and his father, and the other members of his family in the parish of St. Lucy, and I found him a most distinguished person even at that early age, and someone who had a rapport or understanding with younger people.

Mr. Ward was entirely at home with all aspects of Barbadian life — industrial, agricultural and commercial — and, as a matter of fact, his activities were not restricted to the production of sugar or the manufacture of rum. He has been involved in all aspects of the agricultural industry as manager and part owner of a sugar factory and of a rum distillery, as a director of one of our big commercial enterprises for many many years, Plantations Limited, and also at the level of encouraging manufacturing in Barbados as a member of the Industrial Development Corporation and the Development Board.
11.55 a.m.

It would therefore be remiss for this House to go into its Christmas recess without taking note and expressing our condolences to the survivors of the late Mr. Elliott Lisle Ward, C.B.E., and in bringing this to the notice of the House, I will ask Your Honour that a Resolution of Condolence be forwarded to his relatives.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central):
Mr. Speaker, I rise to second this Resolution and to associate the Government with the remarks of the Right Honourable Member for St. John about the late Elliott Lisle Ward.

I had the opportunity of knowing Mr. Ward for a very long period of time, both when I started to practise law and otherwise. I also was privileged to serve in the Senate with Mr. Ward between 1964 and 1966.

From my experience in politics in Barbados, I was able to judge the contribution which a person like Mr. Ward would have made to Barbados. When we look at his career and we see that he was a Member of the House of Assembly between 1934 and 1935 and between 1938 and 1951, we would know that his membership of the House of Assembly coincided with a period of great reform of politics in Barbados. He obviously would have been a participant in the measures which resulted in the revolution of the franchise in 1949–50 and which resulted also in the universal franchise being used in 1951. That he was able after participating, so to speak, in the demise of the political party that he represented to continue in public life in Barbados is an indication of his adaptability and his desire to be part and parcel of his country in spite of how it affected him.

I met him also in his capacity as a member of the Development Board and of the Industrial Development Corporation. He always understood the need for diversification in Barbados, whether in agriculture or from agriculture, to other areas of economic activity than the sugar industry. I remember him in particular as being one of those who were willing to participate in the Cottell experiments in Barbados, the utilisation of bagasse for the building of board, the utilisation of wire meshing or copper meshing for the growing of tomatoes and other horticultural crops under controlled conditions. Some of his money was lost in that venture, but I think he was satisfied over the fact that one of the buildings which was built on some of the land that was owned by a company, of which he was a principal manager, was used subsequently to establish in St. Lucy a garment industry, for where Atlantic Manufacturing Company is now, is where the original Cottell factory was established to use the bagasse for the purpose of building board. So he was one of the pioneers of industrial development in Barbados.

He was eminently successful as a businessman, and he rose to being the Chairman of a successful conglomerate in our terms, Plantations Limited. Even in the latter part of his life when he had retired and one saw him, he had a sympathetic ear about him for all of those whose misfortune, as he put it, was to govern Barbados. As he used to say, there are always so many demands and so little money to satisfy them all. The last occasion that I

really had the opportunity to speak to him was when we were negotiating for the purchase of some land near to where he lived in St. Peter, at Colleton, for the industrial estate in that area.

I join with the honourable Member and other Members of the House in extending the condolences of the Barbados Labour Party to his children and the rest of his family. It must have given him a great sense of pleasure to know that his two sons in his lifetime achieved in their own right distinction in Barbados, one as a very successful and progressive sugar planter, Louis, and the other one Frank, a very eminent surgeon in Barbados.

Mr. R. E. BRATHWAITE (St. Lucy): Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to associate myself with the two previous speakers. I knew Mr. Lisle Ward for a number of years, from the time when I came along and knew myself. I knew him first to represent the parish of St. Lucy as a conservative, but I would say that although in those days when you had a battle between the sugar workers and the conservative sugar producers in that day, you could always count on Mr. Elliott Lisle Ward for his vote along the lines of the working class. He always had a great deal of sympathy for the workers of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that Barbados has lost an expert in the planting profession, because as a boy I knew him as the Manager of Mount Gay and Oxford plantations and then as Manager of the Rum Refinery, and up to today, although he resigned from there for a number of years, Mount Gay and Oxford plantations are two of the best plantations, and I would say that was because of the keenness of Mr. Ward as a planter. After that time he became General Manager of Fairfield and Mount Gay Estates, and up to today I would say that they are very successfully run.

I should therefore like to extend my sympathy to his family, and I am sure that we all will miss him very much. He was one that you could approach any time and he was always willing to help, and I am sure that the people of St. Lucy will miss him very much.

Thank you.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON (St. Michael West Central): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with those persons who have spoken ahead of me to pay tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Lisle Ward, a distinguished and outstanding Barbadian, whom I had known ever since I was a boy. He had a quality of patience and forbearance that was able to withstand the many many trespasses of the school boys from the Parry School, where I started my secondary education, and it was that quiet, dignified bearing that marked the character of the man.

More recently, I had come to know him very closely, since it was principally through him that I

purchased the property that I now own, and I deeply regard the freedom with which he was willing to offer advice on how he thought I could continue to keep that property going. As a matter of fact, Sir, he not only gave freely of his advice, but he also helped in many other respects so as to make sure that the property which he had owned would continue to be viable.

12.05 p.m.

I have a very close relationship with his son, Louis, who lives just above me, and I would like, Sir, to be on record as marking the memory of this very outstanding and distinguished Barbadian, who has made a very long and lasting contribution to the history of our country. I am sure that he will be greatly missed and that a void will be created which will not be easily filled in the area or the sphere which he so comfortably filled in his lifetime.

Mr. SPEAKER: I, too, would like to join with Members of this House in expressing deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Lisle Ward, and as a method of passing this Resolution, I would ask all Members to stand in their places for one minute.

The Chamber stood in silence for one minute.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may now sit.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I propose to do Order No. 7. I am not quite sure how much debate this will entail and I am undecided as to whether I should have the lunch break now. Order No. 7, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 7.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1985

Order No. 7 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1985.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Order will establish some 400 teaching posts, and it is part of the programme of Government to provide security for the number of people who have been in occupation of teaching posts of a temporary nature for a considerable period of time.

We also wish to indicate that after this Order has been passed, there will be roughly over 100 posts that would be of a temporary nature. It is impossible for us to establish all of these 100 posts. Demographic changes are taking place in Barbados and, periodically, we have to close schools because of the fact that a population has shifted, population movements have taken place, and it would be uneconomic to continue the schools. So we need a little reserve, so to speak, in our establishments to cater for this.

Now that we have established these 400 posts, an examination will show that we have been able to lower our pupil-teacher ratios for schools, and in some areas to bring them up to very desirable standards of 1:10. I am not suggesting that that is the norm in all of the primary schools. What I am saying is that in early childhood education, in nursery education and special education, that ratio of 1:10 applies.

We are also doing our best to encourage, from the primary level, a broadening of the scope of the curriculum to provide for early introduction of science, or an awareness of it, to provide for specialists in the area of detecting problem learners, whether this is due to dyslexia or otherwise. We are going to re-emphasize reading and mathematics. We want, at the secondary level, to provide for the expansion of business education, more technical and vocational education. Of course, it is necessary for us to ensure that we provide a corps of specialists in Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Physical Education and limited computer studies, and the Government will soon be taking a conscious decision on the question of career guidance teachers.

I trust that, with this Order, there would be much more satisfaction now between the Government as employer and those who are responsible for the teachers. There are 2 unions, and I trust that this Order will help to remove some of their complaints. I know that it is always impossible for an employer or the Government to be in the ideal situation to expect that there would ever be complete harmony and satisfaction. All I can say is that, as an employer, the Government has demonstrated its capacity to listen, to consider, to be consulted and to make a decision, although sometimes, regrettably, we have to part company when it comes to the decisions.

As I understand it now, there are a few anomalies in the teaching service still to be settled, and I refer, particularly, to one that is of great importance to me, and that is the teaching service at the tertiary level. I am hoping that they will be able to settle soon the remuneration with the university and the remuneration of the Community College. The regrading exercise in relation to the Community College has not yet been completed, and, of course, in that area, we will have the remuneration of other specialist teachers, particularly of a technical nature, for whom some consideration for regrading is taking place. I give the Honourable House the assurance that we would try to pursue this at as fast a pace as possible, but we must bear in mind that we are only one part of the negotiations and that the other side sometimes is not always in a position to receive a mandate from their body.

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

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Prime Minister in introducing this Resolution did not allude to the position of the teachers' unions on this matter, but I presume that there has been consultation and agreement. In fact, this Order flows out of agitation on the part of the union over the last few years to desist from having the practice of having teachers acting for long period of time, as in other areas of the Service. So I believe that this Order will be welcomed, as the honourable Member gives the assurance that it will, in fact, confirm 400 persons who have been acting in positions, and I welcome the statement that others will follow.

12.15 p.m.

There is one area that I particularly wish to allude to, and it is the whole question of the headmasters and the headmistresses of the schools, who find, because of the system we have, the peculiarity of having been transferred from one school to the other, going to that school and beginning to get it on the way, putting it into shape, and then having to wait 2, 3, or 4 years before an appointment to the new school occurs, and then being told that they have to apply for the post which they hold. The problem is one which defies ordinary logic, but it is a problem which occurs constantly where a person working as a headteacher is asked to apply for the same post. This has to be a different kind of job from other jobs. A headteacher presumably is sent to act at a particular school because the policymakers have determined that he or she has the capability and the suitability to act in that particular post, teaching at that particular school. So it is most frustrating, and quite silly, in my opinion, to have a person acting as a headteacher for long periods at a particular school. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing that contributes more to the downgrading of the quality of a school, no matter which level it is, than having the headteacher or the principal in an acting position for a very long time. What that means, and what it usually means, Mr. Speaker, is that the person is unable to plan and to have ideas for medium term and long term development of the institution, and even if they plan, they are unable to implement those plans, because they are not certain that they will be around to carry out those particular plans. This is particularly miserable when you are dealing with the primary schools and the infant schools.

I want to take this opportunity, too, to allude to a point that I have raised before, but I wish to utter a few words on it now. It is this whole question of the policy with regards to the amalgamation of schools. I have already said, and I wish to repeat, that in Barbados the profession of schoolteacher is reaching a point where

the number of avenues for promotion, far from improving, are being reduced. This is bound to have a deleterious effect on the morale of those persons who wish to become teachers, who wish to join the teaching profession.

In that connection, I wish to turn to another point, one that has now very serious implications for the long term development of the total country, Sir. Teacher training in Barbados has now reached a very interesting cross-road. Ever since the misguided policy, which the Government implemented recently, or requiring teachers to enter Erdiston College before they are posted to a school, ever since that policy was articulated and has since been implemented, the future of teacher training in Barbados has been under a cloud, and it follows, by inference, that the future development of education in Barbados will necessarily be under a cloud. There are a number of problems which emanate from that particular issue, and I wish today, bearing in mind the season, to dwell only on two — that is to say, to fire a shot across the bow, because it is my hope, Sir, that we will soon in this Honourable Chamber have a full debate on education in this country, because there are a number of aspects of our educational development which requires serious discussion in this Honourable Chamber and indeed throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, it has been drawn to my attention that, in recent times, there has not been an applicant for teacher training from any of the older secondary schools in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, there has not been, according to my information, an application to become a teacher, to go to Erdiston College, from any boy or girl. I had better not say there has not been an application. There have not been any entries, I had better put it that way. There have not been any entries from any of the older secondary schools in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the implication of that will fully be appreciated by honourable Members and by the wider community. What it means is that the profession of teacher, which used to be considered among the highest professions available in Barbados, is now not being so considered by young people. If that is so, it will have happened because of one or two things: either they are not being inspired to consider teaching as a profession or they have observed teachers being ill-treated by the Government and other authorities in such a manner as to suggest that they are no longer regarded in this community as worthwhile, and the evidence of that is clear. One only has to talk to the young people of this community to know, or to try to understand, the deep-seated effect that the decision by the Government to take teachers to court has had on the children in the community. I think, Sir, that we do not always recognize the impressions which children in a community get from the behaviour of their leaders in public life, and I am

saying, categorically, that the image of the teacher in this community has apparently taken a nose dive.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Why?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Prime Minister asked me why. I will repeat, since he was not in his chair, because the way teachers are being treated in all directions is not a way that induces admiration from the young, and, in particular, the decision of the Government to take teachers to the court has affected the attitude of students to teachers.

Aside

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member says that it happens all over the world. But it is also true all over the world that when politicians are caught behaving in a particular way they resign. We do not necessarily have to do everything or follow every example all over the world.

Aside

Mr. B. M. TAITT: True, I would have been a millionaire.

Sir, the point I am making is that the position of teachers, or the role of the teacher, is being downgraded in this community, and the manner in which headteachers, in particular, when headteachers are treated in a particular way it has an effect on the rest of the profession. The honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw) himself having been a headmaster, is in a position to say what he felt. He has been a headmaster, a distinguished one too.

12.25 p.m.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Leave me out of this).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He would be able to say that the position which the headteacher holds in a school determines the tenor of that school. Do you deny that?

So, Sir, when headteachers in the community do not get the kind of respect which they should get, then the community as a whole will suffer the consequences. At Erdiston College, the absence of an input — let me put it that way — or the failure of a certain number and quality of teachers to be part of the training at Erdiston is going to have an effect on this community that may not be felt until some 10 or 12 or 15 years from now. I think it is short-sighted myself, and I know that the Democratic Labour Party, on assuming office in the next few months, if it is the wish of the people, will implement a policy of leave for teachers and will bring teachers back into the position they were in before this misguided policy which the Government, in its wisdom or unwisdom, visited upon them.

I believe that people who show aptitude for the teaching profession ought to be given encouragement as early as possible.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You know that is like a red rag. You must never do that. If you nod to me gently and indicate, I will take the hint, but as soon as you say you want to go home, you know how that will operate.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Do you not want to shop for Christmas?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I don't have any money to shop with. Nobody out here has any money, we might as well stay in here and abuse one another. The Speaker has not got any money. I know that for a fact. Anyhow, Sir, I am making a serious point. I am helping you out, I know you cannot make these comments, Sir.

Anyhow, Sir, I am not going to dwell on it. As I said, given the season, I am signalling to the Prime Minister, and preferably when the Minister of Education is in her place, that I would like very much for us to get an opportunity early in the New Year to debate education. We have not discussed education since the Education Act was passed.

We have the NACE that is alleged to be helping to shape educational policy. It is one of the best kept secrets, except for the odd editorial which one has to glean out of one of the newspapers once every three weeks. I think the time has come for us to re-examine the educational policies, because that is what will determine how Barbados lives and how Barbados dies.

The Right Honourable Member for St. John (Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow) more recently articulated a position for this party which is worthy. As a matter of fact, without reference to the party, the idea is one which is worthy of examination. The whole question as to why we are training people, what we are training them for, these are the kinds of matters which legislators ought to be examining in some detail, and the direction in which the country should be going in its educational policy. The stress that was put on primary education, what has been the result?

I know that the then Minister of Education, Mr. "Sleepy" Smith, taking over the portfolio, decided that the honourable Member for St. Michael South had done such a sterling job in bringing secondary education to a level than which there was none better in the Caribbean and beyond, and that the time had come to shift the emphasis into primary education, so that we over the last 25 years have had a lot of input into the educational development of this country. I believe the time has come now for us to do a wholesale re-examination of the policies to see where we are and where we should be

going. Therefore, I am signalling to the honourable Members on that side that at the first opportunity we should get an opportunity to discuss the educational policies. I would not wish to detain the House on this occasion and thereby incur the wrath not only of my colleagues on both sides, but possibly those who have been working so hard during the last few weeks trying to get the Record up-to-date. I, therefore, am going to stop at this point and look forward to continuing some time in the New Year.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Speaker, after the very lucid and very articulate contribution by my colleague, I would not wish to detain the House much longer than for a few minutes, and I wish to make three points.

Firstly, Sir, I am a little concerned about the morale in the teaching profession. I believe that we need to do something to help the teachers of this country. I believe that they need to be paid more money so that once again the teaching profession would bear appropriate relativity to what has been happening in the country as a whole.

The second thing, Sir, is that I think that we need more teachers in Barbados. I understand that throughout the entire system there are shortages of teachers from time to time, and that sometimes mid-term adjustments to syllabuses and so on have to be made because of the unavailability of appropriate teachers and so on.

The third thing which I think has affected the morale of the teaching profession is lack of consultation between the decision makers in the Ministry and the profession itself. I have heard numerous complaints at all levels in the teaching profession that decisions are taken in the Ministry, decisions which impinge on the professional care of children, which should not have been taken without appropriate professional inputs by the teachers who have to teach the children, and then those decisions are handed down from on high, creating a considerable difficulty for the headteachers and also adversely affecting the morale throughout the entire school.

I can quote numerous instances where this has been done. I do not propose to do so, because I do not like to attack a Ministry when the Minister responsible is not in his or her place, but it would seem to me that there is a considerable amount of hostility between the Ministry and the professional teachers in this country. When it comes to teaching inputs, when it comes to the direction of teaching development in Barbados, then I would prefer to err with the teachers than with the politicians. That is my own feeling.

So those are the 3 points, Sir, which I make. One more consultation with the teaching profession when

decisions are being taken about children and on matters that affect the professional aspects of teaching; secondly, an increased number of teachers; and thirdly, better pay for the teachers in this country so as to restore that relativity that existed between the payment of teachers and other people in the community.

There was a time, Sir, when, by and large, the teacher was not only the most respected, but was, generally speaking, marginally better off than anyone else in the village in which he or she lived. That situation now has been completely reversed.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is not a question of being poor-great. It is a fact. When you think of the overall relativities, the teacher in the village, fair enough, lived a more respectable life, if you want to put it that way, what you call poor-great — that is not the point I was trying to make — but financially, they were, in relation to the overall community in which they lived, relatively better off. Now, I think that situation has changed, and when I talk about relativities, I am not talking about relativities necessarily in the Public Service. I am talking about relativities in terms of the overall financial reward structure within the society, and that needs to be bordered.

12.35 p.m.

Those are three points I make, Sir, at this point. I hope, in due course, to support at greater length and in greater detail the contributions of our distinguished Shadow Minister over here.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am going to wind up this very quickly. The Government is quite willing to match its record in school building, in regrading of teachers, in remuneration of other teachers and in educational reform with anything the Democratic Labour Party has done. Since we have been in power, there have been many regradings of graduates, non-graduates, the relationship between the headteachers at the newer secondary and older secondary schools, the Heads of Departments; all of that has taken place. We have done what the other side did not do. We had the courage to bring in the new Education Act. I am not saying that it is perfect, but it is much better than what it was before, and, as far as our information goes, with the exception of 1 disgruntled teacher, about whose position I cannot talk because it is somewhere else, the vast majority of teachers are happy with what is taking place.

As far as consultations are concerned, the Government had no less than 22 meetings with the unions on the Education Act. Since the Education Act has been brought into force, there have been continuous consultations with the National Union of Teachers and the Secondary Teachers Union.

As far as the rest of education is concerned, I said the Community College was now the subject of discussion for regrading. I know the university is the subject of discussions.

All of the points that the honourable Member who just sat down and the others who have spoken made, the Government is privy to and dealing with them, even the point made by the honourable Member for St. John, who is not here, about education. He was only following the Government. The Government is well aware of the need to re-orient education to give it a more vocational bias but, at the same time, without depriving children of exposure to the wide world of knowledge. We are so interested in reform in education that we are even interested in the reform of medical education, legal education, accounting education, the university. Look at the new graduates that are coming out now in management, in accounting!

As to the question of leave, I want to say that it is not true to say that the teachers have not been given leave to study. It is not true at all. What the Government has said is that, now that we have the vast majority of our teachers who are either graduates of Erdiston or graduates from the university, we have to be careful and see that every Tom, Dick and Harry do not go and do a degree in Sociology or some irrelevant thing and then increase the Government's cost, because you are paying graduates on the basis of their graduation, not on the basis of the contents or the relevance of the courses. So we are a little bit more selective, but anybody who wants to study in an area in which there is a deficiency, or who wants to improve in the area in which they have competence and there is a need, gets general training fund money. All kinds of money are available for them, we go out and get scholarships for them. But I am not going to agree that every teacher can go and get a B.Sc in Sociology or in Art, or in some other course for which there is no need at the present moment....

(Aside: Dr. R. C. HAYNES: What is wrong with Sociology?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not discounting Sociology. I think it is a good thing, but I think it should be combined with another area of study which has some kind of vocational benefit. That is all I am saying, Sir. That is the true position, and do not let them distort the record, because we would not allow the record to be distorted. It is too good a record to be distorted. It can bear examination. We are proud of it, and we shall forever proclaim it from every housetop.

I thank you, Sir.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 1:45 p.m. today.

Asides.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do them now and let us go home.)

Mr. SPEAKER: How much more work is to be done today?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am going to do them, but I really hate to do them because you are asking me to do them. The mere thought!

Order No. 8, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 8.

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1985

Order No. 8 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Companies Act, 1982.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the absence of the substantive Minister, I have great pleasure in asking that the Bill to amend the Companies Act be read a second time.

This Bill is only tidying up a few anomalies that have come to light since the passage of the principal Act, 1982-54. Members will see that there are just sections where there have been one or two anomalies, or editorial matters, that require amendment, and we have taken the opportunity to consolidate all of these into one amending Bill.

(*Aside:* Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You have not said anything yet.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am amazed that the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who is obviously without his papers, does not know that the Companies Act, 1982-54, modernized the Company Law in Barbados, repealed Chapter 308 and is an Act that deals with the regulation of companies in Barbados. Since he was unaware of the purpose of the Companies Act 1982-54, I trust that that brief explanation informs his judgment in the future.

This Bill, therefore, is an amendment to the principal Act, as I said, to tidy up certain anomalies that existed. For example, under Section 326 one part of the existing law says "six months." We are now substituting "twelve months" to make the two aspects of section 326 harmonise. There are little problems like those that appeared during the review of the Bill and have been brought to our attention by practitioners at the private bar.

12.45 p.m.

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES (St. Michael South Central): Mr. Chairman, it is quite evident that the honourable member hasn't a clue what this Bill is all about. The only thing of substance he has said so far is about changing something from six months to twelve months so that they will both be the same. However, I will not detain the House any longer, but I thought I should indicate to the House the particular predicament in which the Attorney General finds himself.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Attorney General is in no predicament whatever. The only predicament that I found myself in was caused by the ignorance of the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who did not appreciate what a Companies Bill is about. I explained, as the Objects and Reasons say, that this Bill was to correct certain anomalies in the Act and to make certain editorial changes. I had to certify this Bill before it was fit for introduction in the House and as a consequence would have had to have read the Bill, and I want to say that I mentioned Clause 4 because it was Mr. Jack Dear who drew the anomaly in Clause 4 to my attention sometime in July.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 3 to 8 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CAVE HILL, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 5 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Cave Hill, St. Michael, for the construction of the Airport to West Coast Highway.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE (St. Andrew): Mr. Speaker, in moving the passing of this Resolution, I am going to be very brief. I just want to say that this is part of the tidying process to bring the total acquisition of the lands in this corridor of road from the Airport to the West Coast to finality in order that the contractors would be able to go on uninterruptedly and carry out the work which they are assigned to do. Discussion on the acquisitions within this corridor of the road has been going on for a long time, and I do not believe that there is much more that anybody can say on the road, bearing in mind all that has been said already.

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

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

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

ABANDONMENT OF THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HAGGATT HALL, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the publication in the Official Gazette of notification of the abandonment of the acquisition of land at Haggatt Hall, St. Michael.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE (St. Andrew): Mr. Speaker, when this acquisition came before Parliament, in 1984, it was the view of the National Housing Corporation and the Ministry that this land would be used for sites and services. But after certain investigations were carried out, it was discovered that there were large trunk mains lying under this land, as well as heavy electrical equipment for the carrying of electricity in the area, and on technical advice it was thought that the Government should not pursue the acquisition, since the cost of relocation of the electrical wires and also the trunk mains of the Waterworks Department, and the Telephone Company as well, would be so high that it would make it very costly in order for it to be used as a sites and services project. Therefore, the Government has come to the conclusion that rather than to embark on something that is extremely costly, and certainly would be out of the reach of the persons whom it was designed to assist, the project should be abandoned.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: (St. James North) I rise, Mr. Speaker, to adjourn the House until January 14, 1986.

Mr. Speaker, it is customary at this time of year for me to extend to all Members on both sides of the House, and to you, in particular, Mr. Speaker, the season's greetings. In so doing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to first wish you and your family health and prosperity in the coming year and, I have no doubt, a peaceful and happy Yuletide.

To Members on the other side, Sir, I extend to them health. I extend to them good luck in some of their endeavours, even if not in all. I hope that they and their families would enjoy the season with a degree of happiness and peace.

Though I can say that I have enjoyed debating over the past year, I look forward, Sir, with great enthusiasm and a degree of anxiety in the coming year. Parliament, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is a moody place, like the turbulent sea, calm today and rough tomorrow. And no doubt, Sir, in the debates which we have had during the year, I am confident that you, in your capacity as Speaker of Parliament, have dealt with all matters in a manner of which we all can be justly proud.

We have scored points on this side, and I can say with a degree of satisfaction that my colleagues, both on the back bench and on the front bench have performed adequately, so well, Sir, that there were times when we could not find members of the Opposition to face up to this very powerful debating force on this side. Very often, Mr. Speaker, we returned to Parliament after lunch and there was not one of the Members on the other side, for reasons best known to them. But we enjoyed their company when they were present, and we enjoy their debating skills, limited as they are. I can only wish them better luck in their debates. I have already said I wish them and their families health and best wishes in the coming year.

To the staff of Parliament, Sir, the Clerks, Hansard Reporters, the Marshal and the supporting staff, I extend on behalf of my colleagues best wishes also for the new year, health and prosperity, and sincerely hope that they will have a very, very happy Christmas.

To the police I offer similar greetings, and to the reporters, who constantly remain at the Press Table and

report on the proceedings of Parliament. I sincerely hope, however, that there would be a balanced approach to their very difficult task. I have no doubt that with their training — in recent times I have seen some very outstanding work done by some of them, only this morning I read of Miss Baptiste being the second West Indian, if I am not mistaken, to have won a fellowship to the university to which she is supposed to proceed — they have all done their country proud. I can only wish the members of the Press the best of luck and God's Blessing in the coming year that lies ahead.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until January 14, 1986 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West) Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I should like to wish Your Honour and your family peace and prosperity at Christmastime and beyond 1986.

We would like to join the Leader of the House with regard to the staff of Parliament, a staff that continues to serve Parliament with distinction. We believe that, from time to time, we have contributed to the difficulty of their task, but we are gratified that the quality of the staff of Parliament is such that, in the end, the standards of Parliament continue to be demonstrated in the reports of Parliament.

To all the other persons in Barbados who have to serve the House of Assembly, the police and the Press, we would wish to extend Season's Greetings and good health during the coming year.

To the honourable Members on the other side, we express deep regret that many of them will not be here next Christmas in this Honourable Chamber, but we assure them that our prayers for their continued good health outside of Parliament will be as strong as they have ever been.

Notwithstanding the confusion which the Leader of the House has from time to time — no doubt a condition brought on by the ensuing years — we have found him an interesting and worthy opponent during the year.

We find the Government at the political level to be different from the Government at the human level. So at Christmas time we do not dwell at a political level, for fear that we whip the spirit of Christmas; we concentrate at a human level so that we can say, with equanimity and without any difficulty, that we wish them and their families well during the Christmas season and into 1986.

We look forward to rejoining them in battle very early in January; the full season would have begun by then, and, of course, the fur would fly. But we think that with the able guidance which Your Honour has provided — and I say that without fear of contradiction — from the Chair, this Chamber will continue to be a star in the firmament of democracy which has emanated from 1066 and all that. It is a pleasure to function in this Chamber although, from time to time, our utterances do not necessarily reflect that opinion.

I wish all Members a happy Christmas, and I hope that, if they do not mind, the spirit of God will, in fact, participate in our celebrations on this occasion.
1.05 p.m.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to extend peace and goodwill to Members of both sides of the House. I am grateful for the words which have been said about the Chair. I hope that in the New Year I will continue to keep the House in order.

I wish each Member and his family that goodwill falls upon us at Christmas time and hope that you will come back with renewed vigour in the New Year to carry on the work of the people.

On behalf of the officers and staff of Parliament, we also wish to extend Season Greetings to each and everyone.

The question that the House stand adjourned until Tuesday, January 14, 1986 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
1.08 p.m.

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