

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1981-86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 3, 1985.

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

PRESENT

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (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)

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

Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, (Minister of Education and Culture)

Mr. J. G. Odle, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees)

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)

Mr. L. L. Sisnett, (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office) (International Transport)

Hon. A. Truss, (Minister of Tourism and the Environment)

Mr. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc., (Econ), (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office).

Prayers were led by the Rev. Ivan Harewood.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE and Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 5th November, 1985.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 5th November, 1985 be taken as read.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I have received:

Accounts and Statement for the month of September, 1985 as prepared by the Accountant General.

I have also received:

The Report and Audit of the Accounts of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1984.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to lay Message No. 9/1985 which reads as follows:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly that he will be absent from the country during the period 4th to 8th December, 1985, on a private visit to Jamaica.

His Excellency further has the honour to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly that under the provisions of section 30 of the Constitution, The Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Prime

Minister, has designated Senator The Honourable Sir Arnott Cato, KCMG, to be Governor-General's Deputy during the period of his absence.

H. W. SPRINGER
Governor-General

Government House,
BARBADOS

PAPERS LAID

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

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1985.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 10) Order, 1985.

The Exchange Control (British High Commission) (Exemption) Order, 1985.

Statement of the Return of Output of locally produced spirits during quarter ending September, 1985.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for six months ended 30th September, 1985.

On behalf of the Minister of Legal Affairs, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Legal Profession (Disciplinary Committee Reference to Court of Appeal) Rules, 1985.

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1983.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Training Board for the year 1984-85.

The 7th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the National Sports Council for the year April 1984 to March 1985.

Instruments adopted at the 71st Session of the International Labour Conference, held in Geneva in June 1985.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

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.

Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Six Men's Tenantry, St. Peter, for the purpose of a housing development.

Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Cave Hill, St. Michael, for the construction of the Airport to West Coast Highway.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON entered the Chamber and took his seat.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Act, 1982 was read a first time.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, under this Item, Congratulatory and/or Obituary Speeches, I should like to beg that this item be postponed until a little later in the day to get additional information from one of my colleagues. I regret I have not got it here, but you can rest assured that I hope to do it a little later in the day.

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 32, asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael South, is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be the instant order of the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant order of the day.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

Mr. M. A. KING entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Order No. 2 was called – To move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the granting of sums of money for the services of this island.

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.
12.25 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1985–86 No. 11 – \$87 000

HEAD 25 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Subhead 3 – Land Development and Soil Conservation – \$3 000.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this Head, which seeks an increase of \$3 000 to the Vote, stand part.

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

The question that Head 25 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – \$84 000

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Head do now stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is..... The honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this particular Head, but I cannot really understand how the Government is treating the Members of this House.

(Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: The same old thing, man, from you!)

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In respect of what?)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Here you have a Supplementary Resolution, and the only sound you are getting out of the Government Minister is, "I beg to move that this stand part." Now this is treating this House, Members and the public of Barbados, generally, with scant respect.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member.....

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Government is expected.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member must address the matter before the Committee.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes. I am dealing, Sir, with.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member is dealing with the approach of a Minister. That is not in here. We are dealing with Head 39, resuscitation of Youth and Community department. Please!

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not dealing with any other matter, other than the one that is before the House, and I am saying that this particular matter that is before the House, Mr. Chairman, is being treated in a very cavalier manner by the Government.

Asides.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The honourable Member is on a point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I take objection to the Member for St. Michael South referring to "a cavalier manner by the Government".

The Addendum makes it very clear what the supplementary is for. It is the duty of the Minister to move that it stand part, and the Opposition should be in a

position to be able to speak on the supplementary with respect to what is in the Addendum. We have not got to come and spell it out to you, a, b, c, d. We reply to you. That is what we are here to do, to reply to you. The Addendum tells you what the money is for and, therefore, you can get up and speak on that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member may continue.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is exactly what I am talking about. The Government is supposed to speak on the Addendum and explain what the Addendum is about.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We have not got to speak on the Addendum. The Addendum is quite clear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot have two honourable Members on their feet. Please, please!

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Left to you, you would not say one word in this House.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am going to have a chance to say my words very soon.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. Two honourable Members are on their feet. I cannot have it.

(*Aside:* Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sit down!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

(*Aside:* Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sit down!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. Order, order order, order.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: What are you getting so hot about, Sandy?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael South may now continue.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I am making a fundamental point here relating to this particular matter that is before the House. I am saying that the Ministers of Government are paid very handsome salaries in order to come and explain matters under their portfolios, and if they come in here and cannot even explain what it is that we are dealing with and explain the circumstances relating to it, I am saying that they are now past redemption and that the only thing that can save this country now is a change of Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us deal.....

Applause.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order. I must warn..... Order, please!

Asides.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, that is the only applause he heard for a long time. I was at Bayville with him on Sunday evening. They did not even know he was present.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please! Order, order!

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is the only applause he has heard!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Ask him when I delivered what they did.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Shut up!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two honourable Members.....

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Shut up!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Both honourable Members take their seats. Honourable Members please take your seats!

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am going to give you diabetes.

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Speak to the Member who is misbehaving himself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please sit.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: You have no parliamentary behaviour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Order, order, order!

Events of the past week and of the future, we will look forward to. Let us get ahead with this debate and this matter. We can understand the heat that is being generated, but it is not necessary that you bring it in here.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Youth and Community Development, please.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Under Head 39, Sir, there is a Resolution here for \$84 000.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Under what?)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: "Youth and Community Development (New)," and it says "Operating Expenses \$84 000". And the Addendum reads as follows:

"As a result of the resuscitation of the Youth and Community Department, supplementary provision is required under this item by the Ministry of Labour to continue the services of Community Development for the remainder of the year."

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is all the Minister has to tell you.)

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Now here we are dealing with a matter talking about.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: resuscitation, which I take to mean a reviving or a bringing back to life or whatever it is, and the Minister himself, in introducing this matter..... Beside it it says "New". It is talking about "resuscitation". I do not know what is the state of the Youth and Community Department in this country, but, obviously, it needs reviving. It is in extreme circumstances. How else? Resuscitation, a medical term, a term that is used in medical circumstances when people are in extreme danger — you have to revive them, resuscitate them — and on a matter of these dimensions when such words are being used, you get a Minister getting up — he does not tell us what is wrong with the Youth and Community Development, he does not tell us why it needs reviving, and he is paid a handsome salary, and all he can say is, "I beg to move that this stand part." This is totally unsatisfactory

(Mr. B. M. TAITT: He wants going on a diet.)

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: and it demonstrates the incapability of the Government.

This is not the role of the Opposition, to get up now and speculate what it is about, simply because they can speak twice. This is a travesty of parliamentary democracy and you are only paying lip service to it. It becomes now a kind of pseudo-democracy when you could get a matter like this. They are admitting that the thing needs resuscitating. It needs resuscitating! It needs reviving! And you do not get up and say one word at all about what are the problems involved, why it has reached that stage. It cannot be the Democratic Labour Party that put it in that state that it needs resuscitation.

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: For nine years you are in Government and now coming at this hour and saying it needs reviving, resuscitation, and not one word of explanation. This is a sad day for us in this Parliament. You have had some extended leave and now you come in here and cannot even say a word to explain the portfolio.

I say no more.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN and Mr. B. M. TAITT rose.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): I am up before you. I am up long before you.

I know.....

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: that the honourable Members on the other side are frustrated. The rain has frustrated them. You wanted to make a lot of noise the other night and the rain affected you. It has affected you to such an extent that the honourable Member has lost his memory. The honourable Member who just spoke has lost his memory. If his memory did not fail him, he would have recalled that, during the Budget Speech, I announced that there was going to be a reorganization of the department of Information and Culture, and that certain subjects which hitherto were carried on in the department of Information and Culture would be transferred to the Minister of Labour to create a new Ministry, known as the Ministry of Labour and Community Development. All that is happening is that the Civil Establishment Orders consequent upon that policy decision are being brought to the House in accordance with the law. That is all. That is a matter of policy, and whatever the honourable Members.....

12.35 p.m.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What is the point? What Standing Order am I in breach of?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I will speak to the Chairman, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, please, your point of order.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Sir. We are told that what is happening now is that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What Standing Order is there a breach of? That is what I am asking the honourable Member, please.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister has just said that some matters are being brought before the House, some Civil Establishment Orders, and I am saying that I have no Civil Establishment Order here that we are dealing with now. We are dealing with a Supplementary Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, no point of order. Please take your seat. That is not a point of order.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member has forgotten again. After you have established the posts, you still have to have money to work the department. The point is that Community Development, which hitherto was being administered under Information and Culture, is now being transferred consequent upon a policy decision.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order: The Prime Minister is talking about "posts" and there is nothing about posts before us. There is nothing. We only see something called, "Operating Expenses."

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: We are getting deeper and deeper into trouble.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, I will not have these interruptions. Take your seat, the honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member has really lost not only his memory, but his head! He has lost his head, because if you are transferring work from one Ministry to another Ministry, you have to.....

Aside.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Again, on a point of order: He is speaking about transferring. There is nothing in the Addendum about transferring.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. This is an interruption which the Chair cannot stand. Please take your seat. The honourable Member for St. Michael South must take his seat!

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know what is bothering the honourable Member. What is bothering the Honourable Member is that there are 20 community centres in

Barbados, located at Bathsheba, St. Joseph; Baywoods, St. James; Belleplaine, St. Andrew; Boscobel, St. Peter; Deacons Road, St. Michael; Ellerton, St. George; Friendship, St. Michael; Gall Hill, St. John; two at Grazettes, St. Michael; Ivy and Parkinson, St. Michael; Rockfield, St. Lucy; Rock Hall, St. Thomas; St. Lukes, St. George; Sergeants Village, Christ Church; Sion Hill, St. James; Speightstown, St. Peter; Trents, St. James; Rock Hall, St. Andrew and Weston, St. James; and that new ones are being started right now: at Eden Lodge, St. Michael; Elks Pasture in the City, Parish Land, Christ Church; Clapham Park, St. Michael; Bank Hall, Bush Hall, St. Michael; Jackson, St. Michael. Field Place, 8th Avenue, New Orleans and Bayville, St. Michael. The money we need is to look after this large mass of community centres.

Applause

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In addition to posts, we need to have management and money to operate these centres.

I want to say that I took the policy decision. I took it within my prerogative, and my view was that so great and large were a number of community centres which were in existence, and also so great was the need to provide an integrated approach between our Youth Department, Women Affairs Department and the traditional Community Development Department, that the best way of ensuring what my friend from St. Michael North East (Dr. D. G. Blackman) would say, a holistic approach, would be to put them under one Ministry so that we would be able to have one series of people responsible for Community Development, Women Affairs and Youth Affairs.

If the honourable Member will recall, as a matter of policy in the Budget Speech, I said that the Ministry of Labour, through the National Training Programme, would have the total co-ordinating responsibility for youth training, and that we would co-ordinate that with some of our community development efforts. So what are you talking about? What is the big difficulty now in understanding that you have to have a transference of the posts as well as a transference of part of the vote, and in view of the increased activity that we envisaged in the Budget as part of our policy for dealing with women, young people and community development, we would need more money? That is all. So there is no need to get up.

I think the honourable Minister may have been wrong, but this is where he is wrong.

Applause.

Asides

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please take your seat.

Certain remarks made at this stage by the honourable Member for St. Michael South were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the Record.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Minister may have been wrong in making the assumption that the honourable Member who just spoke has wits about him nowadays. The honourable Member on this side from St. James North (Hon. L. S. Craig) has got the honourable Member so totally bemused, confused and disoriented that he has lost his memory completely. That is the problem. Braddie, do not make those kind of mistakes about the honourable Member in the future! The honourable Member must not do that. You must assume that the honourable Member has lost all of his senses, because that is how he is getting on today; losing all of his senses, all of his sense of memory!

Now, Sir, the Government's record....

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Send you what? If the honourable Members on the other side were following what is going on in Barbados, they would know that if there is one area that they cannot attack the Government on, it is the area of the provision of community centres, the provision of playing fields and the provision of culture.

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You say I am making a joke? You forget Carifesta!

Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please address the Chair.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You forget what a burst of cultural activity that has been generated by that expenditure. You forget that. You cannot go anywhere around Barbados now and fail to appreciate and recognise the new plateau that we have brought community development to. Look at the Pinelands. Look at the burst of activity that is taking place in the Pinelands. Look at the festivals that you have. Look at the street fairs that you have.

Aside

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: You should come to a Fish Festival and you will see. Look at the Fish Festival. Come and see it. Look at the integration of the programmes that are taking place between the Skills Training, the

Ministry of Education and the Community Development. All of that is part of Government's policy.

I am going to leave the honourable Members on the other side to other Members on this side.
12.45 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, hasn't the Prime Minister any shame at all, Sir, that he can get up and read out a list of community centres that he and his Government are proud of in Barbados, and say that he cannot be attacked, and in that list he just called out he cannot identify a single, solitary one anywhere in the basin of a square mile from Eagle Hall? Not one in St. Philip? Not a single one in St. Philip, and he gets up and talks about community development centres? When you take community development centres and you are using them as if you.....

Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Cross talk is not allowed.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are using the community development centres for partisan political purposes. The Honourable Minister, every week taking the people's money, walking through the various constituencies of the Barbados Labour Party members opening..... You have to get a Minister, the parliamentary representative and every Sam Couch and the duppy to come round to see them pull the plaque to open the community centres!

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order: Does the honourable Member remember what he did at Six Roads in 1976? Went and drove the JCBs at the opening of the industrial park, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: An Attorney General gets up on no point of order, and now has the temerity to talk about what happened at a park, when he and the Prime Minister and others said that it never happened!

Aside

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Leave out the cross talk. Address the Chair in order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: They went on television and said it never happened, now you are saying we opened the park. Shame on you!

Mr. Chairman, it grieves me when I look at television to know that the recreation centre for the people of St. Michael West is Westbury Cemetery. That is where they play the road tennis.

(*Aside:* Hon. L. S. CRAIG: After 15 years in Government, you now know that?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: For as long as I have represented there I have made the speech, and I will continue to make it, because you are reprehensible in your approach. The partisanship which has been demonstrated shows that you are not particularly interested in people as a whole, you are interested in feathering your own nest. You are not interested in the people as a whole, you are seeking ways and means to ensure that you remain in power, so you are using community development centres as one of the methods.

Do you know what the young people want? They want some work, they want some employment, not community centres!

You talk about skills training? It is a travesty what you are doing to the people of this country.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: What did you do? You are sick, you want seeing a doctor!)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, I am. I am sick of you. Yes, I am sick. I and the rest of the people in Barbados, we are sick.....

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Which honourable Member, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Continue.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You have a duty to all of the people of Barbados. I am going to vote against this. I personally am going to vote against this, because it is not community development, it is partisan political development. That is what it is. You had the Government for nine years, you came into office and you said that you were going to right all wrongs, and you have continued a pattern of partisanship that has helped in a divisive, destructive development in this country.

You find that you are unable to put a community development centre, or any facilities whatsoever, in the constituency of St. Michael West? You find so? You find that those people do not exist? You find that the people in St. Philip

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Oh, you have to ask for one. You have to come in and ask for one in order to get one.

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Twenty eight in all, boy, that is a great thing.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You have 28 centres. The honourable Member, the Attorney General, just got another one in St. Thomas, and I am glad for him. But he said that he would look after the people in St. Philip. I heard him.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, you.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That you would look after them, never mind you have gone. But you can join with your colleagues with no community centre in St. Philip, and you say that we have nothing to attack the Government on?

Furthermore, Sir, the Prime Minister cannot be serious when he comes here and makes the speech he just did in the face of an Addendum that talks about "the resuscitation of the Youth and Community Department." The person who wrote this Addendum is either the most honest person in Barbados or is setting out to embarrass the Government, or it is the Minister's Addendum, in which case it would be excused. Do you mean to tell me that in 1985, a few months before an election, you find that you have to "resuscitate the Youth and Community Development Department?"

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: As a department).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But I do not read it here "as a department." Sir, I read what it says — "as a result of the resuscitation" — so why did you kill it as a department? Are you saying that a previous Minister of Information and Culture killed it and that is why you transferred it to another Minister so he can resuscitate it? Is that what you are saying?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: This Minister, the Prime Minister, said that this "is to open new centres" but the Addendum says to resuscitate a department. I believe that the diet which the Prime Minister is on may, from time to time, affect his thinking powers. I am not saying anything derogatory about the Prime Minister, I am saying — and you as a scientist know this, Sir — it is well known that sometimes when you make a sudden shift in your dietary habits, it has an effect on your ability to concentrate for long periods, and therefore the Prime Minister may have lapsed for a short moment, because in his wildest dream he could not look at this Addendum and come here and suggest what he did on the floor of this House.

This is to revive something that is dead, or at least that is drowning. The question is, who drowned the department? It is the previous Minister? Is it the Minister before? Or is it the whole conglomeration?

Mr. Chairman, I am very concerned that Youth and Community Development is being seen and is being perpetrated in this country as a methodology for partisanship. Mr. Chairman, let me explain to you, Sir. The honourable Member talks about community development. In my area, the area which I have the proud honour to represent,.....

(*Aside:* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Do you mean Nassar's area?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Is there somebody by that name?

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Nassar asked for one and he got one).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Are you not embarrassed to say so? That Nassar asked for something and he got it. He asked for the resignation of the Governor of the Central Bank. Are you going to give him that?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. The campaign has not yet started.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He asked for killing all the white people in Barbados, too. Are you going to give him that? I am sure the honourable Member over there will not agree that whatever Nassar wants, he should get, so do not come to me with that. I am ready for you all with Nassar.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order!

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But you have him now and he did not walk out and speak for me, but he is speaking for you. You will have to defend that, not me. Anyhow, he is not worthy of a debate yet.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: You cannot say that, you are the child's godfather).

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is true. His child is worthy, but not him.
12.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is a little embarrassing that we in our constituency argue that, in spite of the woeful neglect on the part of the Government, we from time to time put together our little programmes. Every Independence Day, when there is not a by-election on, we have a little programme, and I have to say that were it not for the effort of a lady in the National Cultural Foundation, we would have found ourselves this Independence without any facilities at all.

We wrote to the National Cultural Foundation and asked them for a stage. They wrote us back and said we could get 9 pieces, and after we received a letter, some functionary called us and told us that we could not get the stage anymore, it was wanted for Ilaro Court. We were promised a stage and we have always been given some assistance. You do not help us with anything else. We were told that they would get back to us over and over again. To cut the story, Sir, it was only after I made a direct telephone call and discussed the matter in plaintive terms — when you are in Opposition, Sir, sometimes in order to get assistance for your community you have to beg — that the lady said she would try and see if we could get the 9 pieces. And then I had to share the 9 pieces with my colleague from St. Philip. As soon as we were finished, we had to get a truck and carry them up to him.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member says that, when he was in Opposition, he begged for things and he did not get them. I regret that you did not get them when you were in Opposition, but that is why you came to office. The sins of the Government is what you said led you into office, so that if you, having observed the sins of the then Government, propelled yourself into office on the promise to correct those sins, and then you not only perpetrate those sins, but create a new category of sins, then you should be doubly condemned, because if you are going to continue to hang on to the coattails of the Democratic Labour Party and say every time you have a problem, "the Democratic Labour Party created it," the question is, in the last 9 years, who created the problem in the constituencies that have no community centres?

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member who is sitting over there making his *sotto voce* remarks is inviting comment which he will not get at this stage. If the honourable Member believes that when a pig is in the gutter you can get it out without going down in the gutter to pick it out, the honourable Member is mistaken, but if he believes that those who have to get

out pigs do not know how to go down in the gutter to pull them out, he is also mistaken. But the time will come when we will go down in the gutter and pull out the pigs from the troughs and everywhere, in due course, but not today, Sir.

The point is that that Government promised the people that it would make certain corrections, and when we look at what is being perpetrated, the community centres and the television speeches following the opening of the community centres are a travesty. As a matter of fact, it is very interesting, this question of the opening of community centres and other similar activities. When they are dedicating a plaque at Alexandra, the parliamentary representative is invited. When they are enlarging a bath in St. Michael South, the Minister responsible for Parliament is invited!

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I rise on a point of order: I was never invited by a Ministry to any opening, at anything, any part of Barbados in relation to a bath, a community centre or anything like that. It is my duty to walk about and find out what is going on and stand up and watch proceedings. It is as simple as that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Please continue.

(Certain remarks made at this stage by Mr. B. M. TAITT were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the Record.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying that this honourable Member who says that he walks around and finds out what is happening was seen on the television, in his capacity as a Minister. And the newspapers were misled, because they reported as well that he was there.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I rise on a point of order. There is no television item..... I watch the 7 o'clock news every evening, that is one thing I do. I can assure the honourable Member that this person standing up here did not appear on the television at any bath or anything when it was opened as a community centre. That is a fact of life. I was present. It is my duty to be around, like I was on Sunday evening with my colleague from St. Michael South. I was present but I was not invited. As a matter of fact, I can assure you that there were no invitations. At least, I would have been entitled to one, as a Cabinet Minister.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how long he is going to go on with this point of order, but I was making the point — let me repeat — that when they put up a plaque in St. Peter, the parliamentary representative was invited. When they are opening the baths around the place, the parliamentary representatives, other Ministers and candidates are invited.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: And when they opened the school at West Terrace, the honourable Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons) was invited. Put in that part, too.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: And when they opened the school for West Terrace, the honourable Member for St. James South was invited, but when they are turning the sod to build the Insurance Corporation in St. Michael West, they do not invite the parliamentary representative.

Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the double standards of this Government are so blatant! 1.05 p.m.

I remember that when the late Prime Minister was parliamentary representative for St. Thomas and the Democratic Labour Party opened BARPAC the parliamentary representative for St. Thomas was among the prominent guests.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Why did you not invite me when you opened the thing at Six Roads?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: With all the interruptions, I must accord the honourable Member another minute and a half.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Anything you give me in this House, I am grateful for.

The honourable Member for St. Thomas was not a Member of Parliament when we opened the Six Roads thing. It was in the by-election. It was before the by-election. That is what brought the big row.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I must draw to your attention at this point in time that absolutely nothing over the past ten minutes, without any reflection on your judgment, that I can recall

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I rise on a point of order. has anything to do with the Resolution. I draw to Your Honour's attention that the honourable Member should really get down to the meat of this matter, with great respect to Your Honour. You are hearing about baths and invitations and this type of thing. I was involved in it, but I think, as a matter of fact, that we can really settle down to do the business of the House.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member should know his place! He is in no position to get up in here and tell me what to say. The Prime Minister started it by naming 28 community centres. You are mad or what?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please! The honourable Member, please wind up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I was saying, Sir, that the double standards of the Government in this particular area are not accepted by decent people in this community, or indeed by anybody except themselves. I am charging the Government with double standards in regard to community centres. I am charging the Government with double standards with regard to providing facilities for cultural activities. I am charging them with double standards, generally speaking, in their administering of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Naturally, Sir, but I will speak again.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN (St. Philip South): Mr. Chairman, I really did not intend to get involved in this debate, but having heard certain things spoken in here, I believe it is my duty to respond to certain things that were said.

Now the Honourable Prime Minister called out, I think, about 28 community centres. I did not hear a single one for St. Philip; not one. When the Prime Minister called out the names of those 28 community centres, I heard honourable Members over the other side mentioning King's Park, and one honourable Member even mentioned Chapel. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member who was representing St. Philip North at the time when the Chapel pavilion was built said it was being built as a pavilion for the people who are playing cricket on that pasture, nothing to do with any community centre or community development. Any honourable Member over there who mentions King's Park when speaking about community development today has to have his head examined. Before I was born King's Park was there, and the point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that it is silly, because the honourable Member called out 28 community centres and he did not mention King's Park or Queen's Park; so as far as he is concerned, they do not come within the ambit of this Resolution at all. So let us deal with St. Philip.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that community centres and community development centres should be located as much as possible in areas where there is a great concentration of people. A couple of months ago, I think about eight or nine months ago, I mentioned to the Honourable Minister of Labour — in passing, although

I was very serious, and he knew I was serious — that the young people of Six Cross Roads Housing Area, a place that is very heavily populated, were playing basketball and having other forms of recreation on an open pasture. It is not a large pasture, but it is a Government-owned pasture. I mentioned to the Honourable Minister that these chaps, and girls as well, in that area had asked me to go about requesting of the Minister if he could just come and look and see if he could do anything about making it a hard court or anything like that, because they said that they had to play out all the matches, because if the rain drizzles, obviously they cannot play. I have not heard anything else since then.

What I am saying is that St. Philip, had it not been for the Barbados Workers Union opening a playing field at Mangrove, would be in a very sad state, and I am saying that it does not augur well for this Government to say that you should blame the Democratic Labour Party, because I am saying that if the Democratic Labour Party was lax, if you believe that the Democratic Labour Party was lax in not providing certain facilities for St. Philip, for you to come and do the same thing is only putting fire on hot coals. What is happening is that this Government, having complained that the Democratic Labour Party did nothing for St. Philip, is continuing that practice which they complained of. When you listen to the list of community centres called out here today, 28 of them, plus I hear there will be more, not a single one is in the parish of St. Philip. I am not speaking about St. Philip South; I am speaking about the entire parish of St. Philip, the biggest parish in Barbados. Nothing is being done for St. Philip and you cannot convince any person living in St. Philip that this Barbados Labour Party Government is doing anything at all for it.

(*Aside:* Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You feel so strongly about that and you never asked a Parliamentary Question).

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: The honourable Member for the City — I never reply to anyhow, but I am going to reply to her this time. She is saying that I feel so strongly about community development in St. Philip that I have never asked a Parliamentary Question in here about it. Let me say this, Mr. Chairman. I brought in a Parliamentary Question about the beach at the Crane and it was never allowed. I am only telling you why I did not bring any more. I brought in a question, Mr. Chairman, about natural gas in St. Philip. It was never allowed; so don't tell me that I do not bring questions in here. I have brought in questions and they were never allowed, and that is a fact. So tell the honourable Member not to tell me about questions. I have copies of them in my car.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The fact that a question is not allowed is no discredit to the Chair. The Standing Orders did not permit them.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, let me continue. In St. Martins today, the chaps and girls have their recreation and play their games on the pasture belonging to the school, which means they are unable to use it until after school hours. Sunrise Youth and Community Sports Club is doing a fantastic job in St. Philip, but they are also in a serious situation, because they have a clubhouse, and when it rains, they cannot use the clubhouse. Let me tell you something. You are talking about community development and how a Government should function! Those persons who are affected by that road that goes to Sunrise Sports Club took it upon themselves to write the Ministry of Transport and Works for about three years now telling the Ministry of Transport and Works that they need the road fixed in order to get to the sports club and to get where they are going. They got a letter from the Ministry of Transport about three years ago telling them that they will fix that road in the new road building programme. Since then, they had about ten new road building programmes, and not a single thing has been done to that road leading to that sports club.

1.15 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: So I am saying that when you are talking about development, development does not only mean

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: building centres, development means that you have to help those people who are trying to help themselves. And I am saying that the Sunrise Sports Club was one of those clubs that was trying to help itself. And you are the person who has to be blamed, the Minister of Transport and Works, because about 40 or 45 people took it upon themselves to sign the letter and the Ministry of Transport sent back the reply and told them they are going to look into it and fix it in the new road building programme. That is three years ago!

Community development does not only mean going around and building community centres. It means where the young people are industrious enough to start their own projects, they should be given help and encouragement. And that is what is needed in St. Philip, help and encouragement. Only last week, I had to take it upon myself to get about three or four sports areas cut. I had to go at certain plantations in St. Philip and beg them to send lawn mowers to cut the grass, because those people are helping themselves. They need some sort of help from the Government.

All I am saying — I am not getting at the Minister of Labour or anyone — is I believe that a Government should function in a proper manner. What I mean is that

there should be some sort of linkage among all the Ministries, and I believe that something should be done about St. Philip, just to let the people know that you realize that there is still a parish in Barbados called St. Philip.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, I have never heard such an attack on the young people of this country as I have heard today coming from the other side. Here is it, a Government with limited resources, throughout the entire world a recession, and it has taken upon itself to provide for the young people of this country recreational facilities and also to assist them at a community development level. All that I have heard this morning in here is the Opposition Party, which boasts of having young turks — young people, I believe they are referring to — take it upon themselves to attack the young people in this country and the Government for the facilities the Government has provided for them.

(Aside: Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That is not true!)

(Aside: Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is a lie!)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Now, Sir,..... It is a lie?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Hansard would reveal how you quarrelled with the Government for building community centres. That is what Hansard is going to reveal. Hansard is going to reveal that there have been two complaints from the Opposition benches — one from the Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt), up to now, and one from the Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman) — that of all the constituencies, ten of which they represent, in two constituencies the only complaint is that they have not had these facilities.

(Aside: You do not know what you are talking.)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Now, Sir, ... I do not know what I am talking? I do not know who I am talking to! Not that I do not know what I am talking, I do not know who I am talking to!

In Bathsheba, Sir, there is one. At Baywoods, St. James, there is one. At Belleplaine, St. Andrew, there is one, Sir, one at Boscobel, St. Peter, and one at Deacons in St. Michael. I am under the impression, Sir, that you have not got to build a community centre in a particular constituency but the community centre should be built for the purpose of allowing all of the people around the area, on the outskirts of that community centre, Sir, to have the facilities. I think I know where these community centres have been built. I know where they are. You have a community centre called Elks, I think it is.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. Just a moment, please. Please continue.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, let us deal with Deacons in St. Michael. In Deacons in St. Michael, Sir, I am sure that people from St. Michael West, people from St. Michael North, people from St. Michael North East and people from St. Michael North West will congregate. I know this as a fact. They congregate at Deacons, play their games, enjoy themselves and have their cultural functions inside the community centre. The complaint that we are having here this morning is that it has not been built within their constituency. That is the complaint. So are you telling me that in every single village, with your limited land resources, your limited financial resources

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: that you can call on a Government to build in every single one? I believe that this Government can stand proud on its record of community development, its playing fields, its pavilions and its facilities which they have provided, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I do not have to see him. I have to see you, Sir, and hear you. If he stands up, he is only a statue, as far as I am concerned, and I will continue until you ask me to take my seat.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the honourable Member give way?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am not giving way on elucidation. Absolute nonsense!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I did not think he would, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: At the Ivy in St. Michael, Sir, the people from out of the Belle, Belle Land, play at Blenheim. They attend cultural functions in the Ivy, which is also Blenheim, and the people from over in the Pine — I know as a fact — and people from out of St. Michael South Central also use part of the facility, Sir. That is a fact of life. But what I am hearing here this morning is a lot of parish pump politics, that "you did

not build one in my constituency and St. Philip is the only parish that has not had anything." But I will say this, I will say this for St. Philip, the only party in this country that has ever given St. Philip anything is the Barbados Labour Party. The only party! There is nothing that you can look around at in St. Philip and boast and say that your party, when they were in power for 15 years, has ever done for it. For 15 years!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: The honourable Member must be misleading the House, Sir. On a point of order, Sir!

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, you are to tell me

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am misleading the House, not him.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Please. An honourable Member has risen on a point of order. Please!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Member for St. Thomas (Hon. D. A. C. Simmons) only a few moments ago pointed out that the Democratic Labour Party opened an industrial park in St. Philip. Now the honourable Member is getting up.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Alright, you will have a chance to bring that up when you speak.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member must not mislead the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. That is not a point of order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: It opened an industrial park? Have you forgotten that I was in the by-election, you clown?

(*Aside:* Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am going to talk. Leave this to me. Go along.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: At Weston in St. James, Mr. Chairman, you have people who live in Paynes Bay going down to Weston and playing and enjoying themselves in the community centre built at Weston. I know this as a fact. There is no community centre in St. James South, but there is one in St. James North, and the people from St. James South come down to St. James North, in the constituency at Weston, to carry on their functions there.

Now, what is this all about, Sir? A proud record in the field of community development, in the field of culture, in the field of sports, in the field of recreational facilities! This Government can stand up to any country in the world, furthermore the Opposition, and feel proud about it.

I heard a lot of nonsense in here about this body was not invited to this place and they were not invited that place. I know as a fact of life — and it hurts me deep inside — that on Remembrance Day, not a Member from the Opposition could be seen there. They do not attend the functions at Ilaro Court, as if they believe they are the St. John's functions. That is how they demonstrate their nationhood and their patriotism to the country, by writing off any of these functions. But oh! I saw them aboard the Ocean Princess yesterday, and when Her Majesty was here, they were pushing you down. But they have nothing, no national spirit, no national feeling. Absolutely none!

(*Aside:* Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What are you talking about?)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: You know what I am talking about? You are sleeping so you do not know what I am talking about.

(*Aside:* Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You fought against Independence.)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I fought against Independence what? Of course.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Do you know why I am sympathetic towards you? Any man that can give this country full employment when he comes into office, I call him Houdini, and that is what you are to me. You can do miracles! You can do anything at all! You guarantee this country full employment on return to office. So as far as you are concerned, you are a complete blow-about. You are a write-off as far as I am concerned. 1.25 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, at Bank Hall, as a stadium, Sir, you have a big stadium there. The Government is trying its best to make sure that they can do something at Bush Hall, for a densely populated area.

I may even add at this point, lest I forget. You talk about inviting people to openings! I was representing the whole of St. James, and George Moe was invited to Folkstone Park, and I had to drive down there and stand up, and look through the wire — and I was the represen-

tative then — and the Member for St. Michael South was Minister of Education and Sports at that time. So you have no complaints. You invited Moe to speak. Carmichael! I stood up with you, though.

Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt in my mind, Sir, that this Resolution, as the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance indicated, is due to the whole re-organising of certain Ministries and the retitling of them, Sir. That is why we seek the money for this Resolution, Sir, and I wish to give it my wholehearted support, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir,.....

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want to stop my right to free speech?

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few points in this debate. There was a time when I had responsibility for matters connected in a powerful way with community development, that is to say, the provision of sporting facilities and sporting infrastructure, and I really applaud the honourable Member who just sat down for saying that.....

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Man keep quiet for a minute.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: terms of provision of facilities, physical buildings and playing field plant for the young people of this country, I do not believe that even Members on the other side will deny the outstanding record of this Government. They cannot deny it, Sir, and the test is to use 1976 as the year. In the Estimates of 1976 is revealed a lot about the attitude of the other side, when they were in Government, to these matters.

I want to start from the Estimates Debate appearing in Hansard at page 6298, with Mr. F. G. Smith, who was then the Minister of Education, Sir — this is what they were spending on Culture in 1976, March: "Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$145 718 for Head 13(16), Cultural Affairs, stand part." One hundred and forty-five thousand dollars.

I turn, Sir, to page 6305, and under Item 9, Community Centres, was the sum of \$50 000. Nine years ago the Democratic Labour Party was prepared to spend \$50 000 on providing community centres — could that even provide a half of one — for the young people of this country.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The note says —

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What kickback? You know more about kickbacks than anybody else in here. Be careful! Be careful, otherwise you are going to call Leacock's name in here. Be careful!

The note says: "This provision is required to upgrade and carry out major repairs to existing centres and to provide new centres." Fifty thousand dollars!

Now, Sir, this is what the Honourable Minister, Mr. Smith, said in those days, under Sport — just to complete it, Culture \$149 000, Community Development and Centres \$50 000, and under Sport \$125 000 — this is what he said, Sir, at the last paragraph of page 6305 — in his own style, I remember him well;

"Everybody is asking for something"

—Mr. Sleepy Smith — Under Sport you see \$125 000 and the note says:

"This provision is required to level grounds, purchase equipment and to lay multi-purpose hard courts and to carry out related work. What can \$125 000 do for the whole island?"

This is the Minister that had responsibility for the whole island. You hear him!

"What can \$125 000 do for the whole island? When the money is gone, it is gone. I know that when I have used it up, it has been used for the people and, therefore, that is what will happen with every vote. The community centres will get \$50 000 and the same principle will be applied. What can we do? When the money is gone, it is gone."

Here, come and read it! Sleepy Smith, as your Minister!

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Then, Sir, they had neither money nor policy for the provision of facilities for the development and enhancement of community spirit and cultural affairs for the young people in this country, Sir!

The honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman) alluded to a *sotto voce* I made in relation to St. Philip. In that same debate, Sir, at page 6296, I said these words:

"There is a community centre of sorts in St. Philip North, that is to say, King George V Memorial Park. Its usefulness at the moment is that it is there to dispense patronage to the Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission, because there are more wardens and people working in the park from the prospective constituency of Mr. Carmichael than people from St. Philip."

That is what I said. But the honourable Member for St. Philip South, and his friend from St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin), should recall that at that time the park was in a very rundown condition. It was not until about the year of 1978 that rehabilitative work was done at the park, and I think they will concede that it is now a far cry from what it was in 1976. I have seen my friend there at a dance before he was a Member of the House, and we were standing up outside in the veranda area talking, and we were both admiring the new stage which had been put in, proper toilet facilities, development of hard courts, and so on. It was used every Christmas time, every December, for putting on a cultural show at which the Member for St. Philip South, Mr. Reynold Weekes, used to be invited when I had the honour to represent St. Philip North. So some attempt was made by the Government to rehabilitate and extend King George V Memorial Park into a proper community centre.

Let us be frank. I would be the first to admit that there is need for another centre in St. Philip. But before I left the Sports Council, we had levelled Merricks, a large field there, formerly part of River Plantation land, about 5 or 6 acres, and it was planned to build at Merricks on that same field a large pavilion that would double as a community centre.

1.35 p.m.

The present policy that we have developed in the Ministry — when I was in sports — was to build a type of pavilion that could be used as a kind of community centre, place of resort, for the playing of indoor games — check out Holy Innocents in St. Thomas that was opened on the 16th of May — and that is all in pursuance of the manifesto policy. Go back to the manifesto of 1976 and you will see that our plans for pavilions included the utilisation of these facilities as community centres. When money was very tight, there had to be a scaling down from time to time on the construction of what we called changing facilities, where there is not the same expansiveness that one would have in a true community centre, but as money is voted more freely for this kind of development, obviously, provided there is the societal need, we will return to expansion. You have it at St. John the Baptist, you have it at Boscobel, you have it at Belfield, you have it at Holy Innocents, as I said, just as some of the examples of the policy of

combined facilities providing the scope for cultural as well as sporting activities and development.

Sir, lest the record reflect untruthfully what happened about the industrial park in St. Philip — and I do not want to stray from the tenor of the Resolution or debate — the point I was making was that the other side has been urging specific community development for their own particular constituencies and complaining that they have not been invited to this or that function, but I want the record to reflect my experiences at the highest level the day that I was sworn in in 1976, February. I regret I have to say this, but I must say it.

I was sworn in along with a gentleman called Mr. Marcus Jordan, who was a Senator. I will never forget being accompanied by my supporters to Government House, being sworn in — a BLP and a DLP being sworn in at the same time — and we were not offered even a glass of water that morning, but as we were coming down the steps of Government House, we met the waiters going up with the drinks on their heads — the pawpaw juice and the strong drink. I remember well the discrimination and the partisanship that existed in this country in those days. It will always dwell with me. It was shabby shabby behaviour. We have adopted a different attitude. Do not let them complain.

I made a fuss during the bye-election in 1976 about the lack of industrial provision for St. Philip. I came in here in the Estimates and found that there was no policy for an industrial park at St. Philip. The note in these Estimates shows that the money was voted for enclosing a sheep farm. In the same bye-election in 1976 I was denied an opportunity to appear on television or radio, then run by CBC, to explain what I wanted for St. Philip North on my party's programme, unlike what happened in the recent bye-elections.

Some time in June — I having come in here in February, 1976 — they announced that they would be turning the sod for an industrial park at Six Roads. I remember it well. The honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) was then Minister of Trade. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition was there. They asked Vere Browne for a document and he produced a piece of paper no bigger than this with a little sketch so, four lines, and they held it up and said, "this is the industrial park", and the honourable Member for St. Michael West — I think you drove the JCB, if you did not drive it the Leader of the Opposition did — they drove a JCB and broke ground. Nothing started beyond that.

Sir, talking about invitations, I was not invited. I was the Member for St. Philip North at the time.

(Aside: Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: That was St. Philip South, David, not in your constituency).

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Six Roads is not in St. Philip North — it is in St. Philip South — but I had agitated for it. But I turned up, me and Pabbo. We turned up and were there fully visible. So let us be fair. You do not beg for invitations, you are either invited or not invited. Do not complain. But the boot can work on either foot.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: The parliamentary representative for St. Philip South, Mr. Weekes, was there. Six Roads is in the south, not in the north. The honourable Member cannot see that?

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the record of 1976 goes a little further. They had a head in 1976 called Youth Affairs — Head 13, Subhead 14. This is the then Minister: "I beg to move that the sum of \$52 210 for Head 13 — Youth Affairs — now stand part." They were spending \$52 000 in a whole year on the young people of this island.

The jealousy that is being felt now, and the little contention we have had from the Members on the other side, is all prompted when they realise that they had no integrated programme for youth, at the level of policy, which could be properly funded, or indeed which was properly funded. On the contrary, we have had a consistent and systematic programme for the development of youth affairs, to the extent that today there are 20 community centres and 8 more to come. I cannot tell you how many pavilions, because the pavilions have not been mentioned in this debate, nor playing fields.

It is clear to a blind man that this Government has been more sensitive to the needs of the youth than the other side. It amazes me to hear the other side speak of unemployment, when in 1976 they were saying in these same debates — and I am going to read them out later today — they had no money, what can you do, they agreed that unemployment was high. The difference between them and us is that whereas they had no money and no programme for the relief of unemployment, this Government has shown that it has money — there is money in the Training Fund, substantial funds — to fund programmes for the youth, and that the programme for the relief of unemployment among the youth is multi-faceted. Just to illustrate, there is skills training, there is skills action, there is an apprenticeship scheme, all providing training skills to equip our youth in a skilled way future employment in the labour force. On the other hand, you have the several Capital projects of Government which are already attracting the unemployed to provide their skills, be they carpenters, masons and even the unskilled in terms of labour. The public sector projects are working, and now closely allied to them are the private sector projects. I heard them mention over there some insurance company, the one Senator June Clarke runs, that has started. The Insurance Corporation

of Barbados, the Barbados Mutual has started developments and several private sector projects have started, and it is because the Government has created a climate.

(*Aside:* Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are begging, David).

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Begging? I am pointing out the difference. The Government has created the climate for this kind of economic activity to take off, and I am going to predict that, by March next year, you are going to have great difficulty in finding carpenters and masons in Barbados.

1.45 p.m.

Asides

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know about two years ago.

Asides

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Two budgets? Well, bet me then. Mark my words, by the time we come to Estimates!

Sir, the Honourable Minister will adequately reply to what is essentially a Resolution that passed here in similar terms on November 5, but you all did not see it. The Minister will deal with that in due course.

I wish, finally, to say that it is no good the honourable Member for St. Philip South complaining that he asked 2 questions about St. Philip South which were disallowed. He is there in that confession reflecting on his own incompetence in drafting the questions to comply with the Standing Orders.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A point of order? On what does the honourable Member rise?

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: On a point of elucidation, if the honourable Member would give way. He has already given away.

Mr. Chairman, the rejection of the questions that I put forward could not be due to the inability of me, as a person, to properly put a question in the House of Assembly, because I have put questions in here already that have been allowed. So what I am saying is that I feel, personally, that the questions were a bit embarrassing to the Government and that is my view why the questions were not allowed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot accept that. That is a reflection on His Honour and on the staff. I cannot accept that.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am pleased to be able to support.....

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am pleased to be able to support this Resolution and really to commend the Government and, in particular, the Ministries that have been responsible for the development of such an impressive programme of community centres proliferating all around Barbados.

Nobody has mentioned that in St. Michael there is already the provision of a centre at Grazettes, I believe, in the constituency of the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves).

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. Grazettes has been there. It is not a new community centre.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir: The community centres did start with the Barbados Labour Party out of the Sugar Welfare Labour Fund money.

Asides

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes. Grazettes was bought from Mackie Simmons, and Ronald Mapp built the houses and the others. I know it by heart.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There are centres at Deacons, Friendship, Eden Lodge. One is starting shortly at Eden Lodge. That is in the constituency of the honourable Member, for the time being. But I agree that, as time and money allow, there will be, and there must be, further development. This is an impressive list, with 20 finished and 8 to come!

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They have been read out already, Sir, and they will appear in relevant documents at the appropriate time.

I would just like to say that it has been my empirical experience that the people for whom these centres have been provided are heartily thankful and appreciative of the work of this Government. I commend this Resolution and pledge to support it 100 per cent.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is five minutes to two o'clock.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I have not spoken.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not depriving the honourable Member of his right to speak. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The honourable Member cannot finish his speech in 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. There is a motion before the Committee and it has been seconded.

The question that the Chairman report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to set again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended for lunch until 2.45 p.m. today.

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

The question that the sitting be now suspended until 2.45 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
1.55 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.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day I indicated that under Congratulatory and Obituary Speeches there were two matters, since it is customary for the House to pay its respect, and I would at this point like to revert to Orders of the Day to deal with that particular item.

Mr. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Obituary speeches re the late Mr. Motel Truss.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, on the 13th November of this year, at the age of 75, the father of the honourable Member for St. Michael Central, Motel

Truss, died in Toronto. Mr. Truss, Sir, was born in Russia, and came to Barbados in 1953 and started to work with a number of Bridgetown firms. His zeal for pioneering, his zeal to improve the lot of his family, and also for the development of Barbados, caused him to enter into the business of manufacturing bags, and I think we in Barbados will well recall the business, which I think he carried on in Roebuck Street.

He lived in Canada for a number of years. The fact is that out of six children, four of them live in Canada and two in Barbados, and he tried his very best to divide that fatherly guidance across fields far beyond Barbados. He gave his life's work to the country which he adopted, and in so doing made that valuable contribution in the field of industrial development before he then entered the retail trade and carried on business in another part of Bridgetown; I think in Swan Street, but I am speaking subject to correction.

I myself knew him when I was a relatively young insurance man, and I recall that on one occasion I had even approached him to introduce the business which at that time I was in, only to discover that a relative of his was also in the insurance business, and he politely said to me, "I would have to deal with my relative," whom I think Mr. Leon Bernstein at the time or a friend of his. But I tried my very best to convince him why he should deal with my company instead of that of Mr. Bernstein, and in a very polite manner he said, "you are a fine salesman, I will try and put some business your way on another occasion."

I recall, Sir, that I felt very happy to see at that time a businessman in Bridgetown turning away what was then considered one of the two or three black insurance underwriters in Barbados, and I felt very happy to see the way he had treated me. That demonstrated the kindness, the politeness, a man with a degree of feeling and sympathy towards people, and this he apparently demonstrated throughout his entire working life in Barbados before illness overtook him. I think that he as well as his children can be justly proud of the father he was, loving, caring, a man of great feeling and sincerity and dedication in the field which he had entered, and for the feeling and love which he had shown to his wife and family.

On the evening of the funeral, at the Dover Convention Centre, where he was eulogised under the Jewish rites, the large cross-section of the community was an indication of the way the man lived, and I am quite sure that those of us who have had any dealings with him over the years would know that Barbados has lost a pioneer and one whose name will go down in the annals of pioneering industries in this country.

To his widow, Evelyn Truss, and his sons, close friends and sorrowing relatives, it is my very simple duty to make these few remarks, and to his sorrowing relatives I would like to extend the feelings and sympathies of the Members of this House, particularly of his colleagues in Cabinet.

It is customary that a Resolution be sent to his sorrowing relatives, and I would therefore wish that the House would concur in such a motion.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Resolution and to associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the House.

It is not an easy thing to be a pioneer, and all those who have the qualities necessary to become pioneers, particularly in countries where they have become recent emigrants, indicate that they must have been people of no ordinary qualities. Swan Street is situated near to James Street, an area where in the Fifties I started to practise as a lawyer, and I do recall the manufacturing company of Truss. I think in those days that it was more to do with the manufacturing of hats, and I had the opportunity of observing the persistence which was associated with that particular manufacturing activity. The contribution which, therefore, a person like the late Mr. Truss made to Barbados and the awareness of manufacturing cannot be small.

But there is another contribution that he has made, and that is the contribution of being responsible for a son who has become a distinguished Member of this Parliament. I think that having regard to the fact that he was an emigrant from his country of origin, and he was able to make the two contributions that I have spoken of to Barbados, is an indication that he was one of those people who became a citizen of Barbados and of whom Barbados can truthfully say that the award of the grant of citizenship was not in vain, that a significant benefit has resulted from the award of citizenship.

I would like to join with the Leader of the House in expressing my sorrow to his relatives and in particular to the honourable Member for St. Michael Central, and to join in the usual Resolution of sympathy being sent to his relatives.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Speaker, it is traditional on occasions like this that the Opposition join with those persons on the other side in paying tribute to all those persons who have passed away and left us. It would be no different on this occasion. It is not easy for any of us on this side for the simple reason that we did not know him. I knew him very formally. I met him formally on a number of occasions; I was never able to converse with him. I knew his wife

a lot better and spoke with her on a number of occasions.

But, Sir, I think we would have to acknowledge the contribution that the late Mr. Truss made to this country, especially in the days when being in the manufacturing business was almost virtually unheard of, and it was in that field that he made probably his greatest contribution to Barbados, in that he was able to show to others, those of us who are Barbadians, what is possible, and maybe some of those Barbadians who are now in the manufacturing business have been inspired by the example set by the late Mr. Truss. So for this, Sir, we are sad to see him go; we appreciate the years that he spent with us. I believe those were very useful years indeed.

Like the honourable Members who have spoken, I would like to join with them in extending our sympathy to his family, and I specifically want to say the honourable Member for St. Michael Central as well, because he is a Member of this Honourable House. My sympathy goes out to him, to the widow of the late Mr. Truss and the rest of the family. My sympathy includes, Sir, that of the whole of the Opposition.
2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I, too, would like to join in sending sympathies to the family of the late Mr. Truss, and I would ask that Members of this Chamber stand for one minute in silence to mark the passing of this Resolution.

The House stood for one minute's silence.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may now sit.

OBITUARY SPEECHES RE LATE MISS IOLA HOLDER

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, my colleague, the Member for St. Michael South East (Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw), his sister, Miss Iola Holder, died at what one can consider a relatively tender age, 41. She will be laid to rest on Thursday.

Miss Holder was born at Edgecliff, St. John in 1944, and in her very early years demonstrated her christian approach to life by becoming a very avid and regular communicant and a tireless worker in the church where she worshipped, Sir.

I am informed that the loss of my colleague's sister is a relatively great loss in the light that she was very, very, very close to him. All during his campaign she was by his side, looked after him when he was a young boy going to school, kind of mothered him, cared for him and did all that there was in her power. And I am told, Sir, that during the very difficult times which my colleague experienced in 1975 — 1976, when probably one of the greatest scandals in the history of the

Caribbean and character attacks was made on him, it took a great toll on his sister, and apparently, Sir, he himself feels that she had really never recovered from the things which were said about a brother whom she cared for, whom she loved and whom she walked side by side with.

Such a sense of feeling, Sir, at the loss of a loved one such as Miss Holder, no doubt, would need someone of the strength and the courage of the Member for St. Michael South East to carry on in the way he is still carrying on. And I have no doubt in my mind that for all that he has been through in his relatively short political career, you could only refer to him as a man of steel.

Miss Holder is survived, Sir, by two children. After suffering a stroke she died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital after three and a half months of an illness. The loss of Miss Holder to my colleague no doubt, Sir, I cannot express the way he feels and the way he spoke to me in relation to this. And I am quite sure, as one would say and I would feel, that God understands, if she is to be relieved from this world in which she lived to go to another world where she can continue her earthly work and the caring, as she has cared for her brother during those years, Sir.

I have no pleasure in introducing this Resolution, and sincerely hope and pray that those who have survived her would have the strength and courage to carry on. I beg to move, Sir, that the Resolution which is usual on behalf of Members of this House be conveyed to the sorrowing relatives of my colleague, the Member for St. Michael South East, to the sorrowing relatives of Miss Iola Holder, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Resolution and to associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the House.

The honourable Member for St. Michael South East and his family are well known to me. The address, Edgecliff, St. John, is one with which I have been intimately connected for many years, and I really would like to express on behalf of the Government, in association with the Leader of the House, my deepest sympathy over this great loss to the honourable Member. At the age of 41 in today's world, it is nothing short of a shattering experience to know that a person, up to four months previous to her death, was alive and well.

Obviously, a great additional burden will fall upon the shoulders of the honourable Member, but we who have been at his side throughout all the burdens that he had to experience know that if there is one characteristic the honourable Member displays, it is the characteristic that, in spite of the seeming mountain of adversity, he still continues in his own determined way. I know that

he would have to summon all of the usual characteristics on this occasion, and I trust that he will be comforted by the fact that we on this side are here to support him, as we have done in the past.

I beg to second the Resolution, Sir.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too would like to be associated with this Resolution, and by so doing, the whole Opposition, in wishing on this occasion the condolences of myself, my family and the Opposition to the honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

I had on occasions met and I knew his sister through a very good friend of mine, as well as his dad, and I visited their home on more than one occasion. And I know from my conversations with her that there was obviously a very deep connection in the brother and sister relationship between the two, and that, like most country families, the honourable Member for St. Michael South East was the one looked up to and respected by the family as the one who has broken the social barriers and has achieved. I know for a fact that the particular sister has on many occasions been at his side both in spirit and in her own small way financially in times of need and in times of his campaign, and that it will be a particular very difficult thing for him to bear. In truth and in fact, I only just heard of her death, and I was shocked.
3.05 p.m.

I would like to associate myself and the Members of the Opposition in this Resolution of condolence, and only hope that he will find the strength to bear what obviously is a great loss, because the death of anyone at 41 years, and more particularly one who has been very close to you, is a particularly difficult thing to bear.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I too, would like to join with the Members in this Resolution, and would invite Members to stand for one minute as a method of passing this Resolution.

The House stood for one minute's silence.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS RESUMED

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, now that we have dealt with that aspect of the business of the House, I beg to move, Sir, that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, Sir.

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

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 of Supply. The honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No doubt, Sir, like on many other occasions, the recess certainly takes a lot of sting and heat out of a debate. That might well be the case in this debate.

Sir, I cannot quarrel with the particular Ministry in terms of the provision of a physical plant in the constituency that I represent. The Honourable Prime Minister, when he listed the community centres in existence, he mentioned the Grazettes Community Centre and he also mentioned a community centre that is planned for Eden Lodge. As a matter of fact, I have read in the newspapers that there was a ground breaking ceremony for such a facility in the Eden Lodge area only a matter of days ago. So I cannot quarrel with that. In fact, my constituency would be well supplied with community centres.

My main concern, Sir, about the community centres, and this is certainly true of Grazettes and several of the others, is that they are not properly used. To my mind, Sir, I think that when we are going about providing these buildings, and these buildings cost a lot of money, we should at the same time have some co-ordination of effort in terms of the services that these community centres are going to provide. There is no point just putting up the buildings, Sir, and when the buildings are there, very little happens in them. They probably play a few dominoes and some cards, and nothing else.

In the Grazettes area, a community centre that has been in existence now for about 17 years, which, incidentally, Sir, is a community centre of the concept that the honourable Member of St. Thomas (Hon. D. A. C. Simmons) spoke about, in that it combines within it a kind of pavilion and community centre. So it is no new concept, Sir, on the part of the Ministry or National Sports Council, because Grazettes started that way back in the late 1960s. What I would like to see done with that aspect of it, Sir, is to see that the seats that are used for pavilion purposes be covered so that we have what one could call a true pavilion. The seating arrangement is all there, but what is lacking is the covering for those seats, as in fact has been happening in all of the other community centres.

But I get back to the point, that it would appear to me, Sir, that the Ministry does not have the supporting staff in order to have a properly run community centre and, Sir, this is the core of the problem.

Aside.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I understand, Sir that is why we are here. I do not see nothing in terms of the provision of bodies. I do not understand how people are going to get paid out of this vote. Maybe it can be so. I do not know. I cannot see it.

Aside.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Well, I understand a Resolution was passed. I was not here on the 5th November, but I heard the Honourable Minister say that the Resolution was passed on 5th November. Now I am assuming that it was a Resolution to provide staff for this department, because, all the information that has come through to me....

Aside.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Oh, it is an omission. I understand it is an omission. Okay, Sir, I will not deal with that aspect of it. I will still say this, Sir, that those community centres are under-utilized and are not properly utilized — both!

There was a time, speaking for the Grazettes Centre, when there was a vibrant group operating in the Grazettes area, and had use of the centre probably once or twice a week, and that youthful organization did excellent community work, cultural-wise, in that Grazettes area. But the fact is, Sir, that it is easier to put up a building, and people can see a building, but I can say for a fact that the people are not at all happy with the assistance that they are getting in order to make proper use of that building. So when the honourable Member for St. Thomas says people are very happy with it — yes, they are happy to see them, they are happy to have them, but they cannot use them. No proper use is made of them.

In the Grazettes Community Centre, probably the best use made of that community centre is the Skills Training Programme, and that is utilized, Sir, in what they call the basement, or the ground floor level of that centre.

Aside.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, not much use is made of the top, a little square-dancing occasionally and some karate or some oriental art is going on in there. Sir, no proper use made of the top. I can say that for a fact. Occasionally, there has been a little reception there, but no proper use is made of the top, Sir, not in terms of the young people.

I heard it said that our Government did nothing for the young people. I was present in London in 1976 when

the Leader of the Opposition negotiated a building for the young people in St. Philip in this country and it has never been passed to the young people. It has not even been passed to the Government. It seems as if when the Government changed that passed away as well. I was present when that was negotiated. I was present, the then High Commissioner, Mr. "Monty" Williams, was also present when these negotiations took place in 1976. 3.15 p.m.

(*Aside:* Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: To put the young people in camps).

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Nothing to do with any camps, it was for the young people. The honourable Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons) was developing a programme for the young people of this country. When the Government changed, of course he was.....

Aside

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I know the honourable Member for St. James North, when the Government changed, asked him to send it to him and let him deal with it. Of course, the then Prime Minister had better sense than that. He did not send it to him for him to deal with it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the Member for St. James South worked in my Ministry, came to see me, I had him sitting down outside for several hours, and he had nothing to say to me or anything to offer, so I asked for him to be transferred again. That is all it was. He worked with me.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: You mean he was with you but did not work with you. He was there but you did not allow him to work.

Anyhow, Sir, the point is this. I am not one of those who bellyache about invitations to opening this and opening that, because, like the honourable Member, when the bell calls I will be there. It is as simple as that. I will do like you, Sir.

Asides

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: The Chairman knows what I am speaking about. When the time comes, I will be there, but the point is this. I hope that all these proliferations of buildings and so on will not be only used for election purposes, but that they will be used really and truly for the development of the young people of this country.

I thank you.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Chairman, I am appreciative of anything that has been

done for St. Philip North and I only want to make a plea for another section of St. Philip North. It is within my little piece of thing at Merricks and I am asking them to continue that at Merricks.

I am also aware of the fact that the youth in Blades Hill collectively have written the Minister a letter in which they have pointed out that the groups in Blades Hill, a very culturally mature and active area, are without any facility at all for either sports or community activities. I know the Government has purchased, or is supposed to purchase, a piece of land in the Blades Hill area, and I am asking them to make sure that, when they are planning for Blades Hill, a proper building is put at Blades Hill and that the land there is developed as soon as possible.

Merricks has been pushed off and they have left Merricks in a state where it was supposed to be grassed. I was a little surprised at the speed with which they left Merricks. They came and just bulldozed it, they have not grassed it properly, and now the grass has taken over and the fellows are not in a position to use Merricks, so I am asking them to get back to Merricks as soon as possible and grass it properly and provide community facilities as well.

When you are in the area, Church Village, the biggest area, is badly in need of a community centre. It is even worse where the people in Church Village area have been getting some difficulty in using the schools at Church Village. That means at the moment that in St. Philip North we have absolutely no place for community activity except George Park, which is really on the outskirts of St. Philip North. As a matter of fact, I would like to draw to the Minister's attention, and invite him to co-ordinate with the Minister of Education, the fact that the schools in St. Philip have been used for a long time for community purposes, and only recently we had to stop a cake icing class that was in progress since the Head Teachers of the schools in St. Philip — the Boys' and the Junior School — refused to grant the appropriate permission for the use of the schools to continue that class. I would hope that in the absence of having these schools to use, and in the absence of any community activities at all in St. Philip North, you would get back at least to those three areas, to start with, and provide some type of facilities for the people of St. Philip North.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS (St. James South): Mr. Chairman, when I entered the Honourable House the Member for St. Thomas, the Honourable Attorney General, was speaking, and so I did not have the benefit of hearing the Honourable Minister, but I would just like us to go back a bit to 1976, when the Government was changed. There was at that time a very vibrant Community Development Department and a Youth Affairs Department. Some time later these departments were

disbanded and we saw a Cultural Department being set up. At that time there were some officers who visited the community centres and had some overseeing role to play in the activities of the community centres. Unfortunately, Sir, very often one officer covered about three or four parishes and therefore the work which they had to do was monumental. But then there was the creation of the Cultural Foundation, and we know that with that, a number of persons working there went back to their respective occupations, and indeed a number of persons left that department and went over to the General Service. So that the Cultural Division was depleted, we had very few officers to service the centres, and now we have reached the stage where the Government has gone full circle and we have Departments of Community Development and Youth again. Unfortunately, as far as my recollection serves me, there is one officer in each department. I gather now we will have some officers servicing this area again, but I believe about nine months have passed since these departments were set up and we are yet to see officers.

The question which bothers me very often is what role does the Government see the assistants — I think they call them — the Community Development Assistants playing at the community centres. I have said more often than once that it seems to me that the only thing they can do is to open the centres and close them. What we really need at the centres are people who are there on a daily basis who can organise the young people who come into the centres. It is pointless a Community Development Officer paying a fleeting visit to the centres, and when he or she comes there, he or she has to move on and cannot see what is really being developed in the centres. We know that with the break up of the community life as we had it before in Barbados, a number of communities have not got the old leaders of the past, and the Community Development Officers, as I see it, should be playing a more vital and important role than they are playing at the present moment. Indeed, for every community development centre, we need a trained officer who can assist the youngsters in planning programmes. We have not got them.

3.25 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: It is obvious that the Minister does not know what is going on. It is not my fault. I can call all of the centres in St. James, and they do not have one trained officer — Trents, Orange Hill, Holders Hill and Montgomery. All they do is to open and close the buildings. It is a fact.

Furniture. At Holders Hill, for example, there is no furniture at all in the centre, and that has been opened since 1981. The youngsters sit on the empty crates in that centre. Not one piece of furniture! We have not seen a Community Development Officer yet. I do not know.

Now, another thing. The centres that are being built at the present moment are not big enough to accommodate the things which the Minister was speaking about. I noticed some time ago that at Content they were building a community development centre for \$90 000. Two days after, Harrison College was asking for \$220 000 to build a pavilion. Now, if you look at the centres — one was just opened, I believe day before, at Orange Hill. If it is 24 x 24, it is big. You cannot have a domino game in there and table tennis. As a matter of fact, you cannot even put a table tennis board in there. I know these places.

They have just renovated Trents, but do you know they cannot have skills training in Trents? That has stopped, because they say Trents is too good now for skills training! They have not had skills training at Trents for 10 months. They say it is too good now, the youngsters will destroy it. So who are we trying to fool? You cannot fool the youngsters. The centres are not big enough.

At Trents, when they used to have skills training there, they used to have some steel bending, I believe, and the operation took up the whole centre. Nothing else could go on there, no community development activity at all. No meetings could be held there by the groups. Nothing could have been held there. They are not fooling anybody. If you are having the type of centres you are having now and there are pavilions, then, it means that when the sportsmen use them, the youngsters cannot use them for training.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: On a point of order; Mr. Chairman: The honourable Member said that no activity at all takes place. I visited Trents Centre and I saw activities going on there. Two months ago I was in Trents and I saw activities going on there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. Please continue.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I said that skills training is not carried on at Trents anymore. The youngsters dance at Trents on Sunday afternoons. They have African dancing there on Sunday afternoons. Trents United meet there for football, but I am saying that skills training does not go on anymore. I go to Trents 3 and 4 times a week and on weekends.

What I would like to see done is that you put a community development centre at Fitts Village. A lot of money was spent on the open window to Fitts Village. The youngsters tried to use the Esplanade, as they call it, to train, but they had to abandon that, because it does not suit the purpose. There is nothing between Trents and Eagle Hall that could be called a centre for young people on the west coast, so it seems to me that the

Government is not planning at all the distribution of community centres in this country, nor do they understand what skills training is all about, because they cannot carry out skills training in the present community centres.

(Aside: You are saying so all the time).

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: I am saying this all the time because you do not understand, and I hope that the more I say it, the more it will sink in. It cannot happen, so, therefore, they are fooling the people.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the Government has got to come out with a definitive policy as far as community development and youth affairs are concerned so that the young people and those who are really interested in our community can understand where we are going.

I thank you.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT (St. Michael North East): Mr. Chairman, I can see clearly now.

(Applause).

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: I have a few comments to make and perhaps try to get this debate back into perspective, because we have been hearing so many conflicting things, especially from the other side. The honourable Members from St. Philip do not seem to be in unison with what is actually taking place there, because the honourable Member for St. Philip South (Mr. H. A. Blackman), is saying that nothing has happened for the community in his constituency and the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin) is praising the Government for certain activities at Merricks. The last speaker, he, himself, is saying that as far as he is concerned, there is no community activity taking place between Trents and Eagle Hall. I do not know what you would call the community at Belfield, indeed, and perhaps the one further afield going north in St. James.

But what we must try to understand is that no Government can provide at the same time all the services that any community needs. No Government can provide all the community centres, all the playing fields that the various communities in Barbados have need for at the same time. But it goes further than that. Every community seems to have its own special interests. From St. Lucy to St. Philip, every little village has its particular kind of activity. In St. Philip, in one area you might find the interest there might be dominoes, and all they are looking for is some place to play dominoes. The Government does not have a programme for domino playing. We are involved in community planning, community development. What about the other interests such as culture, drama, folk singing, dancing?

There are other interests who are involved in other major activities such as football and cricket, and right across the length and breadth of Barbados, you will find that each community has its particular interest, and the Government then is left with the responsibility, according to what the Opposition is saying, of finding activities in these centres for the interests of the people. I am saying it cannot happen this way. What, perhaps, we are overlooking is the fact that all the schools in Barbados could in some way, alleviate this problem if the same communities were so community-minded as to band themselves into responsible groups and make representations to the Ministry of Education for further use of these school buildings after school, in which they would ensure that there is no vandalism of the buildings. I am sure that a lot of the pressure which is being brought to bear on the Government for providing community centres willy-nilly throughout the length and breadth of the country would be alleviated.

3.35 p.m.

It is all right for any Member of Parliament to come in here and say his constituency does not have a community centre, his constituency needs this as a community centre, but within that same constituency you will find that there are about 10 or 12 little petty groups who call themselves the organisation or the association for this or that, and each particular group wants to have its particular activity. The Government cannot provide for that. The space is not there, the land use is not there, the buildings are not there, and hence we should really be very careful in what we are asking of the Government.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister particularly to look into the congested area of Bush Hall in which land has been acquired and some community project has been planned which seems to have had some teething problems in getting off the ground. There has been some structure placed there for the last 6 months, and I do not myself understand what it is all about, but if the Minister could shed some light on that, I would be very happy indeed.

Then, there were hard courts promised to the Government facility at Hothersal Community Centre, for which a contract was awarded some time in 1979, and that in itself seems to have vanished from the history of the Sports Council. These two little areas are very strategic areas in which the young minds in a community as large as Hothersal Community area and the Friendship Community area, thickly populated indeed, need a forum for expression, and I would encourage the Minister or the Ministry to get ahead and see what problems there might have been to get these two programmes off — the one at Bush Hall and the one at Hothersal.

But it would not be fair or right for any Member to come in here and suggest to the Government that every community in which there are varying social interests should benefit or should have or could have the Government responding quite favourably to granting that little community a community centre. Community development involves old people as well, and I see a broader picture for community development. What about continuing education as a community project for older people? I think that these are areas which the Minister and Government should address themselves to rather than try to think that community development involves only the placing of hard courts, softball, netball and volleyball amenities for a minor part of the area.

These are my observations, Sir, and I would like the Minister to address his attention to those few points.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Minister winding up?

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does any other Member wish to make a contribution? The Minister may wind up.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I sat and listened rather attentively to the contributions made by honourable members from this side as well as from the other side. I wish to reply to a few points made by honourable Members from the opposite side and a few comments from honourable Members on this side.

To start with, I cannot understand why there was this furore about the lack of information provided by the Minister while introducing this Resolution. I did not give any brief on the Resolution because I was aware that on 5th November a Resolution for the same Ministry came before this Honourable Chamber and there was an omission in the Resolution in that the operating expenses were omitted. I wish to state here that the same wording, the same Addendum, accompanied the Resolution of November 5 as it did today, and I find it rather strange to hear the fuss made about the lack of information given by this Minister when on the Resolution of November 5 not one single word came from the Opposition. But such is the game of politics, and I take the Honourable Prime Minister's word of advice, never to take for granted the ability to understand the politics on certain things in this Honourable Chamber, and I will never be caught again. It seems as though I have to repeat myself on each occasion for the benefit of the Opposition.

On the other hand, I think that some honourable Members have failed to understand why the Community Development Division was revived. The Community Development Division was revived because it is Government's view that there should be a more integrated and

co-ordinated policy towards youth development in this country, and it was my lot to initiate programmes in order to execute such a policy. It was felt that since there were over 5 000 persons applying to the National Training Board to equip themselves with various skills, and that at the same time we did not have enough centres at which to conduct these classes, one of my first responsibilities was to ensure that adequate training centres were made available for the conduct of such classes.

We must not forget that in the Minister of Finance's Budgetary Proposals he announced that 8 additional centres were to be opened. The announcement came against the background that at that time Government contemplated expanding the Skills Training Programme to cater for the several youths who were looking forward to the National Training Board to equip them. At that time, there were 8 centres, — that was in the month of June — and 14 skills training programmes conducted by the National Training Board. Since June, there are about 15 centres and 24 training programmes. It is hoped that by the end of this year, certainly by the 15th January, we will have an additional 10 centres so that we can expand the programme.

Let me say that the young boys and girls of this country have registered and are satisfied with the Skills Training Programme of the Government, and that is why we have got to satisfy their needs and their requests. So despite what honourable Members from the Opposition say or detractors of the Government, we feel convinced as a Government that we are pursuing the right and proper course towards training and equipping the young people of this country. Therefore, the additional community centres are geared to accommodate these young people who need to have skills and to help develop the country generally.

Mr. Chairman, the charge is that there is an element of partisanship as far as these centres are concerned. My reply to that is that the record speaks for itself. I do not have to try to answer any criticisms or any charges of that kind. What I would want to do is to put the facts and let those who have ears to hear, hear. For instance, with regard to Eden Lodge, a constituency not represented by this Government, the honourable Member for St. Michael North (Mr. P. M. Greaves) was honest enough to get up and say that a community centre is being built there. In Bayville, which the honourable Member for St. Michael South (Mr. L. E. Sandiford) now represents, a community centre was opened there. So you will see that there is no question of partisanship as far as national policy is concerned. I would think that honourable Members would agree that if there is one person that has never allowed politics to get involved in the discharge of his duties, it is the honourable Member that now stands up and speaks. I do not think that honourable Members can charge.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of elucidation; the honourable Member's capacity for honesty was not being questioned by me, nor were we raising any question about his capability. It is precisely because we know he is capable and because we believe that he can be less than partisan that we draw to his attention that, after nine years of Labour Party Government, there is nothing in St. Michael West or St. Philip. That is all.
3.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Continue.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: The honourable Member should listen to what I said. I cannot achieve all at the same time. If the honourable Member wishes to have a centre there, I think he has a point, but I would have expected him to get up and ask for an additional sum of money to make it possible for me to get the money to put down the centre. But he is not asking that.

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

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

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We have an interloper over here, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member knows the Rules of the House and he knows that the Opposition cannot ask for more money. It is not proper for him to make that point, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member knows that all of them on that side, they have approached me personally and asked me for things. That is the way they conduct.....

Asides.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: So you could have told me. Do not get in here and try to score that point. You could have told me and I would have.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the honourable Member would give way on a point of elucidation — I promise you I will not interrupt again: The fact is, Sir, that I have asked him for a lot of things and he has given me nothing! He has given me nothing at all! I keep asking you for something for the constituency. Just give me something so I can believe that you would give.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I take the point the honourable Member was making.

What I am aware of is that the community centres in the past were under utilized. It was some concern to me when I assumed responsibility for Community Development, under which the community centres fall, and I have already gone on record and made public policy that community centres will now be open, that it will be a deliberate policy to have the centres opened and they will not remain closed, because I am aware that the centres, when allowed to be under-utilized and closed up, only invite vandalism and frustration among the youth, and that is one of the reasons why the Community Development Division has already announced its intention to disseminate information from the community centres.

Now, what have we had? I have already stated that we are not only building community centres for dancing or playing dominoes, or a meeting, but we are building community centres cum pavilions, in other words, multi-purpose facilities so that the youth can come in. They must be used around the clock so that the young people will be able to meet and discuss matters for national development and individual development. So we have a policy.

I would like the Opposition to get up and tell us, they have made contributions, tell us or tell the country what is your policy. Do not criticize Government initiative when you cannot tell the country what is your policy on youth. We have heard about 1976 when young boys and girls were invited by the then Government the Democratic Labour Party to come and register, only to find that they were frustrated. No jobs at all and no programmes to take place to assist them!

We have heard the honourable Member for St. Michael South, who was a Minister then in the then Government as far back as in 1974, talk about trade schools. No doubt he meant something similar to the Skills Training Programme. But when he went out of office and the Democratic Labour Party Government, nothing had been done. Now what are you going to criticize this Government for if we have come in and have initiated the Skills Training Programme? In other words, no one should be critical of it. But what has happened is that we know how to implement. The other side apparently did not understand or know how to do so.

The honourable Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons) talks about youth programmes. Now he should be the last person to get up in here and talk about anything called youth affairs! He was Director or some adviser to the Minister of Youth Affairs. What can he

show that was done? The \$500 000 of which he spoke coming from the Nigerian Government, I am aware, I know what it was intended to do. To put 500 young boys and girls in a camp! I want him or anybody from that side to get up and challenge me. No programmes at all devised for the young people! What were you going to do? Put them in a camp?

Let us understand we have decided to devise programmes and then create the centres in which to help us execute the programmes. The young boys and girls understand that the community centres cum pavilions are not just for sitting down or watching any monument. We are not building any white elephant. I said that programmes must be conducted. I have already staffed the community centres. The Resolution that was passed here on November 5 gave effect to that. In fact, there was a vote for money, a request to pay the community officers. We had to advertise for Community Development Officers. The honourable Member should have got up and said that. But he does not know or if he knows I doubt he knows!

We have a Chief Community Development Officer. We then had to advertise. We advertised because we wanted to attract competent and qualified people, people who knew about community development. We did not want to hand-pick people, so that the honourable Member from that side, or even from outside this Honourable Chamber, would accuse us of hand-picking people, because of their political affiliation. We have gone through the proper channel, invited people with proper qualifications to man the Community Development Division. We have got Senior Community Development Officers and we have got Community Development Officers. We have got Community Aides as well. We have got maids and we have got watchmen. All of this, a complement of staff, some 30 brand new staff that come under the Division, because we believe that you cannot talk about community development, you cannot talk about national development, you cannot talk about women's affairs, you cannot talk about youth affairs, except you are prepared to have the machinery, and the machinery means getting adequate staff to carry out the work.

So we understand this. We understand what is meant by carrying out a policy. We understand how to do it. I do not want the honourable Member for St. James South to tell me about any policy. He must talk to himself. You cannot talk to this Government about it.

Mr. Chairman, the Government intends, despite what our critics say, to push ahead with the programmes that it has already announced. As far as the youth is concerned, I feel satisfied as Minister that the young people of this country respect the views and the initiatives Government has taken towards helping them. I

am satisfied, I am out there every day with them, I walk with them, I relate to them, and therefore, I do not want anyone from that side to tell me how the young people are feeling. They must look and see how sport has come on in this community. Look and see the results. The largest crowd ever to assemble at the National Stadium to watch football games. Look and see the pavilions that are open and that are in full use. Look and see that pastures, areas are acquired and levelled and placed at the disposal of the young people so that they can ventilate their physical use.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: So, Mr. Chairman, the position is that we have already charted a policy as far as youth is concerned. It is not nine months since this department was put in place. It was only put in place when the Prime Minister, the Honourable Minister of Finance, announced the Budget, and that is about five and a half months ago. The honourable Member should be able to say what is truthful when he gets up and makes his debate.

I am sure that there is still a long way to go. I am prepared to take advice from people who are prepared to give advice so long as it would assist in helping the young people to develop and keep this country moving forward.

The question that Head 39 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
3.55 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1985-86 No. 12 \$1 191 700

HEAD 74 — MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): This particular subhead which we are seeking to supplement, Subhead 17 of Head 74, is for the sum of \$1 500, and that sum is really to supplement the subhead so as to provide for the advertising costs in relation to the three fishing projects — Speightstown, Tent Bay and Bridgetown — which are on the way and are at different stages of development.

For some of these projects, the pre qualification process requires three advertisements inserted in each paper. Each advertisement is costing between \$600 to \$800 a day. At the time when the Estimates were prepared, it was not foreseen that this would have been required, and so we have had to come back to Parliament to seek a supplementary for this particular Head.

I should add also that with the setting up of the site office at the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour Project, and we are about to start Phase 3 in January of the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour, which will be the major construction works — the first two contracts in relation to that project are now at an end; the first one dealt with the demolition of the old International Seafood Building and the second contract was for the preparation of the work site and the laying of sewerage mains and the main storm water drains, etc. — with the setting up of the site office, the cost of stationery and supplies has got to be borne from this vote. So for these reasons, we have had to supplement this particular Head to the extent of \$1 500.

Now that I am on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I will take the opportunity to deal with Subhead 19, which is for the sum of \$400 000, which deals with the Fisheries Development Project — Object 23. This amount of \$400 000 is being sought to supplement the funds under the vote which were required to finance the construction of the three fishing harbours — Bridgetown, Speightstown, and the improvements at Tent Bay. The three projects have reached a fairly advanced state of implementation.

In relation to Tent Bay, the revetment work has been completed, the old bridge has been restored and what is now being done is the widening of the mooring basin. In the past, as you may know, there were two or three large rocks in the sea, which meant that, unless you were a very skillful navigator, as it were, you could not get out into the ocean or get back in. You had to pass through a very narrow passage between two large rocks. Well, we are widening the passageway or extending the mooring basin, as it is called. That contract has been won by C. O. Williams Construction, and work has commenced in relation to that.

As I said, the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour Project commenced in September with the demolition of the old International Seafoods Building, Phase 2 of the contract is just about being completed at this point, and we are hoping that work will start on the major construction, for BDS. \$24 million, in about January. Right now the tenders for the construction work are being opened, and are being evaluated, so we will soon know which company has won the award to construct the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour.

In relation to Speightstown, much of this money in so far as it relates to Speightstown will have to go to the consultants, who have virtually completed all of their preliminary work, and it is expected that that project will commence about January. That project is being financed in the main by the European Development Fund, (EDF). We have just heard that the relevant committee in

Brussels did approve of the proposals in respect of financing.

So that this \$400 000 which we are seeking is to supplement the Head in relation to the several aspects of the construction work as it relates to these three major construction projects — the \$3 million project at Tent Bay, the \$2 million project at Speightstown, and the \$24 million in the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour.

Another sum, Object 26, for \$475 000, is needed, too, in this supplementary, and this is to provide specifically for the professional fees for the consultants as it relates to these three projects. The consultancy fee for Bridgetown is \$2.2 million, to be disbursed over 31 months starting in January, 1986. The consultancy fee for Speightstown is \$476 000, to be disbursed between April 1985 and December 1986, and for Tent Bay, the consultancy fee is \$326 800, to be disbursed between January 1985 and December 1986.

At the time when the draft Estimates were being prepared, it was not accurately known precisely how much would have been needed for consultancy fees, so we could only put rough Estimates into the Budget. That explains the necessity for us to come back to the House today to supplement that particular Head as it relates to consultancy fees for the three projects that I have mentioned.

The other sum which is represented under this large supplementary here relates to the Back River Project, which is one of the major soil reclamation projects in relation to the Scotland District. This project comprises the establishment and maintenance of orchards and nurseries at East River and Back River, an area covering about 300 hectares, and planted to date with a variety of fruit trees, including mangoes, limes, guavas, bananas, and other citrus. I would like to emphasize that in that area we are experimenting with pineapples, and about 100 000 crowns of pineapples, covering approximately 3 hectares, have recently been planted in a nursery in the East River area.

4.05 p.m.

The project covers the purchase of planting material, seedlings, seeds and fertilisers. It includes minor engineering work, such as the establishment of roads and terraces to conserve the soil, and increase the acreage under fruit tree production. The project also provides for the construction of a virus indexing laboratory, which is very important if we are going to establish on a viable basis the fruit industry, large scale fruit production in Barbados. It also consists of a fruit laboratory and a virology laboratory and a mist house and tissue culture laboratory. These facilities

are necessary in the production of top quality root stock for propagation at a rate faster than was used in the past, the traditional methods, for the propagation of the fruit trees.

Under the arrangement the European Development Fund was supposed to come to an end shortly, and that led to drastic decisions being taken to ensure that the work is speeded up as much as possible so that we could lay the groundwork for making a successful case to the European Development Fund for an extension of the time. That explains why it was necessary to employ more labour and to order ahead of the schedule which we had set ourselves earlier. In short, Sir, we are making sure that when we go to the European Development Fund and ask for an extension, we can show a considerable amount on the ground as having been completed. So that, within recent months, we have speeded up the pace of implementation and we have spent more money than we had budgeted for within the time frame of this financial year as our contribution to the project, because not all of the funding comes from the EDF, we have to put in some counterpart funds too.

The final item, Object No. 25, deals with plant, equipment and furniture in the sum of \$37 000. This is a new item being introduced into the vote for this Back River/East River Project. It is necessary, Sir, because there is a need to outfit the laboratories mentioned — the virus indexing laboratory, the mist laboratory and the indexing laboratory — in a way that was not contemplated when the draft Estimates were being prepared.

I should just mention that in relation to the project which I talked about earlier — the Back River Project, the East River Project and the laboratories which we are introducing to speed up the propagation for our process — at least 25 additional persons are expected to find employment.

That completes, Mr. Chairman, what I wish to say in relation to the several aspects of this large supplementary which we are asking the House to approve in relation to the fisheries development of this country, particularly the three projects — the Tent Bay Development, the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour Project and the Speightstown Fishing Harbour Project — and also the important work in soil erosion control and tree crop development that is taking place in the Back River and the East River sections of the Scotland District.

I beg to move, Sir, that those several Heads dealing with agriculture stand part.

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

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Chairman, just a few queries on these headings. Head 19,

Subhead 19 — Structures. I would be grateful if the Minister would in replying inform us of what are the plans for the Skeetes Bay area, since that is a fairly big fishing district in St. Philip North and the facilities are very primitive. I would like to be informed what are the short term and long term plans for Skeetes Bay as well as Consett Bay.

On the same Head, Head 26 — Professional Fees, the Speightstown Project, I know is to involve some \$2 million in expenditure, but the consultancy fees are out of proportion with the others, \$476 000. The consultancy on Tent Bay, which is \$3 million, is \$326 000, and I want to know if there is any particular difficulty with the Speightstown project, any peculiarity that makes the consultancy a little out of line with the other consultancies, and who are the consultants, if they are local consultants, if they are overseas consultants, what are their terms of reference, so that I would be justified in my mind that the fees are not out of alignment.

The Back River Project, Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear will now be speeded up, since it is within my certain knowledge that the project is off schedule somewhat, particularly with the breakdown of big equipment and the availability of parts for the heavy duty equipment in that area. It is one of the objectives of the Back River Project to act as a nursery for plants, and the Minister listed some, but I think now is a good opportunity, if they are increasing their nursery, and if they are to continue to encourage Barbadians to produce orchards, that they should review the price of plants to the people again. There was a time when you could get a variety of fruit trees from Greenland at 75 cents and then it went to some \$3 or \$6, I am not sure, but the figure was increased dramatically. I would assume that there is some correlation between the increase in those seedling costs to the people and the sale of them, because if you look at it, quite simply, to try to provide an orchard for maybe a quarter of an acre of land, it could run into some 60 or 70 plants, and 60 or 70 plants at \$6 is well over \$400 just to start with.

(Aside: Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: There has been a widescale reduction).

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: I am glad that there has been a widescale reduction on this particular one.

There is one area I would like to invite the Minister to give me some idea of the thinking of his Ministry. There has been some considerable outcry over the last three or four seasons about the almost disappearance of the sea egg, and I want to know if the Ministry has done any conclusive work. What are the reasons for the disappearance of the sea egg? And what steps does the Ministry propose to take to correct this, because I know it is of great concern to those people who have made their living in the past by diving in the St. Philip area and the Oistins area, and this year the season has almost disappeared. It is the first year for many years we have not had the opportunity of using any of the delicacy, so

I want to be sure that some work is going on in this particular area in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am grateful to the honourable Member for St. Philip North, who, in drawing attention to the disparity in the consultancy fees and the lack of proportion between what it is for Tent Bay and what it is for Speightstown, really has alerted me to the fact that I did not speak accurately and fully, as I now reflect on my brief, in relation to Speightstown. I gave, I believe, the figure of \$326 000 for Tent Bay, but that is not the full fee for Tent Bay, that is the fee for the architect, but the fee for the Resident Engineer, who has to supervise, that is still to be agreed, so that is not really the full consultancy fee in relation to Tent Bay. The figure I gave does not cover the Resident Engineer, that figure is still to be agreed upon. So far, the fees for Speightstown are \$221 000 for design and \$255 000 for supervision. I hope that that now puts the matter into proper perspective and restores the balance which, I am sure, my friend from St. Philip North is looking for.

4.15 p.m.

With respect to Consett Bay, in the Estimates for this financial year we have made provision for the repair of the jetty. The jetty has fallen in parts into disrepair to the point where it has become dangerous, and that work, if it has not commenced as yet, is likely to be completed before the end of the current financial year, in March, because there is a sum of approximately \$100 000 in the current Estimates for the repair of the jetty at Consett Bay.

When I visited Consett Bay along with the officials of my Ministry, particularly from the Fisheries Division, I was concerned over the fact that there were no toilet facilities. There were no changing rooms and there were no facilities for refrigerating and chilling the fish, or even for weighing, and the same situation obtains, as you well know, at Skeetes Bay in St. Philip. I have come to the conclusion, and we have taken a decision to approach a few funding agencies, including the Caribbean Development Bank, which is currently looking for one or two projects in Barbados, to see if we can have those two projects funded in relation to the next year or two. But, for sure, we have already taken steps to have design work done within the Ministry in terms of what we would like to see.

Certainly, I would like to see minimal toilet facilities for attending to the functions of nature, both for men and for women. I would like to see proper changing rooms. I would like to see minimal facilities for the refrigeration and, in addition, I would like to see facilities for weighing.

There is no doubt that much remains to be done in relation to these two facilities. We are conscious of the

omission in relation to these two fishing sites and plans are currently being formulated to upgrade both of these. Obviously, they will not be upgraded on the same scale as Oistins, Speightstown or the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour, because they are not of the same size and importance, but the facilities currently existing there are woefully deficient, and we are of the view, in the Ministry, that something needs to be done, and shortly too, along the lines that I have indicated.

With respect to the sea eggs, it is a fact that within the last three years or thereabout there has been a problem with sea eggs. They have virtually disappeared. There are several schools of thought in relation to explaining the disappearance of the sea eggs. Some people seem to think that it is a result of blasting by some of the fishermen. Some people seem to think that it is a result of the large amount of chemicals which are being used on land and which, ultimately, find themselves into the sea. Some people seem to think that it has nothing to do with either of these two factors, that it is just a natural phenomenon, that every now and again species in the sea seem to behave like that, disappear and then reappear. But we feel that in the Ministry we cannot take any action which is reasonable, rational and scientific unless we know exactly what is the cause. In short, we feel, in the Ministry, that we cannot prescribe unless we have properly diagnosed, and we have been approaching a few agencies to get the technical assistance to carry out the scientific study that will determine precisely what are the causes of the virtual disappearance of the sea eggs. We are expecting that that assistance will be secured from at least one agency — we have three feelers out — and that we will be able to embark shortly on a study — it is difficult to know how long such a study would last — to determine precisely what are the causes responsible for the virtual disappearance of the sea eggs. But, in the meanwhile, we have not taken any specific steps, such as the closure of the season completely, because we do not know whether that prescription would be consistent with the diagnosis, since at this point we are not in a position to diagnose.

I beg to move that Head 74 stand part.

The question that Head 74 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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 separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, each seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Order No. 3, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3.

SUGAR INDUSTRY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1985

Order No. 3 was called – To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Act, 1982.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM (Christ Church East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the major results of the McGregor Report, which in the late 1960s bore the name of the Chairman of the Commission that investigated the many aspects of the sugar industry, was the establishment of the Research and Development Committee. McGregor indicated that one area in which investment would bear substantial dividends in the sugar industry is in the area of research and development, and the Sugar Industry Act, 1982–36, gave statutory expression to that recommendation in so far as the Research and Development Committee has been established in the sugar industry, which is financed by funds from the industry, 1.2 per cent ex factory proceeds. In short, this Research and Development Committee has about \$1 million from year to year to spend in field and factory research in the sugar industry.

4.25 p.m.

I should mention, too, that some of this money has been used in the creation of a scholarship fund, and there is a Barbadian, at the Master's level, who is carrying out important research in smut disease at the Biology Department of the University of the West Indies, and that is supported by the scholarship fund within the Research and Development Committee. I can also mention that several of the middle managers on the plantations have been trained at BIMAP, and also with some assistance from the Barbados Workers' Union training division, and that it is hoped to continue this training in the sugar industry at middle and senior management both by BIMAP and the Barbados Workers' Union.

When the Sugar Industry Act was drafted, a provision was made for this fund to finance the Research and Development Committee to be audited by the Accountant General and not by the Auditor General. In truth and in fact, that was an omission, and we are now seeking to have that omission corrected, that is, we are seeking to ensure that the funds which allow the Research and Development Committee to carry out its work will hereafter be audited not by the Accountant General as the Act provided, but by the Auditor General. Over the last three years, particularly over the last year and a half, that particular omission was corrected in so far as we invited the Auditor General to do the auditing even though there was no statutory provision for that. We now want to formalise that provision and make sure that it is the responsibility of the Auditor General in law to carry out these auditing functions, and so we are seeking an amendment to section 15 to the Act 1982–36 so as to make provision for that omission which I have just drawn to the attention of the House.

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

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM 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.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM 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. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, seconded in each case by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, three very simple Resolutions were given notice of today in the House. There are just three very simple acquisitions of land and I have no doubt if my colleagues, the honourable Members of the Opposition would agree, we could do them.

(*Aside: Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: I have not seen them.*)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We can always roll off a couple of copies. They are just acquisitions of land to get the highway rolling. We can always have a couple of copies sent to you. There is no problem. For example, I can lend you my copy. They are simple Resolutions, they do not involve money or anything like that.

The other matter is only notification for the *Official Gazette* under section 9. That is all it is. If the honourable Member has no objection, Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker.....

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

(*Both honourable Members sat.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: I will now hear the honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, there are many of my colleagues not here, whom I am not certain, having seen the acquisitions, might have some intimate knowledge that I am not aware of.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, no objection. I take the point. I am operating like when we were over there. It did not matter who was there, we took the decision. My colleagues had confidence in us. I took you as the senior person there now, so I thought you could have done it.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, December 10, 1985, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

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